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Farm bill boosts federal funding for ag research

By *John Hamilton*

Over the course of the debate on the 2002 farm bill, signed by President *Bush* on May 13, several members of Congress from California, led by Congressman *Cal Dooley* (D-Fresno), spoke in favor of investing in the future of agriculture through additional support for research and extension activities. The result was an annual budget increase for USDA's Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems (IFAFS). The IFAFS program, an annual competition for funding problem-solving agricultural research, will receive \$1.3 billion over the six-year life of the bill.

Since the IFAFS program was created in 1998, UC scientists have teamed to win more IFAFS research awards than any other institution in the country.

The program's topical areas were also expanded to include research and

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Nationally known biochemist named dean of UC Berkeley's College of Natural Resources

Paul W. Ludden, a noted biochemist, is the new dean of UC Berkeley's College of Natural Resources.

Ludden, 51, comes to CNR after 21 years at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. In the past three years, he has served as executive associate dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences.

"Paul Ludden brings a very, very strong scientific reputation to the job, bringing his considerable expertise in the biological sciences to the arenas of natural resources and environmental sciences," said Chancellor *Robert Berdahl*. "He is exceptionally well poised to create a compelling vision for the College of Natural Resources."

Ludden is known for his expertise in microbial and plant biochemistry, particularly the role of enzymes in



Paul W. Ludden

biological nitrogen fixation. His studies help illuminate the role of catalysts in converting nitrogen gas into soil-enriching ammonium. Such research, while basic, helps lay the groundwork for advances in the development of non-polluting nutrients.

Ludden's awards and honors include a National Institute of Health Merit Award and an honorary doctorate from Stockholm

University in Sweden. In 2000, he was inducted into the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences.

Born and raised in Nebraska, Ludden completed undergraduate work at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and earned a doctorate in biochemistry at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

In 1982, he taught microbial biochemistry at the University of Concepción in Chile and, in 1985, he spent a month as a visiting professor at the Beijing Agricultural University in China.

Ludden succeeds *Richard Malkin*, who has been serving a two-year post as interim dean of the college. Malkin, who continues as a professor in the plant and microbial biology department, will take a one-year sabbatical after stepping down as dean on June 30.

California 4-H adopts a newly defined mission

The California 4-H Youth Development Program is strengthening its link between research and "practice."

Last month, Vice President *Gomes* approved a mission statement and set of operating principles, which, among other things, emphasize that research is as significant to the organization's long-term goals as is practice.

Also noteworthy: The program criteria specify that the focus of 4-H Youth Development programs is on citizenship, leadership and/or life skills development.

The newly defined mission of the California 4-H YD Program is to advance the field of youth development while helping young people reach their potential.

The mission statement

recognizes that advisors have a unique ability to contribute to the research base that supports youth development programs, said Statewide Director *Carole MacNeil*. In the long run, it means that they will be asked to integrate innovative research activities into the programs that they develop and manage.

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4-H adopts a newly defined mission *(from p. 1)*

“We’re not saying that research is more important than practice—or that practice is more important than research,” MacNeil explained. “We’re saying—and the revised mission statement was designed specifically to try to capture this—that these two things are mutually beneficial and have to go hand-in-hand.”

“Practice strengthens our research and the research strengthens our practice,” she added.

There are other potential benefits of bringing more research into the mix. By drawing on UC’s land-grant resources, for example, California 4-H Youth Development can extend knowledge more widely and fill a need often unmet by other youth-serving groups. This reflects a recent trend in which a growing number of UCCE 4-H advisors have begun taking part in research.

The newly defined framework for the California 4-H Youth Development Program gives “a clear direction and coherence to the program and underscores that youth development is a significant player within the Division,” said **Lanny Lund**, ANR’s assistant vice president for programs.

Gomes appointed MacNeil last fall to chair the 4-H Mission and Direction Committee. His charge to the 12-member panel: develop “a set of specific, realistic, high-impact goals and objectives for ... the next five to 10 years.” On March 1, the panel submitted its recommendations, which incorporated the input of hundreds of 4-H stakeholders throughout the state.

MacNeil said the panel forwarded four major recommendations to ANR’s senior management—a mission statement, brand name, five core values and 10 program criteria—and all were approved. For example, *4-H Youth Development* is now the “brand-name identity” for Division youth development activities.

Some actions recommended by the committee in its implementation plan will take effect immediately, Lund said.

Others, he said, particularly those with budgetary impact, will be worked on by the 4-H Program Advisory Committee, which is looking at “viable ways” to address them.

Changes will be phased in, MacNeil said. The state 4-H office has begun working out the implementation details, which will include in-depth training and the development of communication tools and educational materials.

“We’ve got to get people together and start talking about, for example, what does this mean for a specific county and for specific programs,” she said.

Her team has begun discussing the newly defined mission with county directors and 4-H Youth Development staff at regional meetings and will continue these discussions throughout the summer.

MISSION. The University of California 4-H Youth Development Program engages youth in reaching their fullest potential while advancing the field of youth development.

BRAND NAME. *4-H Youth Development* is the brand-name identity for ANR youth-development efforts.

CORE VALUES. *Actions and decisions at all levels of the 4-H Youth Development Program will be guided by the following core values:*

- Support the UC/ANR mission and strategic planning assumptions.
- Recognize that UC/ANR professionals provide the youth development framework for volunteers and other cooperators who bring the knowledge, experience and passion to work with youth in their communities.
- Appreciate, respect and value diversity through a commitment to inclusion of diverse Californians.
- Respond to local needs within a context of statewide criteria, practices and priorities for 4-H programming.
- Innovate to maximize impact and resources while documenting the unique youth development contributions of our 4-H Youth Development programs.

PROGRAM CRITERIA. *To be included as part of the 4-H Youth Development Program, programs will have to meet all of the following program criteria:*

- The CA 4-H YD Program is focused on addressing significant environmental, economic and social issues affecting California’s youth, families and communities.
- The CA 4-H YD Program is based on a proven experiential education model that creates an educational climate through planned learning by exploring, doing and receiving feedback.
- The CA 4-H YD Program is conducted with content and delivery systems consistent with a statewide 4-H youth development framework offering citizenship, leadership and/or life skills development.
- The CA 4-H YD Program is consistent with research in youth development, education or other appropriate fields.
- The CA 4-H YD Program is a contributor to research and/or the extension of knowledge in youth development.
- The CA 4-H YD Program is able to demonstrate, or likely to demonstrate, through research and/or evaluative data, a positive impact on youth served.
- The CA 4-H YD Program is connected to, or has the potential to connect to, UC or other campus-based faculty, programs and/or resources.
- The CA 4-H YD Program is accessible and open to diverse audiences.
- The CA 4-H YD Program is balanced in terms of assessing, managing and monitoring the risk of potential problems to ensure program safety and achievement of key objectives defined by ANR’s risk management program.
- The CA 4-H YD Program is balanced so as to optimize the impact for clientele and the field of youth development. The impact achieved will be weighed against the resources invested at the statewide and local level.

Carole MacNeil on the newly defined mission and what it means for the statewide 4-H Youth Development Program

In August of last year, Vice President Gomes named Statewide Director Carole MacNeil to lead the 4-H Mission and Direction Committee. It submitted its recommendations on March 1. Here are excerpts of an interview MacNeil gave to ANR Report editor Gabriele Kassner earlier this month about the results of the committee's work.

GK: How is the California 4-H Youth Development Program going to be different now that it has a newly defined mission statement and operating principles?

CM: One of the overall results of this process has been to strengthen the link between research and practice. Given our charge—“How can the 4-H program create a unique, measurable and significant difference to California’s youth and to the field of youth development?”—the unique piece is really important.

We ought to be doing something that leverages our resources in the most effective way possible, that fulfills a need nobody else is filling. We need to pay attention to our land-grant roots and our research base and fill that niche in the youth development field. It is something that the field desperately needs: Practitioners need a connection to the research, and that’s something we can do. We know we have the skills, the resources, the ability to provide that kind of service to the field and we need to do that. ... We’re saying that research and practice are mutually beneficial and have to go hand-in-hand.

As a youth development professional, I know that we have a limited staff and limited resources, and we can only serve just so many youth and families through direct practice. But by connecting that practice with research, we have the potential to affect thousands and thousands more youth and families indirectly, by strengthening the field of youth development.

Another difference is that there will be more consistency in the way we talk about the program and the kinds of things we focus on. We have articulated a focus for our programming: On citizenship, leadership and life skills development—and everything that we do has to connect in some way to one of those three areas. We need to be able to say why we’re doing a project; what about it is developing citizenship, leadership and life skills development; and how can we measure that to know the outcomes and impacts. Related to this consistency is the issue of visibility. Having a sharper programmatic focus and a “brand identity” —4-H Youth

Development—will help us become more recognizable to legislators, to potential donors and to our public in general.

Will there be changes?

The sharper focus, in and of itself, is one change. The focus, I believe, builds on some of the greatest strengths and successes of our 100-year history as an organization. We have this tradition of local responsiveness, which is wonderful and important, and we certainly didn’t want to lose that or attempt to be a cookie-cutter organization. But, at the same time, we need to be recognizable as the same organization throughout the state. I think the programmatic focus will help us with that, and I think the tighter link between research and practice will help us with that.

Does this still leave room for after-school programs and things like that?

Absolutely. One of the ideas on the table was that we could focus on just a few delivery modes. But it contradicts our larger ANR mission to be innovative, and so we felt that wasn’t the way to go. We need to provide for local flexibility. One county may need after-school programs; in another county, the club model may work better; in another county it may be short-term projects that work the best. Or the combination of delivery modes may be different in different places.

The program criteria are designed to strengthen existing programs, not screen them out. However, if we discover that there are programs that cannot meet those criteria, we may have to transition them to something else.

The Program Advisory Committee is a representative stakeholder group of county-based staff, state-based staff, volunteers and youth that has geographic representation as well. They will play an ongoing role in helping to evaluate statewide programs for their appropriateness in regards to the criteria.

Evaluations of programs at the county level will happen at the county level. In other words, county offices won’t have to come to the state office to prove that they’ve met the criteria. We want to maintain local autonomy and local decision-making in that regard.

How are you going to disseminate this information to the volunteers?

The volunteers are critical to the success of the program and, therefore, to the success of this newly

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MacNeil on 4-H's mission *(from p. 3)*

defined mission and direction. So, it's extremely important that they are partners with us in "spreading the word" and in working with other volunteers and youth to implement changes. We'll begin getting the word out to volunteers through both printed materials and through trainings. For example, we're putting together an educational piece that will highlight and explain the four recommendations. But, obviously, the relationships between county-based staff and local volunteers will be even more important in the implementation of the mission and direction.

Are they going to need more training now?

Absolutely. Training and communication tools, and some basic educational materials were very high on the Mission and Direction Committee's list of priorities. Announcing that Vice President Gomes has approved our recommendations and disseminating educational materials will help, but we've got to get people together and start talking about what it means locally.

So, how will you do that?

By the end of July, we will have met with all the CDs. We are also taking advantage of any opportunity where people get together to do training with 4-H staff. We're hoping we'll get funding to do a statewide training in the fall, to bring all 4-H staff together at the same time. We'll walk through each of the four recommendations and clarify any questions about them and explore together what it will mean for individual counties. During the fall and winter, we will also begin doing trainings with various volunteer groups throughout the state.

One of the things that the state office will be looking at immediately is what kinds of tools we can create to support the counties in implementing this. We don't want this to be just handed to people and say, figure it out. We want to do whatever we can to support the county efforts in moving in this direction: Whether that's training, creation of tools, helping to streamline certain administrative processes, creating templates for materials, providing references or resources for evaluation support, whatever it is, we are going to do everything we can to support the counties.

Farm bill boosts federal funding for ag research *(from p. 1)*

extension projects on improving rural economic, business and community development.

These new areas will be added to the current IFAFS program areas: agricultural genome; food safety, food technology, and human nutrition; new and alternative uses and production of agricultural commodities and products; agricultural biotechnology; natural resource management, including precision agriculture; and farm efficiency and profitability, including the viability and competitiveness of small- and medium-sized dairy, livestock, crop and other commodity operations.

Lending a hand in the advocacy campaign for IFAFS were many California commodity groups that together represented more than half of the 50 specialty-crop, farm and food organizations that signed a letter to Congress in support of competitive, peer-reviewed agricultural research grants.

Besides strengthening the IFAFS program, the bill authorizes (but does not fund) some new USDA research and extension programs to address issues such as the threat of agro-terrorism, renewable energy sources, global change and greenhouse gasses, e-commerce development, and farm-worker training in new technologies. Whether or not these new programs receive funding will be decided during the annual congressional appropriations process.

The bill provides a one-time allocation of \$8 million for

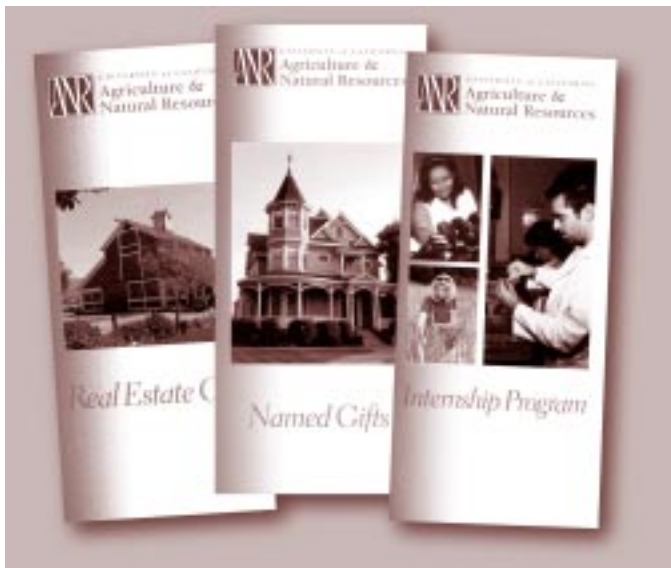
designated youth organizations, including 4-H, to establish pilot projects to expand programs in rural areas and small towns. The National 4-H Council will administer the grants for these pilot projects.

The farm bill was signed after a year of debate on Capitol Hill. For the next six years, the \$248.6 billion measure will serve as the guide for federal policies on matters such as commodity price supports, agricultural trade, conservation, domestic food assistance, agricultural credit, rural development, and agricultural research, education and extension.

The main thrust of the new farm law is a return to commodity price supports for grain and cotton farmers, a break from the market-based approach of the 1996 "Freedom to Farm" law. Under the new law, federal spending for commodity price supports for designated crops will increase by \$31.2 billion over the next six years.

At the same time that the new law signals a controversial return to price-support farm policy, it also begins a new federal era of support for conservation programs. The law increases spending on conservation programs by nearly 80 percent by providing \$20.8 billion over the life of the law.

Hamilton is senior legislative director in UC's Office of Federal Government Relations.



These three brochures for prospective donors are just some of the ways Development Services can provide help to the regions and counties in their fund-raising efforts.

Fund-raising assistance available to county staffs

New development materials and services are available to regional and county office personnel involved in raising private funds to support ANR programs and activities.

The ANR Office of Development Services staff is just a phone call or a click away. We can provide you with printed material, answer your questions, provide assistance in your solicitation plans, clarify policy or help you work with a donor to structure a tax-planned gift.

The following printed materials are available for your use with prospective donors:

- **REAL ESTATE BROCHURE:** Addresses the advantages to the donor and the University of gifts of real estate.
- **NAMED GIFTS BROCHURE:** Discusses the advantages of endowed funds.
- **INTERNSHIP PROGRAM BROCHURE:** Describes the internship program and its benefits to ANR and to students of agriculture.
- **GIFT CARD:** Makes it easy for donors to make a gift.

In addition, a wealth of information is available online. Visit <http://danr.ucop.edu/devserv/> for information on, for example, ways of giving, sample bequest language and policies relating to the solicitation and acceptance of gifts.

Of course your phone calls and emails are always welcome. Please contact Assistant Vice President–Development **Toby Winer** at 510/987-0135 or toby.winer@ucop.edu.

Both articles by Cindy Barber, assistant for special projects, Development Services.



Retired members of the Division gathered in Palm Springs April 21-23 for a reunion that included updates on ANR, the Boyd Deep Canyon Desert Research Center, retiree health benefits and other topics. The next reunion is scheduled for fall 2003 in the Napa Valley.

ANR retirees meet in Palm Springs

In April, nearly 80 ANR retirees and friends came together for a reunion in Palm Springs. The event was co-chaired by **George Rendell** and **Evelyn Wunderlich**.

“The retirees gathering at Palm Springs was a super success,” writes **Hunter Johnson Jr.**, a former vegetable specialist at UC Riverside.

Guests enjoyed an informative presentation on “ANR Today” by Vice President **Gomes**; a slide presentation on the desert flora and fauna by **Alan Muth**, director of the Boyd Deep Canyon Desert Research Center; an update on estate planning tax laws by University counsel **Geoff O’Neill**; and a report on UC retirement health benefits by **Michael Waldman**. Field trips to the Oasis Date Gardens and windmill tours provided opportunities to learn more about date farming in the region and the harvesting of wind energy.

“The trip up to the top of the mountain in Palm Springs was really special and made for a fun atmosphere,” **Norma Wightman** said about the group’s ride on the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway. Wightman was a home economist and 4-H youth development advisor in San Luis Obispo County.

John Wagenknecht, a former 4-H youth development advisor in Napa County, led participants in an exercise designed to remind one to make time in life for the things one enjoys most.

Also in April, Assistant Vice President–Development **Toby Winer** joined a gathering of retired home economists in Pasadena. They enjoyed local excursions and good fellowship, Winer said.

The next ANR Retiree Reunion is planned for fall 2003 in the Napa Valley. These events are part of ANR’s ongoing efforts to provide opportunities for retirees and friends throughout the state to gather together and become more involved in the life of the University.

Division adopts new procedures for employee, volunteer background investigations

By *Carol Omelich*

New, more stringent procedures regarding background investigations for ANR volunteers and employees take effect July 1.

One of the major procedural changes is that all volunteers working in Division (and not just Cooperative Extension) programs are now required to undergo a background check, *even if they don't currently work with young people.*

The new requirements are spelled out in the revised edition of the "ANR Background Investigation Procedures Manual," issued on April 15 and distributed to all ANR unit managers.

The manual updates and replaces two procedures manuals issued in 1999, "ANR Employees—Background Screening Process & Procedures Manual" and "ANR Volunteers—Orientation, Screening & Fingerprinting Process." Under the 1999 procedures, only those volunteers who worked directly with youth were required to complete the background investigation process.

The goals of the new procedures are to provide a safe environment for all those participating in ANR programs, especially young people, and to select qualified volunteers for those programs.

Volunteers provide "invaluable service in delivering ANR programs to the people of California," Vice President *Gomes* said. He noted that it is not always possible to anticipate when a volunteer with the Master Gardener Program or other

formal volunteer programs may be in a position of conducting activities involving youth. Therefore, *Gomes* said, "the most effective way of insuring the safety of these youth, as well as of other participants in our programs, is to secure background clearance on all volunteers.

"We sincerely hope that the intent of this new requirement is recognized by all current volunteers, who have until Dec. 31 to obtain background investigation clearance if they are to remain in voluntary service with ANR programs," *Gomes* added.

The revised manual is the product of a diverse committee appointed by *Gomes* last July. In expressing his appreciation to the committee for its work, *Gomes* said its efforts reaffirmed that his decision to appoint a broad spectrum of representatives "was a wise choice." The committee included county directors and both Master Gardener Program and 4-H Youth Development Program representatives, as well as ANR administrators and a representative from the Office of General Counsel.

"A manual has been created which is responsive to all aspects of the background investigations process," *Gomes* noted. "Each of the committee members in his or her own way helped to make this happen."

The new revised procedures manual differs in significant ways from its predecessors, including:

- For ease of use, both the volunteer and the employee procedures are integrated

into one overall document with a common question/answer section and appendix.

- All volunteers, regardless of ANR program and current involvement with youth, must undergo background investigations, including Department of Justice clearance, prior to volunteer service.

- ANR or county-paid employees who have responsibility for reviewing results of background investigations of others also must have background investigation clearance themselves. As under the 1999 procedures, employees who by job description, job title or job convention have responsibility for youth continue to need background investigation clearance.

- County directors and other ANR unit administrators have more specific guidance with regard to both volunteer and employee background investigations.

- The procedures for provisional appointment prior to receiving background clearance are fully developed.

- Live scan procedures and required documentation are explained fully.

- Current California legislation, useful contacts and troubleshooting strategies are also in the manual.

Trainings based on the "train-the-trainer" concept are being provided throughout the state to insure that the implementation of the new background investigation procedures runs smoothly. County directors were introduced to the new procedures at regional meetings held May 16, June 17 and June 20. Armed with training materials and an array of PowerPoint slides available on the web, the CDs, in turn, will be training the staff responsible in their counties for implementing background investigation procedures.

Nutrition, family and consumer science advisor *Diane Metz* and ANR risk management coordinator *Robert Watkins*, the co-chairs of the Background Investigation Committee that prepared the revised procedures manual, conducted the three regional trainings.

The complete manual and training materials are also available on the web at <http://oakland.ucanr.org/bipm/>

Questions regarding the new procedures should be addressed to *Watkins* at 510/987-0080 or *Robert.Watkins@ucop.edu*.

Omelich is ANR's administrative policies coordinator.

Job opportunity

Nutrition, Family and Consumer Science Advisor
in Kings County

Closing date: Aug. 15
#ACV 02-04

For more information, contact *Cindy Inouye* at 559/646-6535; fax: 559/646-6513. Or visit <http://cvr.ucdavis.edu>

Workgroup discusses food safety research and education opportunities

By Pam Kan-Rice

The Food Safety Workgroup met May 16 and 17 in Davis to discuss food safety issues in California and to generate ideas for research and educational programs.

Several members gave updates in their area of expertise. **Don Klingborg**, associate dean of Veterinary Medicine, announced that a food safety credential program for advisors is being developed. He envisions it as a 12-month program consisting of several two-day sessions at a common site, interspersed with distance education. At completion of the educational component, advisors would conduct a project locally.

“We anticipate that participants would be able to focus on a special area of interest across the preharvest to retail continuum, but with a core understanding across the whole food system,” Klingborg said. For example, a dairy advisor could do a project with cows while a nutrition, food and consumer science advisor might work with families.

The program’s advisory board will be composed of an advisor representing each region and representatives from the School of Veterinary Medicine, the Berkeley, Davis and Riverside campuses and government agencies. *Anyone interested in helping finalize the curriculum, serving as faculty or signing up as a participant should contact Klingborg at djklingsborg@ucdavis.edu or 530/752-1524.*

Microbiologist **Linda Harris** has studied pathogens and several kinds of produce. She noted her recent findings that salmonella, pseudomonas and e. coli can survive on the surface of navel oranges for several hours. She recommends rinsing produce under running water and cutting away damaged portions just prior to eating.

In a study on apples, Harris and postgraduate researcher **Tracy Parnell** found that wetting and rubbing the surface for five seconds, rinsing under water for five seconds, then rubbing the apple dry with a paper towel, achieved a 1,000-fold reduction in pathogens.

While that works well on smooth surfaces, produce such as cantaloupe and strawberries are more difficult to clean. Scrubbing a cantaloupe with a clean brush removed significantly more of the pathogens, Harris, Parnell and vegetable crop specialist **Trevor Suslow** learned. For strawberries, Harris recommends rinsing under running water and drying with a clean cloth or paper towel.

For future projects, the workgroup agreed to solicit interest from members for the following potential research and outreach activities:

RESEARCH

- Evaluation of the effectiveness of “Make it Safe, Serve it Safe” educational program
- Identification of strategies to increase safe handling behavior
- Consumer perception of humane animal-handling practices

EDUCATION/OUTREACH

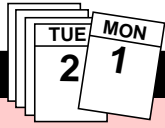
- Food safety at the California/Mexico border. (Partner with Calif. Dept. Food and Ag and Calif. Dept. Health Services)
- Safety considerations in the preparation and purchase of Mexican-style cheese. (Partner with Calif. Dept. Food and Ag and Calif. Dept. Health Services)
- Safe handling in the supermarket, especially handling of fresh produce. (Partner with the Post-harvest Technology Workgroup)
- Increase consumer and/or restaurant employee knowledge of practices to reduce risks from food allergies. (Partner with the Food Allergy Network)
- Develop appropriate material to inform the public regarding animal-handling practices. (Partner with Animal Handling/Safety workgroups and Vet Medicine)

“The workgroup will explore partnerships with other interested groups,” said workgroup chair **Christine Bruhn**, “and seek funding for those projects that reflect membership interest and offer high potential for success.”

Food safety brochure is available



Christine Bruhn, director of the Center for Consumer Research, and her team have produced an illustrated, multi-panel brochure called “Safe-handling of Fruits & Vegetables.” The four-color brochure gives consumers practical tips for preventing cross-contamination. For copies, advisors can contact Bruhn at 530/752-2774 or cmbruhn@ucdavis.edu.



COMING UP

JULY

Needs Assessment Training Workshops

July 8-9 in Davis; July 11-12 in Newport Beach; kabeaird@ucdavis.edu; 530/752-7699

Intermountain Research and Extension Center Annual Field Day

July 31; Tulelake; Linda Woodley (530/667-5117; llwoodley@ucdavis.edu) <http://danrec.ucdavis.edu/intermountain>

SEPTEMBER

Conservation Tillage Research and Farmer Innovation Conferences

Sept. 17; UC Davis
Sept. 19; West Side REC (event will merge with Cotton Field Day)
Jeff Mitchell 559/646-6565

OCTOBER

Aquatic Weed School

Oct. 22-23; UC Davis
<http://wric.ucdavis.edu>

NOVEMBER

Cooperatives & Communities Conf.

Nov. 1-2; Oakland; 530/752-2408
<http://cooperatives.ucdavis.edu>

DECEMBER

Sudden Oak Death Science Symposium

Dec. 16-18; Monterey; Joni Rippee (510/642-0095; rippee@nature.berkeley.edu)

FEBRUARY 2003

ANR Statewide Academic Staff Conference

Feb. 17-19; Pacific Grove; Joni Rippee (510/642-0095, rippee@nature.berkeley.edu)

To list events, call 510/987-0631 or send to ANR Report

(To post events on the ANR online events calendar, go to <http://calendar.ucanr.org/>)

NASULGC symposium

The Western Regional Teaching Symposium, an event of the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges, will be held at UC Davis on Sept. 13-14. Up to 200 faculty, extension specialists and advisors and administrators from the 13 western states are expected. Visit <http://caes.ucdavis.edu/events/wrts/> for information on registration, housing and submission of abstracts.

Check out these requests for proposals

ANALYTICAL LAB

ANR Analytical Laboratory invites CE advisors and specialists to apply to its Research Project Grant program for the upcoming cycle.

This program is designed to provide seed funding (i.e., analyses at no charge) for projects establishing baseline data that may result in extramural funding and for small projects (1 to 2 years) where extramural funding is unavailable. Higher priority will be given to new academics submitting proposals, to pilot or new projects, and/or to one-year projects for which other funding cannot be obtained.

Typical awards do not exceed \$2,500. Proposals are reviewed by the Laboratory Advisory Committee, using criteria listed in the program's guidelines. Please be sure to read the guidelines carefully. Proposals must be submitted in the current required format.

Deadline for submitting proposals is Aug. 1, 2002. Submit proposals via email to: danranlab@ucdavis.edu.

Forms are available on the lab's website (danranlab.ucdavis.edu). For more information, call 530/752-0147.

—Nikki Schwab

SPECIALTY CROPS PROGRAM

The Specialty Crops Research Program, in coordination with the State-wide IPM Program and the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program, is soliciting proposals for research on specialty crops for the period of September 2002 to March 2005.

Deadline for receipt of proposals is Aug. 1, 2002.

Specialty crop is defined as any agricultural crop except wheat, feed grains, oilseeds, cotton, rice, peanuts and tobacco. The goals of the Specialty Crops Research Program are to support research and outreach that will provide clear benefits to California's specialty crop industries and to complement other programs of the "Buy California" Initiative. General emphasis will be on sustainable agriculture, reduced input and/or reduced risk farming.

Funding for this research is made available from the Governor's "Buy California" Initiative, the California Department of Food and Agriculture and USDA.

The RFP can be accessed on the internet at <http://vric.ucdavis.edu>.

—Kitty Schlosser

Workshops on how to do needs assessment offered in July

Sea Grant Extension Program will be hosting two regional workshops in collaboration with the ANR Coastal and Marine Resources Workgroup, ANR Anadromous and Inland Fish Workgroup, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Coastal Services Center on how to conduct needs assessments.

Sessions will be conducted July 8-9 in Davis and July 11-12 in Newport Beach.

To find out more, visit the ANR Events Calendar website. Or contact **Kim Beard** (kabeaird@ucdavis.edu; 530/752-7699) or **Paul Olin** (pgolin@ucdavis.edu; 707/565-2621).

ANR REPORT

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