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UC projects awarded nearly \$10 million

UC-affiliated projects have received nearly \$9 million through the Buy California Initiative. An additional \$800,000 allocation from the program has been announced but not yet finalized.

"The University of California is pleased to be a research and extension partner in the Buy California Initiative," said Vice President *Gomes*. "These funds have been invested in UC projects that promise to advance the science and knowledge needed to maintain productive farms and ranches, a healthy environment and a safe, nutritious food supply. The availability of Buy California funds is especially timely, given the state budget situation."

The Buy California Initiative, announced by Gov. *Davis* last February, is a \$72 million program financed by one-time federal and state funds to promote and enhance California agriculture, particularly specialty crops. The initiative includes funds for

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Update on the state budget from VP Gomes

Dear Colleagues:

I have just returned from the Jan. 15-16 Regents meeting, where the governor's budget proposal for 2003-04 was a topic of discussion. President *Atkinson* briefed the Regents on the proposal, which calls for \$299 million in new funding cuts for the UC system as part of a plan to close the state's projected \$35 billion budget deficit.

President *Atkinson* noted that when added to the mid-year cuts announced last month, the total cuts for the University over an 18-month period approach \$373 million. In combination with other cuts, UC has taken an overall \$533.3 million cut in state funds since 2001-02.

In last month's ANR Report, I indicated that the governor was proposing a mid-year cut of 5 percent for public service and an additional cut of 25 percent for these programs next year. Cooperative Extension accounts for all but 3 percent of the public service budget. If approved by the Legislature, this would mean a 30 percent permanent cut in state funds for UCCE, or nearly \$15 million.

State-funded research, cut by 10 percent this year, would be reduced another 10 percent in the governor's proposal

for 2003-04. An overall 20 percent cut would mean a loss of \$60 million in research funds for the University in just two years. If applied across-the-board, the Agricultural Experiment Station would absorb around \$19 million of this amount.

Other cuts proposed for the University besides research and public service include:

■ **K-12 educational outreach:**

a total reduction of \$33.3 million in 2003-04, or 50 percent of state funding for these programs.

■ **Teacher professional development:**

a \$15 million (75 percent) cut to the California Subject Matter Projects, which provide professional development to K-12 teachers.

■ **Instruction/student fees:** a reduction of \$179.1 million for instruction programs, which the governor assumes would be offset by student fee increases. If approved, the total increase in fees over the two years 2002-03 and 2003-04 would be 35 percent.

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ANR town-hall meetings scheduled for Feb. 4-6

Vice President *Gomes* will host three town-hall conference calls in early February to discuss proposed state budget cuts and get feedback from the ANR community. Anyone can call in to the 30-minute conference calls to ask questions and make comments. Background information about the governor's proposed budget cuts can be found on the internal ANR website: <http://ucanr.org/internal/indexi.shtml>.

The conference calls will take place:

Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 5, 10:30 a.m.

Thursday, Feb. 6, 9:30 a.m.

Participants should dial 1-888-464-1371

Passcode: ANR

Leader's name: VP Reg Gomes

To mute background noise from your phone, press *6. To speak, unmute by pressing *6 again.

Buy California projects *(from p. 1)*

market promotion and development (you may have seen the Buy California ads on television), nutrition education, agricultural research, food safety and competitive grants.

According to *Steve Nation*, executive director of ANR's Office of Governmental and External Relations, the Division is working with others in attempting to secure future funding for the research and extension aspects of the Buy California program.

Here is a brief summary of the UC-affiliated awards:

■ A \$5 million grant to establish the Western Institute for Food Safety and Security at UC Davis was announced in September. The institute is a partnership between UC, the California Department of Food and Agriculture and the California Department of Health Services.

"The institute will be the cornerstone to establishing California as the world's leader in food safety and security," said *Bennie Osburn*, dean of the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine. "Through research and practical education programs, the institute will take a comprehensive farm-to-table approach as we address food-related concerns that are vital to both the safety and economic health of the state." *Jerry Gillespie*, a professor and veterinary pathologist, is the institute's director.

■ In October, a specialty crops competitive-grants program managed by CDFA awarded a total of \$1.8 million to 15 proposals that have UC researchers and advisors as the principal investigators. The projects focus on pest and disease control, development of new crops and precision agriculture equipment, postharvest handling and shipping, genetic mapping and agricultural sustainability. The awards are from a \$7 million competitive grants program managed by CDFA.

These grants include:

- \$200,000 to UC Riverside and Orange County to define the pathways and fate of pesticides in runoff from greenhouse operations;
- \$175,000 to the Kearney Foundation and UC Davis for developing tools and information to implement soil carbon sequestration for specialty crops;
- \$150,000 to UC farm advisors and specialists for research and outreach on blueberries, chili peppers, edamame, tomatillos, oca and water chestnuts;
- \$150,000 to UC Davis and UCCE for research on verticillium wilt on lettuce;
- \$150,000 to UC Davis to develop a new sensor, based on magnetic resonance technology, to enable growers to evaluate fruit damage and other quality characteristics in the field;
- \$150,000 to UC Davis to test an automatic weed control system for organic farmers;
- \$150,000 to UC Riverside to control citrus peelminer;
- \$100,000 to the Sustainable Agriculture Research and

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Gomes on the state budget

(from p. 2)

■ **Student services:** a total reduction of \$25.3 million by 2003-04, equal to a 20 percent cut.

■ **Salaries:** In addition to these cuts, the governor's budget proposal includes no funding for salary increases for UC faculty or staff in 2003-04.

If you have not already done so, I urge you to read President Atkinson's budget update in the Jan. 2003 issue of *Our University*. Go to www.ucop.edu/news/budget/issue6.html.

President Atkinson has stressed that we are early in the state budget process and that much can change between now and July. None of the proposed cuts are final until the budget is approved by the State Legislature and the governor.

Since I last wrote to you, I met with the deans and my senior staff on Dec. 20 to begin assessing the potential impacts of the proposed cuts on our campus-based, county-based and statewide special programs and projects. Another meeting is scheduled for Jan. 23.

I have also briefed the regional directors on the budget situation and will be sharing information with county directors at three regional meetings already scheduled.

The UC Delivers project is online, and we have begun receiving examples of ANR success stories from counties, campus departments and statewide special programs. These will be edited for posting on the ANR website, on local websites (campus, county, research and extension centers, statewide special programs and projects, etc.), and for distribution to clientele, decision-makers and other opinion leaders.

In addition, we've arranged three "town-hall" telephone conference calls on Feb. 4, 5 and 6 ([see sidebar on p. 1](#)). I want to use these to brief you on the budget situation, the approach we're taking to address the cuts, and our progress in developing an advocacy plan for informing our stakeholders.

Most of all, I want to hear your ideas, suggestions and concerns regarding the state budget and its potential impacts on the Division. Please take the time to join us. If you are unable to join a call, or have additional comments or suggestions, please email me at wr.gomes@ucop.edu.

Meanwhile, we will keep you informed of any significant changes in the state budget situation through *ANR Report* and other communications. We remain hopeful that the overall cuts proposed for the University, and for public service and research, will be reduced by the time the 2003-04 budget is signed, and confident that, whatever the outcome, we can deal with it collectively.

W.R. "Reg" Gomes
Vice President

Budget update

What about the rest of this year???

By Assistant Vice President *Lanny Lund*

Many questions have been raised relative to our operations during the next few months. The budget uncertainty facing us for FY 2003-04 does not allow us to plan for next year following the usual practices.

However, we need to continue to do the business of the Division during the present year. With these points in mind, our current thinking on a number of topics follows.

Workgroups: While it is likely that workgroup funds will be reduced as a result of the state budget, the magnitude of the reduction will not be known for a number of months. Therefore, the process for funding workgroups for FY 2003-04 will be altered from past practices. Any decision about funding workgroup operations and activities for next year will be based on FY 2002-03 budgets, and will not require a full proposal. We will request the usual annual reports this spring. Funding for continuing projects will be based on evidence of satisfactory progress. In the meanwhile, activities planned for FY 2002-03 should proceed. If there are opportunities to conserve resources, do it. If there is any hesitancy about the validity of an upcoming event, cancel or postpone it.

Program Planning Advisory Committees: The PPACs will continue to function following their stated charge. The

identification of critical issues, those that should be addressed by ANR programs, will be of great importance at the other end of this budget downturn. Our rebuilding effort will need to be guided by the kind of information and analyses conducted by the PPACs.

ANR Merit and Promotion Process: The M&P process for advisors will continue as normal. The PR submission and evaluation process will proceed according to the established timeline.

CE Internship Program: The internship funds may not survive the budget reduction. It would not be a good use of a mentor's time to develop and submit a proposal and then be told there were no funds to support the program. Therefore, the internship program is being suspended for this year. If funds to support the program remain following the budget reduction, we will revisit the issue.

General ANR programming: The business of the Division must continue. Continue your individual and collective research and outreach programs. At the same time, the conservation of fiscal resources should continue to be a guiding principle when planning and conducting ANR programs.

As the budget situation changes, we will inform you of changes in our plans. Keep up your good work and continue to make a difference.

Buy California projects *(from p. 2)*

Education program (SAREP) to help producers of dried plums, walnuts, citrus and forage crops adopt environmentally sound agricultural practices;

- \$100,000 to SAREP to expand website and develop production manuals for organic growers;
- \$100,000 to UC Davis to control citrus tristeza by modifying plant's natural defense mechanisms;
- \$100,000 to UC Riverside to develop genetic maps to improve breeding of asparagus varieties;
- \$100,000 to UC Davis to develop new potato varieties, production practices and packaging;
- \$100,000 to UC Davis to evaluate the shelf life of new peach, plum and nectarine varieties;
- \$70,000 to High Sierra Resource Conservation and Development Council and UCCE for a high-end market feasibility study for beef producers;
- \$66,000 to UC Riverside to identify methyl bromide alternatives for controlling root-knot nematode.

■ About \$1.8 million in Buy California funding was provided to the Office of the Vice President for a specialty crops research grants program managed by UC Davis extension vegetable specialist *Ron Voss* (for details of projects funded, see page 1 of the November issue of *ANR Report* <http://danr.ucop.edu/anr-report/report02/rptpdf02/november-2002.pdf>).

■ A block grant is expected to be finalized soon for a collaborative partnership between the California Minor Crops Council, the Western Region IF-4 Program, housed at UC Davis, and the UC Statewide IPM Program's Pesticide Safety Education Program.

The objectives of the partnership are to provide California growers with reduced-risk pest management products and practices for their specialty crop commodities.

A total of about \$800,000 is expected to be allocated to the IF-4 Program and the IPM Pesticide Safety Education Program.

Workgroup chronicles

Today *ANR Report* introduces what we hope will be a regular series on ANR workgroup activities. “Workgroup chronicles” is for people who want to know more about the workgroups, their goals and accomplishments.

As you know, ANR workgroups provide a forum for AES and CE personnel and their partners to plan and work collaboratively on key research and extension issues. Below, extension entomologist *Mary Louise Flint*, director of IPM Education and Publications and co-chair of the Pest Management Workgroup, talks about her workgroup.

Q: What has the Pest Management Workgroup accomplished so far?

A: In 2001 the group (under the leadership of *Frank Zalom*) organized the first ANR Pest Management Coordinating Conference to be held in over 12 years. Ninety-three members of the Division attended.

We also sponsored a training workshop on weather monitoring for advisors and specialists and faculty. It brought together nearly 50 people from the different campuses, from the Natural Reserve System and from county offices for continuing education and for networking.

Last October, over 125 people attended our two-day Pest Management in ANR Workgroup Conference.

We have also issued an e-newsletter that links to our website. It’s designed to share information between events, but it requires input from a lot of people, and we’re still trying to establish if the interest and content is there to publish it regularly.

You’ll find quite a bit of information about our goals and accomplishments on our website: <http://groups.ucanr.org/pm/>. Our primary purposes are to foster interdisciplinary exchange between the pest management sciences and to increase county-campus networking and cooperation in the area of pest management. So, as our main activities, we hope to hold a coordinating conference every two years and a training workshop in the intervening year.

Why is a coordinating conference important?

It turns out that there are probably about 15 ANR workgroups that are related to pest management. For example, you have a lygus workgroup, glassy-winged sharpshooter workgroup and a plant pathology workgroup, weed workgroup and nematology workgroup. The vertebrates, too, would be included as pests: rats, ground squirrels. Also, there is the pesticide safety workgroup. All come under the umbrella of pest management. We’re trying to work as a coordinating conference for all those groups as well as for anybody else interested in pest management.

The idea of having a pest management coordinating conference is really a reinvention of an old concept. When I first came to CE, we had a statewide CE pest management program. The wonderful thing was that all the entomologists and plant pathologists, nematologists and weed

scientists and all the CE advisors who were interested in pest management got together every couple of years and talked about current issues. After the program was dissolved and the specialists moved into departments, there wasn’t any forum to get together and this was really something people missed.

What do these academic disciplines have in common?

We are all involved in crop or resource protection. The applied aspects of all our disciplines require an understanding of all other aspects of the managed ecosystem. Even though the pest you may be interested in is lygus, for instance, all the things that you do to manage other pests or aspects of the crop can potentially have an impact on a lygus population or the damage the pest renders. Many of us are involved in use and evaluation of pesticides, cultural practices, monitoring systems and prediction models that have multi-disciplinary applications. So there is a lot to be shared in the interdisciplinary arena, and it is important for people to connect. Our workgroup is trying to re-establish that connection. By getting into more specialized workgroups, people got separated and we really needed to bring people back together as a larger, interdisciplinary group because that’s important for integrating programs.

Your October conference covered a lot of material.

Right. We had about 40 speakers. Nine of the pest management workgroups sponsored mini-symposia within the conference. These let people who are not members find out what these other workgroups are doing, and I think that is an important function. For instance, there is a soil solarization workgroup. It’s an area I’m interested in but not quite enough to be part of the workgroup. But I was able to attend and see what kind of research is going on in that area. To cite another example: The insecticide resistance workgroup gave a presentation. I think people liked that they had the opportunity to see what other workgroups were doing. We also had general sessions that everybody attended.

Why hold a training workshop on weather monitoring?

We’re a big, interdisciplinary group, with a wide range of disciplines, from plant pathologists, to entomologists, to weed scientists. We’re looking for topics that are of interest to that broad group of people. Weather is a big determining factor of pest outbreaks, so the more we know about either predicting weather or measuring what the weather has been, the better we can deal with pest problems. For a lot of the fungal diseases, moisture, water and rain are important. Temperature is a primary factor in growth rates of invertebrates. Extremes such as freezing weather can have an impact on pest activities and plant health. There are a lot of new tools out there for weather monitoring and many people from all disciplines wanted to learn about them. (*Cheryl Wilen, area IPM advisor, is also co-chair of the Pest Management Workgroup.*)

PD-type bacterium found in landscape plants

By Pam Kan-Rice

The bacterium that causes Pierce's disease in grapevines is showing up in more plant species, according to *Don Cooksey*. The UCR plant pathologist's progress report was one of nearly 50 UC research projects presented at the California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA) 2002 Pierce's Disease Research Symposium, held Dec. 15-18, 2002, in San Diego.

Nearly 300 people attended the three-day symposium, including scientists from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, CDFA, and other research institutions.

Xylella fastidiosa causes Pierce's disease, almond leaf scorch, alfalfa dwarf and oleander leaf scorch. With the arrival of the glassy-winged sharpshooter, scientists became concerned that *Xylella*

fastidiosa would be spread to new hosts, or that new strains of *Xylella* might show up on new hosts. Both appear to have happened.

Xylella in other species

Cooksey reported detecting the bacterium in or near vineyards in some plant species that had not been reported as hosts before.

Cooksey and UCR entomologist *Heather Costa* also found possible new strains of *Xylella* in Southern California occurring in diseased liquidamber, olive, mirror plant and ornamental plum. Diseased plants of all four species tested positive for the bacterium, whereas nearby healthy plants were negative.

Cooksey cautioned, "The detection of *Xylella fastidiosa* does not necessarily mean that the bacterium is causing disease in these hosts; other pathogens or abiotic factors may be causing the observed symptoms. We are still doing genetic

tests to determine whether the olive or other hosts harbor 'new' strains of *Xylella*, or if it is just existing strains now showing up on these new hosts."

They also detected *X. fastidiosa* in the weeds Spanish broom and wild mustard.

UCB entomologist *Sandy Purcell* noted that research associate *Tina Wistrom* had found that most of the weeds in the San Joaquin Valley that were tested proved to support some multiplication of *Xylella*. The researchers are trying to identify which weeds might be important to control to prevent Pierce's disease spread.

PD in Coachella Valley

The table grape-growing region of Coachella Valley has been home to the glassy-winged sharpshooter since the mid 1990s but didn't show signs of Pierce's disease until last summer. UCR entomologist *Tom Perring*

said that 13 vines from two adjacent vineyards tested positive for Pierce's disease in July 2002. The infected vines were removed.

Historically, the region had experienced an outbreak of Pierce's disease in 1985, thus Perring said the bacteria likely is present at a low incidence throughout the Valley. However, with increasing numbers of the glassy-winged sharpshooter, a vector of the bacterium that causes the disease, there is reason for grape growers to keep a vigilant watch for infected vines.

Because some of the mature vines were systemically infected, Perring said, "they probably have been infected for more than two years."

Perring, along with Riverside County viticulture advisor *Carmen Gispert*, will continue to monitor Pierce's disease in the area's vineyards.

Assembly Council issues call for nominations

By Yvonne Steinbring

The official call for nominations for president-elect and one position from the Central Valley on the Rules and Elections Committee for the Assembly Council has been mailed to all members of the Assembly. Please consider self-nomination or encouraging and nominating a colleague to serve in these important roles.

If nominating someone else, the person nominated must send notice that they accept the nomination to me prior to their name being placed on the ballot. I must receive nominations by Feb. 1.

Please refer to the Assembly Council bylaws on the website for duties of these positions: <http://groups.ucanr.org/AAC/documents.htm>. Send nominations to yjsteinbring@ucdavis.edu or fax them to 530/842-6931.

Requests for proposals

Exotic Pests and Diseases Research Program 2003-2006 request for proposals (<http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/IPMPROJECT/cisrrfp.html>). **Deadline: March 17**

The UC Statewide IPM Program and Center for Invasive Species Research are soliciting new proposals for basic and applied research and extension programs related to exotic pests and diseases found in agricultural, urban, and natural environments in California. Reviewers will consider the importance of the research to California

and priority areas that have been identified by the advisory committee.

Multidisciplinary and multi-institutional proposals are encouraged as appropriate to address specific issues, and to allow the results of sponsored research projects to have broader utility.

An extension or outreach program to disseminate information resulting from the research is highly recommended.

All forms are available from the website or call *Donna Connolly* at 530/752-5336.

ANR Associate Editors Needed

By Ann Senuta

Nominations are being accepted now for ANR associate editor positions in six subject areas.

Associate editors are advisors, specialists, and faculty nominated by the Communications Advisory Board and appointed by Associate Vice President *Henry Vaux Jr.* to manage the technical peer-review process for ANR educational materials. Associate editors serve three-year terms.



COMING UP

FEBRUARY

ANR Town-hall Conference Calls

Feb. 4, 2 p.m.

Feb. 5, 10:30 a.m.

Feb. 6, 9:30 a.m.

(See article on p. 1 for instructions.)

32nd Annual Plant and Soil Conference

Feb. 5-6; Modesto; www.CalASA.ucdavis.edu

(baroberts@ucdavis.edu; 559/582-3211, ext. 2730)

N. San Joaquin Vly Winegrape Seminar

Feb. 13; Turlock; Maxwell Norton

(mnnorton@ucdavis.edu; 209/385-7403)

Blueberry Winter Meeting

Feb. 14; Kearney Ag Center; Manuel Jimenez (559/685-3309, ext. 216)

Winter Forage @ Alfalfa Meeting

Feb. 26; Visalia; Carol Frate, alfalfa (559/685-3309, ext. 214), Steve Wright, winter forage (559/685-3309, ext. 215)

ANR Statewide Conference

Feb. 19-21; Sacramento; Andrea Tung (510/987-0097, andrea.tung@ucop.edu)

MARCH

35th California Nematology Workshop

March 4; San Diego; J. Ole Becker (909/787-2185; ole.becker@ucr.edu)

Winter Cotton Meeting

March 4; Visalia; Steve Wright (559/685-3303)

Salinity/Drainage Annual Meeting

March 26; Sacramento; (909/787-4327; www.waterresources.ucr.edu)

Water Resources Coordinating Conf.

March 27; Sacramento; (510/987-0631)

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

Associate editors make significant contributions to the quality of ANR educational materials. Although their primary responsibility is to oversee peer review of manuscripts and scripts in their subject area and then decide on programmatic acceptance of the materials, their position encompasses much more.

They arrange for periodic review of publications, slide sets and videos; they encourage authors to write new and revise older publications; and they serve as a link between ANR Communication Services and the Division's programs. With their efforts, the associate editors provide a significant impact on Extension and outreach programs statewide.

The six associate editors whose terms end on July 1 are *Leslie (Bees) Butler*, farm management and economics; *Myriam Grajales-Hall*, Spanish language materials; *Mel George*, natural resources; *Jim Grieshop*, human and community development; *J. Michael Henry*, environmental horticulture; *Joe Grant*, pomology, viticulture, and subtropical horticulture. Associate editors whose terms are expiring may be renominated.

To nominate yourself or a colleague for associate editor in one of the above subject areas, please provide the following information by March 1 to *Susan Laughlin*, chair of the Communications Advisory Board: candidate's name, address, phone number, email address, areas of expertise, and workgroup or continuing conference memberships.

Laughlin's email address is susan.laughlin@ucop.edu. Her mailing address is Assistant Vice President-Planning and Budget, ANR, 300 Lakeside Drive, 6th Floor, Oakland, CA 94612-3550.

If you have questions about the responsibilities or workload of ANR associate editors, contact *Ann Senuta*, ANR Communication Services publications manager (530/754-5114 or aesenuta@ucdavis.edu).

Salmon named to lead UCCE in San Diego

Terrell P. Salmon, wildlife specialist at UC Davis, has been appointed county director in San Diego, effective Feb. 1. Salmon has been with Cooperative Extension for 24 years. He was first appointed wildlife specialist in 1978 with statewide responsibility in wildlife pest management. From 1989 to 1999, he served as regional director for the North Region. During most of that time, he also provided administrative leadership for Sea Grant Extension, the Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA), and 4-H Citizenship and Animal Science programs. In 1999, Terry returned to the Department of Wildlife, Fish and Conservation Biology to resume his specialist assignment. His applied research and extension programs have centered on managing wildlife problems in agricultural and natural resource settings in more effective and environmentally appropriate ways. Salmon's research interests also include development and evaluation of extension methodologies to improve program delivery.

Salmon and his wife, Elaine, will be relocating to San Diego from Davis.

ANR REPORT

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES (ANR): Serving California through the creation, development and application of knowledge in agricultural, natural and human resources.

We invite you to visit ANR's website: <http://ucanr.org>. For back copies of ANR Report, log on to <http://danr.ucop.edu/anr-report/>

Send news items and comments to Gabriele Kassner, ANR Report editor, Office of Governmental & External Relations, 1111 Franklin St., 6th Floor, Oakland, CA 94607-5200. Telephone: 510/987-0631; fax: 510/465-2659; email: gabriele.kassner@ucop.edu

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