



Report

Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources

March 2003 ■ Vol. 16 No. 9

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UCCE awards for 2002 are announced

The Academic Assembly Council has announced the winners of its 2002 Cooperative Extension Distinguished Service Awards: Sharon Junge, Steve Koike, and the team of Khaled Bali, Mark Grismer and Richard Snyder.

Last year Assembly Council revamped its awards program, decreasing the number of awards and boosting the cash prize of each award. These are the first winners in the revamped program. The program now consists of two individual awards—each paired with a \$5,000 cash prize—and one team award, which garners the winners a shared \$10,000 cash prize. The new program is modeled after campus award programs for academics.

“The announcement of these awards culminates a three-year process to make the CE Distinguished Service Awards more meaningful to the recipients and for the whole UCCE organization,” said Diane Metz, Academic Assembly Council’s current president.

“The Academic Assembly
continued on p. 2

Governor signs midyear budget cuts

By Steve Nation

Following more than three months of negotiations, Governor *Davis* and the Legislature reached agreement on Tuesday, March 18, on a series of midyear spending cuts worth \$8 billion.

Education programs absorbed a large share of the budget cuts, with K-12 spending reduced by more than \$1 billion. Higher education budgets also were affected. The 108 community colleges took a \$141 million cut, and the UC and CSU budgets were each cut by \$60 million.

Included in the midyear spending cut for UC is a 5 percent permanent reduction for Cooperative Extension. In dollar terms, the reduction equals roughly \$2.4 million.

“Because we are nearly nine months into the current budget year, Vice President Gomes has decided to manage the 5 percent reduction initially with temporary funds that are available from frozen positions and reductions in the allocation of temporary funds made earlier this year,” according to Associate Vice President *Henry Vaux Jr.*

“The effect of this action for our Cooperative Extension programs is to postpone the need to make the permanent reduction required by the midyear cut until the next fiscal year—July 1, 2003,” Vaux said.

Now that the midyear cuts have been approved in Sacramento, the governor and the Legislature are expected to turn their attention to next year’s spending plan. As we reported in earlier issues of *ANR Report*, the governor’s 2003-04 budget proposal contains a 25 percent additional cut to UC Cooperative Extension and another 10 percent cut for research.

If approved by the Legislature, this would mean a \$12.2 million permanent reduction for Cooperative Extension next year, on top of the just-approved \$2.4 million midyear cut. UC agricultural research spending, cut by \$10 million this year, would receive an additional \$9 million cut next year if the reductions are across-the-board.

The Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review and the Assembly Committee on Budget will review the governor’s budget recommendations for UC and other state programs over the next few months. Major actions are not expected to take place before the release of the May (budget) Revise around May 12.

Town-hall conference call set for April 2

Vice President *Gomes* invites members of the Division to join him in a town-hall conference call on **Wednesday, April 2, at 10 a.m.**, to discuss the state budget situation and the impact of proposed budget cuts on the University and the Division.

The call-in is part of a series of regular Divisionwide conversations Gomes is hosting to continue the dialogue about budget developments. Additional town-

hall conference calls will be scheduled over the next few months as the budget process unfolds in the Legislature. Anyone can call in to the 30-minute conference call to ask questions and make comments.

Participants should dial 1-888-464-1371
Passcode: ANR; Leader’s name: VP Gomes

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

CE awards are announced *(from p. 1)*

Council's Program Committee has given the leadership to the dialogue that has resulted in these awards," she said. "The Program Committee chairperson, *Rebecca Carver*, members of her committee, members of the AAC, and Associate Vice President *Henry Vaux Jr.* and his staff have worked collaboratively and cooperatively to make these awards a reality. The AAC wishes to thank all these people for their efforts. It is good to share good news!"

Vaux notified the recipients in late November that they had been selected to receive the awards.

"These awards recognize the contributions you have made through leadership, vision and high level of academic excellence," Vaux wrote in congratulating the winners.

The awards, originally scheduled to be presented at the statewide conference that was subsequently cancelled because of budget cuts, will be recognized formally at an event still being determined.

Junge, county director of Placer/Nevada Counties Cooperative Extension and a 4-H youth development advisor and home economist, won the 2002 ANR Distinguished Service Award for Outstanding Extension.

"Your educational programs, research and consultations on behalf of children, youth and families at the local, state and national levels have been and continue to be a credit to the University, Cooperative Extension and the state of California," Vaux wrote.

Koike, Monterey County

farm advisor, won the 2002 ANR Distinguished Service Award for Outstanding Research.

"You have developed innovative solutions to address plant pathology problems, including the identification of an extensive list of newly discovered diseases, and have extended knowledge through clientele contact and through an impressive array of scholarly publications," Vaux wrote.

Bali, Grismer and Snyder won the 2002 ANR Distinguished Service Award for Outstanding Teamwork. Bali is an Imperial County CE advisor. Grismer is a professor and agricultural drainage engineer in the AES in the Hydrology Program at UC Davis. Snyder is a CE bioclimatologist in the Atmospheric Science Program at UC Davis.

The team was honored for its "collaborative efforts to implement a research-based outreach program that addresses irrigation management methods for use in low-desert agricultural areas," Vaux wrote. "This work has attracted over \$500,000 in extramural grant support and has resulted in significant progress in developing and demonstrating methods that minimize surface runoff, improved water-use efficiency and reduction of salinity impact on crop yields." The team will share the \$10,000 cash prize.

CE Distinguished Service Awards are co-sponsored by ANR and the California Farm Bureau Federation.

Winners are selected from a pool of nominations submitted by the academic members of the Division.

New tool for better outreach to Latinos

Guided tour of *Extensión en Español* will be held April 9

By *Myriam Grajales-Hall*

The *Extensión en Español (EEE)* clearinghouse for Spanish-language educational materials is ready to publicly open its doors. This is a national effort undertaken by UC ANR, Texas A&M, New Mexico State University and the University of Illinois.

Please join us in a live, national Internet conference about the clearinghouse, including a guided tour of the website, on **April 9, 11 a.m. to 12 noon**. The conference is free, and you can participate from your office or home computer.

EEE contains hundreds of Extension-related documents in Spanish and English free of charge for users to view and download. It also contains:

- Bilingual news reports, columns and feature stories
- Links to other extension websites with Spanish-language materials
- Resource guides, such as glossaries of Spanish-language translations for Extension and USDA agencies and institutions, and style guides for Spanish usage
- Educational materials to learn more about Hispanic communities and reaching out to Spanish-speaking audiences
- An online forum to consult with other specialists about Spanish-language materials
- Extensive contact lists to communicate individually with specialists on specific issues

Clearinghouse resources are drawn from throughout the Extension system nationwide. It is, in every sense, a grass-roots initiative that spans the entire Extension system. All those needing Spanish-language materials can freely use EEE, and those with something to contribute can offer materials for posting and public use. In addition, EEE offers free translation services for those who have documents that would be of substantial use nationally, providing they meet a set of pre-established criteria.

The April 9 Internet conference will teach how to access these resources and services and how to contribute to clearinghouse expansion. The Internet conferencing system provides visuals and a two-way audio connection so you can ask questions and interact with other participants. You can log on from anywhere in the United States and Puerto Rico, or set up a viewing site for multiple participants.

To register for the Guided Tour of *Extensión en Español*, email *Sonja Jo Serna* at sserna@nmsu.edu by **March 31**. Please include a contact name, your organization, your email (the event info will be sent to this address) and a phone number. You can also fax this information to Serna at 505/646-3515.

For more information, please contact me at 909/787-4397; myriam.grajales@ucr.edu.

Grajales-Hall, program manager of Spanish Broadcast and Media Services, is one of EEE's founding members.

AgrAbility project helps farmers cope with serious injury, illness

Farmers and farm workers who sustain a serious injury or have an ailment or condition that hinders their ability to work can get assistance from a new USDA-funded project in California called AgrAbility that is designed to help them continue farming and living independently.

“Farming is a way of life that values the family working together,” says California AgrAbility Project coordinator *Martha Stiles*. “When a family member is affected by a severe injury or illness, this way of life is challenged.” Stiles says that more than 20,000 disabling injuries occur on California farms each year. In fact, agricultural production is one of the three most hazardous occupations in the U.S. and has the highest rate of disabling injury of any industry. In addition, ag workers also suffer the same chronic illnesses and off-farm accidents that affect the general public.

AgrAbility assists individuals and families coping with injuries and other conditions that make it difficult for them to do their work, such as amputations, arthritis, chronic back pain, respiratory illness, and hearing and vision losses, among other ailments. These clients can utilize a range of AgrAbility services, including practical education, technical assistance and other support.

“Our staff can help farmers and workers design and customize assistance plans according to their needs,” says Stiles, who is based at the UCD biological and agricultural engineering department. The plan they develop with the client may include any of the following: modifying the worksite, getting peer support, restructuring the job, improving farm safety, purchasing or modifying equipment, coordinating health care, providing stress management and identifying resources for funding and other services.

AgrAbility Projects are managed by state Cooperative Extension programs in tandem with local nonprofit partners such as Easter Seals. California AgrAbility Project is funded through a USDA grant to the UCCE Farm Safety Program at UC Davis in collaboration with the 13-county Easter Seals Superior Region, headquartered in Sacramento. CE specialist *Jim Meyers* is the principal investigator. California is one of the most recent states to offer AgrAbility services. There are 21 states in the U.S. with such projects.

To illustrate how AgrAbility works, here are a few success stories from programs in other states that have been up and running for a while.

- A farmer who uses a wheelchair because of a spinal cord injury has been able to drive his tractor 500 hours a year for three years thanks to a lift attached to his tractor that raises him into the cab safely. The project helped him get the lift and thereby stay productive.
- To feed his livestock, a rancher with arthritis moves bales of hay with less manual effort and has less joint stress, pain and fatigue because, with the project’s assistance, he now uses a skid steer loader equipped with a bale prong.
- A farmer whose neck was injured when a semi-truck rear-ended his vehicle resumed work after months of reha-

bilitation. But he couldn’t do some of the tasks he had always taken for granted. The project helped him identify which tasks gave him the most trouble and find the right equipment and make structural changes on the farm so that he could remain an active farmer.

- A couple has been able to continue operating their farm after the wife became paralyzed following a fall. The project helped them raise the driveway to eliminate the front step into their house and make other changes to accommodate the wheelchair that she now uses. It also helped arrange in-home services. Modifications to the farming operations are also planned so that she can resume some of those activities.

“We received our funding late last year and are now fully staffed,” Stiles says of the CalAgrAbility Project. “Right now we are doing social marketing, that is, getting the word out about our program and identifying our audience.” Besides erecting displays and drumming up media publicity, the CalAgrAbility staff are also giving presentations at workshops and meetings. On March 19, for example, Stiles gave a presentation on AgrAbility at a statewide conference to migrant housing center managers.

CalAgrAbility has bilingual staff members available to serve Spanish-speaking farm operators and workers, Stiles says. ANR’s Spanish Broadcast and Media Services has developed monthly public service announcement to promote the program among Spanish-speaking clientele in California.

CalAgrAbility currently focuses on the 13-county Easter Seals Superior Region—Amador, Alpine, Calaveras, El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tuolumne, Yolo, Yuba—but Stiles says she is happy to assist clients in other areas of the state as well. To reach the UC CalAgrAbility staff, call 530/752-2606 or contact Easter Seals at 1-888/877-3257, ext. 117.

Food safety added as ANR’s fourth strategic direction

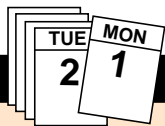
Food safety has become ANR’s fourth long-term strategic program area, joining genomics research and education, management of invasive species, and waste management.

For details, see the pdf document now posted on ANR’s internal website (<http://lucanr.org/internal/indexi.shtml>).

“The Executive Council discusses and reviews strategic directions systematically and recommends them for adoption by the Vice President,” said Associate Vice President *Henry Vaux Jr.* “The addition of this new strategic direction emerged from one of those reviews.”

These broad programmatic strategic directions are intended to help guide the planning process, Vaux said. The intent is that specific Division priorities will be derived from them. ANR’s strategic directions guide the activities of the program planning advisory committees (PPACs) and the Program Council, as well as the Executive Council.

COMING UP



You can access information on hundreds of ANR-related events by visiting the online ANR calendar at <http://calendar.ucanr.org/>

Regional meeting on Sept. 7-9 to discuss ag health and safety issues

By Patrick O'Connor-Marer

Mark your calendar now for the Sept. 7-9 regional conference on agricultural health and safety issues. The conference will be held at the Holiday Inn Gateway in San Francisco. The theme for this year is "Challenges in Agricultural Health and Safety."

This important meeting for agricultural professionals is jointly sponsored by the Western Center for Agricultural Health and Safety at UC Davis and the Pacific Northwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center at the University of Washington, Seattle, along with the Center for Occupational and Environmental Health at UC Berkeley.

Sessions will be held on injuries and ergonomics, illnesses and diseases (including respiratory diseases and pesticide illnesses), and health and safety challenges faced by farmworkers.

A special feature of this conference will be breakfast discussion tables on specific issues. Here is a chance to join in lively and informal discussions on topics of particular interest to you and meet others with similar interests.

For further information, please call Gwen Oliver, manager of the Western Center for Agricultural Health and Safety, at 530/752-5253 or visit our website (<http://lagcenter.ucdavis.edu>).

O'Connor-Marer is conference chair and deputy director for outreach, Western Center for Agricultural Health and Safety.

2003 Statewide ANR Retiree Reunion to be held in Napa

By Cindy Barber

The 2003 Statewide ANR Retiree Reunion will be held Oct. 8-10 at the Embassy Suites Napa Valley. All retired employees of the Division are invited to join us for what we are sure will be a stimulating few days, providing the opportunity to renew friendships, learn about key issues facing ANR and share ideas with administrators.

The planning committee is putting together an exciting program. The agenda will include the opportunity to learn about the wine industry (its history, current issues); tour COPIA (the American Center for Wine, Food and the Arts), including an optional cooking demonstration; dine at V. Sattui Winery, and participate in making flavored vinegars and tasting local olive oils. Invitations will be mailed in June.

For more information, call Evelyn Wunderlich (707/725-1995), Vic Brown (858/483-1284), Herb Weisheit (858/278-5063) or Cindy Barber (510/987-9139).

Barber is ANR's director of Retiree Relations and Planned Giving.

Soil Ecology Society meeting, May 11-14

The Soil Ecology Society will meet in Palm Springs on May 11-14. The theme: "Invasive Species and Soil Ecology." Five plenary speakers have been invited: Dave Wardle (effects of exotic large animals on soil ecology in New Zealand); Mary Firestone (effects of invasive plants on soil ecology); Patrick Bohlen (invasive earthworms and their impacts on soil functioning); David Rizzo (soil-borne fungus *Phytophthora ramorum* and sudden oak death); Mike Allen (habitat conservation planning, invasive species, and soil ecology in the Coachella Valley). Register and make hotel reservations by April 9. See the website for instructions (www.ccb.ucr.edu/SES/Confinfo.html).

Call for proposals

Hopland Research and Extension Center seeks research project proposals for the period June 1, 2003, through May 31, 2004.

Proposals are due at Hopland on April 7.

The center, with 5,300 acres of oak woodland, grassland, and chaparral rangeland in southeastern Mendocino County, supports a diverse mix of projects in subjects including animal science, range management, wildlife ecology, entomology and epidemiology, pest management, viticulture and natural resources management.

New projects utilizing the center's laboratory, greenhouse, resident sheep flock of 600 breeding ewes, 2-acre cabernet vineyard, wild black-tailed deer herd, or irrigated pasture are specifically encouraged.

The center annually awards grants of center-provided labor to support approved projects.

For additional information and proposal forms, visit the center's website (http://danrrec.ucdavis.edu/hopland/home_page.html). Or you may contact center superintendent Robert Timm directly at 707/ 744-1424; email: rmtimm@ucdavis.edu.

ANR REPORT

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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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