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## National group honors 4 UCCE farm advisors

**F**our UCCE advisors have received national and regional awards for 2002 from the National Association of Agricultural County Agents for their contributions to Cooperative Extension.

The honorees are:

■ **Carol Frate**, Tulare County agronomy farm advisor. She received a Distinguished Service Award for outstanding programmatic accomplishments during her 22 years of service in California.

■ **Marit Arana**, San Joaquin County dairy farm advisor. The Achievement Award she received is bestowed on early-career advisors for program excellence. Arana is also responsible for Sacramento, Alameda, Contra Costa, Yolo and Solano counties.

■ **Frank Laemmlen**, Santa Barbara County vegetable crops farm advisor, and **Phil Phillips**, area IPM advisor in Ventura County, were both regional finalists in the communications awards category.

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## Assistant VP Milton Fujii retires after 24 years at UC

By *Gabriele Kassner*

**M**ilton Fujii, ANR's assistant vice president for planning and budget, is retiring from the University this month after a 24-year career in which he held top administrative posts in the Division and at the Berkeley campus.

Fujii announced his retirement earlier this year, saying he wanted to spend more time with his family and pursue long-held interests in writing and community service. He leaves office at the end of September, following a transition period during which his successor, *Susan Laughlin*,

formerly director of ANR's Central Coast and South Region, assumes the role of interim assistant vice president for planning and budget.

"I'm looking forward to a more leisurely lifestyle," Fujii said, "but at the same time, I know that I will miss the uniquely stimulating environment of the University and the fulfilling relationships that I have enjoyed with ANR members across the state."

Fujii reports to Associate Vice President *Henry Vaux Jr.*

Said Vaux, "There is no one in the history of ANR whose contributions have been at once so many and so deep as Milton's. He has



Milton Fujii

worked tirelessly as a 'mover and shaker,' general strategist and all around trouble-shooter for the Division for many years."

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## ANR welcomes . . .

*Newly appointed—three CE farm advisors and a UC Davis child and family CE specialist:*

■ **Alejandro Castillo** joined UCCE on Aug. 21 as the dairy science farm advisor for Merced County. He comes to UC from the University of Cordoba in Argentina, where he was a professor of animal nutrition for almost 20 years.

Castillo took a four-year leave from teaching in 1987 to join a national research program at the Experimental Station Rafaela INTA (National Institute of Agricultural Technology), akin to USDA. He worked on improving

milk yield and composition under alfalfa grazing.

Some of his most recent research deals with the characterization of milk composition under alfalfa grazing conditions and the effects of feeding genetically modified cottonseed to dairy cows.

Castillo has written many popular articles about ruminant nutrition and dairy cow nutrition. He has also participated in presentations updating dairy farmers and professionals in dairy cow nutrition and on using software for the National Research Council's "Nutrient Requirements of Dairy Cattle 2001."

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## State budget sent to Davis

**A**s *ANR Report* went to press, the Legislature sent a budget for the 2002-03 fiscal year to Gov. *Davis*.

The budget includes a 10 percent cut in state-funded research and about \$750 million in unallocated cuts. We don't know how the latter provision will affect UC.

Once the Governor signs a final state budget, *ANR Report* will provide in-depth coverage on the budget's impact on the Division.

"We are pleased to now have a dairy advisor to work with the dairy producers of Merced County," said County Director *Jim Farley*. "I look forward to the contributions Alejandro will make to our dairy industry." He noted that Merced and Stanislaus counties have shared a dairy advisor for the last 10 years.

With an inventory of 232,000 dairy cows, Merced County is home to about 13 percent of the dairy cows in the state. The farm gate value of the dairy cow industry in the county is \$626 million.



Alejandro Castillo

Castillo has a master's degree in animal science from the University of Chile, Santiago, and a doctorate in ruminant nutrition from the University of Reading in England.

Castillo can be reached at 209/385-7403, ext. 4791.

■ On Sept. 3 *Jan Mickler* became the UCCE farm advisor in Stanislaus County for vegetable crops and limited resource farms.

"Our staff has been looking forward to Jan's arrival," said interim County Director *Ed Perry*. "We are excited that we once again have an advisor to serve the needs of our local vegetable crops industry, which consists of

commercial and limited-resource growers." The position had been vacant nearly a year. Perry noted that the search committee, which included a grower, was very interested in identifying candidates with a strong background in issues related to disease management.

Mickler was awarded a doctorate in plant pathology from UC Riverside this summer. She also holds a master's degree in plant pathology and a bachelor's degree in microbiology from Auburn University.

Before joining CE, she worked as a graduate research assistant for UCR plant pathologists *James Adaskaveg* and *Michael Coffey*.

Mickler's research and extension program in Stanislaus County will address such critical issues as water and nutrient management, pest control strategies that take into account principles of IPM, and variety development.

■ *Franz J.A. Niederholzer*, a former Oregon State University Extension horticulture agent, has been named Cooperative Extension farm advisor for orchard systems, serving Sutter/Yuba counties. He joins UCCE on Sept. 16 and will be headquartered in Yuba City.

Niederholzer grew up on the family farm in Glenn County. He was awarded a doctorate and a master's degree in soil science from UC Davis. He also holds a bachelor's degree in history from Amherst College in Maine.

After leaving OSU in 1999, he worked as a sales representative with Yuba

City-based United Agri Products, a large wholesaler of pesticides.

During his four years at OSU, Niederholzer worked with Hood River County fruit growers. His research included pest management, soil acidity and integrated fruit production (IFP). He also contributed to many OSU publications and published a newsletter. He co-authored an article on pear scab published by the American Phytopathological Society in June 2000.

The tree crops covered by this position include 42,798 acres of dried plums (some call them prunes) on 490 farms, 7,442 acres of almonds on 70 farms and about 1,200 acres of minor acreage crops (pears, citrus, grapes and olives). Dried plums are typically the second-highest-value crop in the two counties.

■ *Lenna Ontai* joined the UC Davis human and community development department in August as the new child and family Cooperative Extension specialist.

Ontai received a PhD in May from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Oregon.

"I am excited to return to my home state and join the group at UC Davis, as well as the larger extension community in California," she wrote in her research profile for *Update*, the quarterly newsletter published by the 4-H Center for Youth Development. The full profile is at [fourhcyd.ucdavis.edu](http://fourhcyd.ucdavis.edu) under "Communications." Her email address is: [lontagr@ucdavis.edu](mailto:lontagr@ucdavis.edu).

Vaux continued: "He is ANR's chief budget officer. He oversees program planning and evaluation and facilitation. He provides staff support to the Program Council. And he is the inventor of the Division's reporting system, DANRIS, which has been described as a model for the nation."

In the mid- to late 1990s, Fujii played an important role in the multi-year "bottom-up" planning process that led to the development of ANR's strategic plan, the formation of the Transition Team, which benefited from his staff support, and the creation and implementation of the Division's mission-based organization.

Vice President *Gomes* noted that Fujii's commitment to the Division reflects his dedication to UC's historic land-grant mission.

"In contributing his considerable talents in analysis and strategic planning, organizational development and human relations, Milton has been a key figure in ANR's efforts to strengthen the land-grant continuum from research to extension," Gomes said.

Fujii joined UC in 1978 as an administrative analyst and thereafter held a variety of program planning and evaluation assignments in the Division.

In 1990, he was appointed director of community affairs at UC Berkeley.

Fujii returned to the Division in 1994 as the director of program planning and evaluation and was named assistant vice president for planning and budget in 1999.

## Weitkamp named Agriculturalist of the Year by SLO Farm Bureau



**Bill Weitkamp** (center) received not just one, but five tributes on July 25. With him at the awards ceremony were Tom Ikeda (left), vice president of the SLO County Farm Bureau, and Pete Clark, president of the California Mid-State Fair Board of Directors.

**T**he San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau selected **Bill Weitkamp**, SLO livestock and natural resources farm advisor emeritus, as the 2002 Agriculturalist of the Year. Weitkamp is the first farm advisor chosen for the award in its 14-year history.

Weitkamp received five tributes during the awards presentation, held July 25 at the California Mid-State Fair. The 2002 Agriculturalist award was presented first. Then California Secretary of Food and Agriculture **Bill Lyons** presented him a certificate of appreciation for his work in improving agriculture. **Abel Maldonado**, who represents the 33<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District, was also on hand with a member's resolution from the California Assembly. In addition, Weitkamp received a certificate of recognition from the state Senate, signed by Sen. **Jack O'Connell**, and a resolution from the county board of supervisors.

Weitkamp, who served in San Luis Obispo County for 31 years, retired from UCCE in November 1999.

## 4-H Program receives \$86,000 endowment from Leonard Trust

**T**he 4-H Youth Development Program has received nearly \$86,000 from the Burrell Leonard Trust to establish an endowment supporting 4-H operations. Burrell Leonard lived in Santa Clara County.

Annual income from interest generated by the endowment is expected to run between \$3,000 and \$5,000. The exact use of the funds is still being determined, but priority will be given to programs in Santa Clara County, according to Vice President **Gomes**, who endorsed the proposal for funds distribution.

## Names in the news

■ **Miguel A. Marino**, professor of hydrologic sciences and civil and environmental engineering at UC Davis, has been named president-elect of the American Institute of Hydrology. He will serve as president-elect for two years and as president for two years. He begins his service in October.

■ **Sergio L. Garcia**, livestock and agronomic crop advisor for San Benito, Santa Cruz and Monterey counties, has been appointed by Gov. **Gray Davis** to the board of directors of the San Benito County Fair.

■ **Laurel Gershwin**, a professor in the pathology, microbiology and immunology department at the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, received the 2001 Pfizer Animal Health Award for Research Excellence for her work on bovine respiratory disease, IgE-mediated diseases and animal models of allergic lung disease. (Veterinary Medicine News, Spring/Summer 2002)

■ Groundbreaking took place on Aug. 22 at UC Davis for a \$25.3 million building to house the USDA's Western Human Nutrition Research Center. The 49,000 square-foot, two-story building is slated for completion in 2005.

■ Ten members from the Sierra Foothill Research and Extension Center were among 590 personnel who fought an early season fire on Sunday, June 9. The blaze engulfed 892 acres of the center's property and about 50 acres beyond.

The center became the command post for California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection resources, says Superintendent **Mike Connor**. "Soon there were more computers, phones and porta-potties than we had seen before in one place," he recalls.

The center lost research plots for two separate projects studying yellow starthistle control methods, several miles of fencing and dry forage for fall and early winter grazing.

On the positive side, Connor says, is that the center had targeted one of the fields for a controlled burn this summer to help control the weedy plants starthistle and medusahead. He adds that center staff will be busy this fall repairing the fire damage and seeding firebreaks to reduce erosion.

**In memoriam:** **Chester Hemstreet Jr.**, the UCCE county director in Lake County from 1965 to 1986, died on Aug. 9 at his Lakeport home. He was 79. Hemstreet joined UCCE a year after graduating from UC Davis in 1950, and served in San Bernardino County until 1965 before moving to Lakeport. He retired in 1987.

According to Yolo County Farm Advisor **Wilbur Reil**, Hemstreet was a pioneer in starting the grape industry in Lake County. He also was an early advocate of what is now a well-established practice, the high-density planting of pear trees. Hemstreet was also active internationally and served as a horticultural consultant in Peru. He was a member of the American Society for Enology and Viticulture.



## COMING UP



### OCTOBER

#### DOV Harvest

Oct. 8; Kearney Ag Center; Steve Vasquez (559/456-7567), Bill Peacock (559/685-3303)

#### Exotic Pests and Diseases Research Workshop

Oct. 10; UC Davis; 530/752-5336  
dlconnolly@ucdavis.edu

#### California Statewide Master Gardeners Conference

Oct. 14-16; Asilomar; <http://groups.ucanr.org/mgconf/>

#### Aquatic Weed School

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

#### Pest Management Workshop

Oct. 28-29; Sacramento; Mary Louise Flint (mlflint@ucdavis.edu; 530/752-7692)

### NOVEMBER

#### Cooperatives & Communities Conf.

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

#### California Small Farm Conference

Nov. 17-19; Ventura; Small Farm Center (530/752-8136)

### DECEMBER

#### Winter Tree Fruit Meeting

Dec. 4; Dinuba; Kevin Day (559/685-3303)

#### Western Alfalfa and Forage Conf.

Dec. 11-13; Reno; Nikki Picanco (530/752-0700)

#### Sudden Oak Death Science Symposium

Dec. 16-18; Monterey; Joni Rippee (510/642-0095; [riptide@nature.berkeley.edu](mailto:riptide@nature.berkeley.edu))

### JANUARY

#### SVJ Grape Symposium

Jan. 9; Easton; S. Vasquez (559/456-7567), W. Peacock (559/685-3303)

**PLS NOTE NEW DATES AND LOCATION OF THIS EVENT AND MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

### FEBRUARY

#### ANR Statewide Academic Staff Conference

Feb. 18: Pre-conf. meetings

Feb. 19-21: Conference

Location: Sacramento; Joni

Rippee (510/642-0095; [riptide@nature.berkeley.edu](mailto:riptide@nature.berkeley.edu))

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

## Research notes

To learn more about the projects cited below, click on the publications/news link at the UCD College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences website: <http://www.aes.ucdavis.edu>

**CONTROLLING TOMATO VIRUSES** Using biotechnology and pest-management tools, researchers at UC Davis helped re-establish the Dominican Republic tomato processing industry after a deadly tomato virus wiped it out in the 1990s. They hope a similar strategy could be successfully employed in the U.S.

The tomato yellow leaf curl virus is spreading throughout the southeastern U.S. and could one day threaten California agriculture. The insect that spreads the virus—the silverleaf whitefly—is well established in the state.

The research addressed several issues, including invasive species, application of biotechnology to solving an important practical problem, and the preservation of an important industry for low-income small farmers in a less developed country, said UC Davis plant pathologist *Robert Gilbertson*.

**SAVING SALMON STREAMS** UC Davis scientists are using sophisticated computer modeling to restore California's salmon habitats.

"Computer modeling is helping us determine where to place gravel beds to promote the movement of the clean well-oxygenated water that is so critical for salmon egg-laying," said *Greg Pasternack*, a watershed hydrologist in the land, air and water resources department. Pasternack and colleagues recently received a three-year, \$254,000 CalFed grant to demonstrate a computer-aided design on gravel beds in the lower Mokelumne River in San Joaquin County.

## Job opportunity

**Assistant Specialist in AES**, California Communities Program, UC Davis Department of Human and Community Development. Application review begins Oct. 1. For details, contact *Dave Campbell* (530/754-4328).



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## Tools you can use



The University has launched [www.universityofcalifornia.edu](http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu), a system-wide website to help tell the story of UC's expansive involvement in the life, health and economy of California.

The new site includes access to information on UC research and academic programs as well as UC's role in college preparation and outreach, the environment, health care, culture and the community. The new site also offers "audience channels" for students and parents, alumni and friends, K-12 educators, business and the general public. The "Agriculture and Environmental Resources" link accesses many ANR sites.

## 4 advisors honored (from p. 1)

Laemmlen was honored for outstanding feature story, Phillips for outstanding team newsletter.

The awards bring honor and recognition not only to the recipients for jobs well done, but also to the University, the Division and UC Cooperative Extension, said *Jim Sullins*, president of CAFAS, the association's California chapter.

The awards were given at NAACA's 87th annual meeting, held July 28 to Aug. 1 in Savannah, GA.

## ANR REPORT

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