



# Report

Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources

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### UC offers eligible employees time-reduction option

Vice President *Gomes* has announced the implementation of the Staff and Academic Reduction in Time (START) Program within the Division. The voluntary program is being offered throughout the UC system.

START will help UC achieve temporary salary savings during the current budget crisis, according to an Office of the President announcement issued May 19.

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### 102 ANR sites join Gomes in call-in updating budget

Noting the state budget may be approved soon, Vice President *Gomes* told ANR personnel who joined him in a May 21 conference call updating the budget that “we need to redouble our efforts now to ensure that our stakeholders understand the full impact of the proposed cuts to CE and agricultural research and bring their concerns to the attention of Sacramento.” Some 102 sites in the Division logged into the conference call.

### State senate committee hearing: if proposed cuts are enacted, what's the future of UCCE?

By Pam Kan-Rice

“A 30 percent reduction in our budget would be devastating,” Vice President *Gomes* told a state senate committee exploring the future of UC Cooperative Extension, on May 20.

When asked how the state budget cut would impact Cooperative Extension, *Gomes* replied, “There will be irrevocable changes. We’ll never get back to where we are. The changes we’re contemplating will be permanent changes.”

Sen. *Michael Machado* (D-Linden), chair of the Committee on Agriculture and Water Resources, organized the informational hearing titled “What is the future of the University of

California’s Cooperative Extension?” and invited *Gomes*, other Division personnel and stakeholders to Sacramento to testify.

In his testimony, *Gomes* explained UC’s land-grant beginnings and its mandate to “generate and deliver to the public new knowledge relevant to the needs of society.”

On sources of CE funding, *Gomes* said: “About half of the UCCE budget is derived from the state general fund with additions to the budget from our federal and county partners. Of prime importance, however, is the fact that state general funds cover the salaries of our CE advisors and specialists who carry out our programs and, in many cases,

receive substantial additional funding from other sources. For example, counties fund support staff and operations budgets for local CE offices. If the advisors were not there, county funds would also be unavailable to UCCE. Similarly, advisors and specialists bring in millions of dollars a year in federal, state and private grants and contracts that would no longer be available.

“Reductions of this magnitude force us to put everything on the table,” *Gomes* said, “closure of Cooperative Extension county offices, downsizing or elimination of statewide programs such as 4-H, IPM, Small Farm, loss of research capacity and sig-

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### ANR supporters write letters to state officials

4-H volunteers and members, master gardeners, the agricultural industry and a broad coalition of environmental, natural resources, conservation and consumer groups have contacted their state legislators and the governor’s office to ask that the state general fund cuts to UCCE and research be reduced. Following are excerpts from some of these letters:

■ In a letter to the governor and key legislators, President Atkinson’s Advisory Commission on Agriculture and Natural Resources, composed of leaders in California agriculture, environmental and natural resources organizations and consumer interests, wrote, “We are stunned

at the magnitude of the proposed reductions” to CE and ag research programs at UC, they said. “While you may view these expenditures as annual operating expenses, in reality they are investments in full economic growth, improved quality of life, and sustained health and welfare for all Californians.” [Click here for pdf of letter.](#)

■ Nine leading agricultural, natural resources and conservation groups sent a joint letter of support to all legislators stating: “We specifically urge the Legislature to reduce the total current and budget year cuts to agricultural research and Cooperative Extension outreach programs at UC ANR by half, to

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## State senate panel holds hearing *(from p. 1)*

nificant layoffs of advisors, specialists, researchers and staff. The cuts will seriously restrict our ability to deliver the new technologies, cutting-edge research and practical information that growers, consumers and others rely on to keep California competitive in world markets, ensure a safe and secure food supply, improve environmental quality, contribute to family values and protect public health and safety.”

Prior to the hearing, Machado had asked Gomes to describe the process to prioritize and implement the proposed budget cuts. Gomes outlined the criteria being used in the Division to determine resource allocation:

- Is it a critical program: Do we retain or enhance (in the future) this program area at all costs? Is it indispensable in ensuring the future success of ANR in meeting critical needs of California? Or...
- Is it an important program: Is it a significant program that may contribute to future success of ANR in meeting critical needs of California? Or...
- Is it a desirable program: What are worthy program areas that are not essential to the future success of ANR in meeting critical needs of California? Or...
- Is it a program that no matter what the quality, retention would be at the expense of higher priority needs of Californians?

Dean *Neal Van Alfen*, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at UC Davis, described the Division’s agricultural research programs and explained why public-sector research is necessary.

“The reality is that very few companies do research that addresses the needs of California agriculture,” Van Alfen asserted. “And there are few private sector companies that provide credible research data necessary for the management of California’s natural resources or that will help us find solutions to our air and water quality challenges.”

To show how public investment in research can pay off, Van Alfen cited the example of whey protein, a waste product of cheese making. A UC researcher found that whey could be substituted for an imported confectioners glaze, which is made from insect secretions and widely used in the candy industry to keep candy fresh.

“The potential added value of this new use of whey protein to the dairy industry is estimated by the Agricultural Issues Center to be \$10 million per year,” Van Alfen said. “By paying part of the salary of this faculty member through the Agricultural Experiment Station, the state has found a way to recoup 15 years of investment in less than one year, increase profit to the dairy industry, and reduce the stream of pollutants that come from processing milk into cheese. This is just one recent example of how AES research is serving California.”

Other ANR speakers included *Carole MacNeil*, director, Statewide 4-H Youth Development Program; 4-H member *Michelle Costamagna* of Lodi; *Joanne Ikeda*, UC Berkeley

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## No additional budget cuts for UC in May Revision

In the “May Revision” to his 2003-04 budget proposal, Gov. *Davis* proposed no additional cuts for the University beyond those already proposed in January.

The governor’s original January budget proposal still includes \$300 million in base budget cuts for UC as part of a plan to address a state budget deficit originally estimated at \$35 billion and which the governor now puts at \$38 billion.

When cuts of the last two years are included and offsetting revenue from possible fee increases is accounted for, UC by next year will have taken \$360 million in base budget cuts. As a result, over a three-year period ending next year, UC’s enrollment will have grown by 18 percent while its state-funded budget will have fallen 6 percent.

Programs across the University are being cut, many in the range of 20 percent to 50 percent, and many are planning for layoffs. Essentially every program area outside of student instruction—including administration, libraries, research, student services, Cooperative Extension, and many others—is facing significant cuts. Faculty salaries will lag UC’s comparison institutions by about 9 percent, and UC faces similar challenges with respect to staff salaries.

In addition to state budget cuts, UC is contending with more than \$100 million in cost increases for which it is receiving no new state funding, including skyrocketing health benefit costs, significantly increased energy costs, and unfunded costs related to the maintenance of new space.

As one part of the budget impact, mandatory systemwide student fees have been proposed to increase in 2003-04, including a \$795 annual increase for resident undergraduates in addition to the \$405 annualized increase adopted by the Board of Regents for the spring 2003 term. Financial aid would be increased, covering the fee increase for approximately 40 percent of all UC students. As a result, in general, financially needy students from families with annual incomes of \$60,000 or less would not have to pay the fee increase, and financially needy students from families with annual incomes of up to \$90,000 would receive a grant covering a portion of the fee increase.

However, there are now proposals from the Legislature that would cut the University’s budget by an additional \$80 million to \$400 million beyond the governor’s January proposals. The Regents will not set 2003-04 student fee levels until June or July, when more information should be available about the final state budget outcome.

“We are going to work hard to support the governor’s budget, emphasizing that it offers a balanced approach despite the deep cuts it imposes,” said *Larry Hershman*, UC vice president for budget. “The even further cuts contained in the proposals from the Legislature would do great harm to the University and could lead to additional student fee increases, constraints on new enrollments starting in 2004-05, or both. We will vigorously oppose these additional cuts.” The May Revision is available at: [http://www.dof.ca.gov/HTML/BUD\\_DOCS/Bud\\_link.htm](http://www.dof.ca.gov/HTML/BUD_DOCS/Bud_link.htm). *(from UCOP release)*



Here are edited samples of UC Delivers stories from the campuses. More than 100 stories are now posted at the [URL above](http://ucanr.org/delivers).

**UC Riverside botany and plant sciences department**

**New avocado test may be adopted internationally**

Mary Lu Arpaia, an extension subtropical horticulturist based at Kearney Agricultural Center, collaborated with *D. Boreham* (CDFA) and *R. Hofshi* (avocado industry) to develop and evaluate a new way to determine fruit maturity of avocados. Safer and faster, the test replaces a labor intensive, potentially dangerous method that forced testers to work close to sharp blades to extract fruit samples. California adopted the new test last September after two years of study revealed it can cut costs by 15 percent and reduce injuries and testers' training time. Sampling can assure fruit quality, help growers develop harvest strategies and inform decisions about post-harvest handling. The avocado industries of New Zealand, Australia and Chile are considering adopting the new methodology and if they do, it will internationally standardize avocado maturity testing. Contact Arpaia (559/646-6561).

**UC Riverside entomology department**

**UC scientists find effective biocontrol for eucalyptus pest, eliminating need for pesticides**

When eucalyptus trees in Ventura County started losing leaves, Agricultural Experiment Station scientists *Timothy Paine* and *Jocelyn Millar* and their colleagues sought a natural enemy for the destructive snout beetle pest. Native to Australia, the beetle lacks natural enemies here, so they scoured its home turf and found a wasp fond of beetle eggs. After testing the wasp in secure facilities to ensure it could do the job without creating problems here, they mass-reared it and let it loose in beetle-infested areas. The snout beetle population in Ventura County fell to non-damaging levels—nipping a serious problem in the bud and providing an effective and permanent solution requiring no pesticides. Contact Paine (909/787-5835).

**UC Berkeley plant and microbial biology department**

**UCB researchers use genetic tools to make common staples like wheat and milk less allergenic**

Cereal grains and milk are important for good nutrition, especially for children, but can set off food allergies. Triggered by an individual's immune system, responses can range from mild to life-threatening. UCB researchers found that certain proteins in wheat and milk are held together tightly with chemical "bunge chords" and are not digested. These allergens then interact with cells in the small intestine, causing an allergic response. Using biotechnology, *Bob Buchanan* and *Peggy Lemaux* demonstrated a method to relax these chemical bonds and decrease the allergic response. Industry can use their approach to improve food safety for the nearly 4 million people in the U.S. who suffer from food allergies. Contact Lemaux (510/642-1589; lemauxpg@nature.berkeley.edu).

**UC Davis entomology department**

**Detecting pesticide resistance, study sounds alarm that leads to improved mosquito control programs**

Mosquitoes have been an important focus of UC research and extension for many years. An effective mosquito control program is essential for California, since mosquitos can transmit the West Nile virus and other diseases to humans and animals. Recently, AES assistant professor *Anthony Cornel* led a research study that revealed California mosquito populations were becoming resistant to currently used pesticides. District mosquito abatement personnel drew on this research to adopt better strategies to prevent further resistance. Cornel also trained them how to conduct pesticide susceptibility testing. In addition, with GIS analyst *Kris Lynn*, he designed a geographic information system (GIS) interface for the abatement districts. By using GIS for monitoring, Fresno County, for example, expects future savings of about 15 percent, or \$138,000, in its mosquito abatement budget. Contact Cornel (559/646-6581).

**UC Davis human and community development department**

**Latino Teen Pregnancy Prevention Project compiles 'best practices' handbook for community practitioners**

California has one of the highest teen pregnancy rates in the nation—and the rate for Latino teens tops other racial/ethnic groups. Yet practitioners seeking to help these teenagers and their children live better lives often lack reliable, research-based information on which to base their services. To fill this gap and enhance program content and delivery, the Latino Teen Pregnancy Prevention Project of the UC ANR Adolescent Workgroup compiled a practitioner's handbook of best practices in teen pregnancy prevention. The information is based on research findings, program surveys and onsite visits to successful programs in the Bay Area and the Central Valley. Contact *Michael Brockman* (530/752-9692).

**UCCE wildlife specialists**

**UC finds solutions to serious pest of artichokes**

UCCE specialists have helped artichoke growers in the Monterey area avert economic disaster. The manufacturer of the only approved rodenticide for meadow voles, a voracious pest, suddenly discontinued the product. After an extensive review of pest management practices, UC researchers began intensive lab tests to evaluate alternative materials and procedures. In just a few months, they were able to begin field trials on a newly developed rodenticide, which proved effective. Pesticide regulators have accepted UC's data, meaning artichoke growers can begin using the new material in time to smoothly transition from the remaining stocks of the old control. Contact *Terry Salmon* (858/694-2864).

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## State senate hearing (from p. 2)

nutrition education specialist; and *John Kabashima*, environmental horticulture advisor.

MacNeil talked about the skills the 4-H program and its 27,000 volunteers teach youth—both rural and urban. Costamagna discussed how her community involvement as a 4-H'er over the past eight years has enriched her life. Ikeda described UCCE's research and outreach to reduce obesity and improve nutrition. Kabashima explained how his duties have grown from advising nurseries about pest management to also acting as a liaison between the agricultural and urban communities.

Stakeholders invited to speak included *Len Richardson*, editor of California Farmer magazine; *Dina Moore*, North Coast rancher and member of the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board; *John De Luca*, president/CEO of The Wine Institute; and *Michael Payne*, UC Davis toxicology researcher.

Richardson asserted that UCCE is an educational resource for growers and others. Moore said that UCCE has played a vital role in helping landowners comply with environmental regulations. De Luca described UCCE's role in developing sustainable winegrape growing practices and in keeping the wine industry globally competitive. Payne spoke about the California Dairy Assurance Program, which reduces dairies' impact on air and water.

Machado encouraged the Division to continue to seek public input on the effects of the budget cuts on UC Cooperative Extension and agricultural research before making final decisions.

Committee members joining Machado were Sen. *Deirdre Alpert* (D-San Diego), Sen. *Debra Bowen* (D-Marina del Rey), Sen. *Jeffrey Denham* (R-Salinas), Sen. *Denise Moreno Ducheny* (D-San Diego), Sen. *Dennis Hollingsworth* (R-Murrieta), Sen. *Charles Poochigian* (R-Fresno)—the committee's vice chair—and Sen. *Tom Torlakson* (D-Antioch).

Gomes' remarks are available at <http://ucanr.org/budgetnews.shtml>.

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## START program (from p. 1)

START lets eligible academic personnel and staff voluntarily reduce their work time and corresponding pay in exchange for a number of advantages. Participation in the program will be dependent on the approval of the department head. The program will be available from June 1, 2003, through June 30, 2005. The reduction can be for a minimum of one month to a maximum of 12 months.

Detailed information about who is eligible for the program and how the program works has been sent to regional directors and other ANR managers for dissemination within their units. In addition, information about START, including a set of Q&As and forms, is expected to be posted on ANR's website by June 6.

Direct questions to unit managers or to coordinator *Sally Philbin* (510/987-0842; [sally.philbin@ucop.edu](mailto:sally.philbin@ucop.edu)).

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## Letters (from p. 1)

10 percent and 15 percent." [Click here for pdf of letter.](#)

■ Assemblyman *Dave Cogdill* (R-Modesto) sent an opinion letter to the editors of several newspapers, saying: "The value the UCCE brings to California agriculture and its residents is immeasurable since so many lives are affected both directly and indirectly. It is for that reason that I call on Governor Davis to recognize the importance of this program to the vitality of California agriculture." [Click here for pdf of letter.](#) —PKR

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## Ucanr.org website gets new look

ANR's website, [ucanr.org](http://ucanr.org), has been simplified so that ANR employees and the public can find what they need more quickly and easily.

Key navigation buttons are now on a single home page. For example, employee news and events are now listed under "Announcements." The original site had both an external homepage for the public and an internal homepage for Division members.

The changes were made in response to feedback from users. "Ten months after launching [ucanr.org](http://ucanr.org), we did a random survey of faculty, specialists, advisors and staff to evaluate the site's usage," says *Pam Kan-Rice*, assistant

director of ANR News and Information Outreach.

"We emailed the online survey to 184 members of the Division and 62 responded. One question we asked was, Which ANR site do you use most often, the internal or external? Only 17 percent used the internal site most often."

Kan-Rice says many other comments were received through the feedback button on the homepage.

As a result of this feedback, ANR website content coordinator *Jeannette Warnert* has worked with web designer *Valerie Griffith* and computer resource specialist *Karl Krist* of ANR Communication Services, to improve the site.

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## ANR REPORT

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