

Report

Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources

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Internal recruitment for ag program leaders begins

Assistant VP-Programs Barbara Allen-Diaz has announced that searches are under way to select two ANR program leaders – one for agricultural policy and pest management (#PL 01-08) and the second for agricultural productivity (#PL 02-08).

Tim Paine has served as agricultural policy and pest management program leader and Maxwell Norton has filled the role for agricultural productivity. Both are completing three-year terms and are eligible for reappointment.

Each of these appointments will be a 0.75 FTE assignment for an anticipated term of three years, beginning July 1, with the possibility of renewal. The appointee will maintain a concurrent ANR academic appointment related to the program area. Compensation will be at the appointee's current rank and step plus an annual stipend of \$10,000. The appointee will remain housed at the location of his/her ANR academic position.

UCOP restructuring includes Oakland-based ANR staff

As part of the response to the Monitor Group's assessment of UCOP, administrative support—within UCOP and between UCOP and the campuses—is being restructured so that more resources can be moved to instruction, research and service.

Provost Wyatt R. Hume has said, "The Office of the President must become smaller in size, more focused in its mission, and more customer-oriented in its culture."

In September, Hume imposed a vacancy control process to save money, and every UCOP department – including Oakland-based units of ANR – has provided him with plans for a 10 percent budget reduction. The regents have approved budget reduction goals for FY 2008-09 of \$28 million.

To assist in reducing expenses, UCOP has proposed a Voluntary Separation Program (VSP), which is designed to help employees transition out of UCOP. VSP applies only to functions within UCOP, not county-based or campus-based functions.

Under this program, UCOP employees who voluntarily separate from UCOP will receive a severance payment, using a formula based on their current salary and years of service. This program does not provide additional retirement plan benefits. Final details of this program will be issued in early January. Employees will have until Jan. 31 to decide whether to participate in this program. Employees choosing to participate will be required to establish, in consultation with their supervisor, a separation date of no later than June 30, 2008.

Before layoffs due to the 2003 budget cuts, ANR had 87 Oakland-based employees. There now are 53.

UCOP is exploring other cost-saving opportunities in addition to staff reduction. Risk management costs across the University have been reduced by more than \$100 million and UC has saved another \$37 million by consolidating and leveraging the university's common purchases.

A work group tasked with clarifying the role of UCOP is expected to complete its work in January and will be reporting their conclusions to the Regents.

For updates on the restructuring, visit www.universityofcalifornia.edu/future.

Program leaders provide leadership and advocacy for integrated research and extension programs that address high priority needs of Californians.

Applicants must demonstrate an ability to provide effective leadership in program planning, budgeting, and personnel management of a large, complex academic institution. A Ph.D. or other terminal degree in subject matter associated with the program area is strongly preferred.

This is an internal recruitment limited to current ANR academic appointees. Applicants must e-mail a cover letter, ANR academic application form, and a curriculum vitae to Geralyn Unterberg at <u>geralyn.unterberg@ucop.edu</u>. Please include the position number as listed above.

Complete position descriptions and academic application forms can be found at http://ucanr.org/jobs.shtml. Review of applications will begin Feb. 15.

Nominations for both positions are encouraged and can be e-mailed to Geralyn Unterberg at geralyn. unterberg@ucop.edu.

See $\underline{page 5}$ for a list of search committee members.

Employment opportunities

Imperial County:

Vegetable crops advisor

UCCE seeks a career-track academic candidate for a vegetable crops advisor in Imperial County. Deadline to apply is **Jan. 4**.

The advisor will focus on education and research activities in vegetable crop production. The advisor will be expected to design and implement an applied research program to develop information to resolve priority problems; and design and implement an educational program to extend new and existing information to identified clientele groups. The advisor will have the responsibility to initiate, develop and conduct educational and applied research programs in vegetable crop production.

A master's degree is required in horticulture or a related field. Competency and practical experience in vegetable crops is preferred. The ability to effectively convey research-based information to the public, conduct issue-focused research, and publish research results is required.

Beginning salary will be in the CE Assistant Advisor rank, commensurate with applicable experience and professional qualifications.

To view the full position vacancy announcement for #ACCSO-07-03-R, go to http://ucanr.org/jobs.shtml#ccsj. Request an application at (951) 827-2529 or ccsracadrecruitment@ucdavis.edu.

Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz counties: Entomology advisor

An entomology advisor is being recruited to serve Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz counties. The position is based in the Salinas office.

The entomology advisor will conduct a research and educational program in entomology applicable to crops produced in the three counties. Crops include cool-season vegetables such as lettuce and spring mix, broccoli, spinach, celery and cauliflower, as well as strawberries, ornamental nursery and many specialty crops. There are opportunities for organic research and educational outreach. Insects are a major concern for all of these commodities as they directly damage crops and reduce yields, contaminate the final product, spread dis-

ease or raise issues regarding quarantines and interstate/international marketing.

A minimum of a master's degree in entomology or a closely related field is preferred. Excellent communication skills are essential. The ability to speak, read and write in Spanish is an asset.

Beginning salary will be in the CE Assistant rank, commensurate with applicable experience and professional qualifications.

To read the full description for position #ACCSO-07-07 or to download the UC ANR Academic Application form, visit http://ucanr.org/jobs.shtml#ccsj. For information about applying, contact Debora Felix or Cheryl Gneckow at csracadrecruitment@ucdavis.edu or (951) 827-2529.

Completed application packets should be sent to Debora Felix or Cheryl Gneckow, c/oAcademic Recruitment, ANR—Central Coast & South Region, #213, University of California Riverside, CA 92521. For full consideration, application packets must be received by Jan. 31.

Placer and Nevada counties: 4-H advisor

A 4-H youth development/human resources advisor is being recruited for Placer and Nevada counties. The advisor is responsible for the development, implementation, and evaluation of community-based educational youth development programs and applied research activities; as well as providing leadership in youth development programming and their related field of expertise.

A minimum of a master's degree in education, environmental resource sciences, or a closely related field is required. Academic training and/or professional experience must provide a significant understanding of youth development, educational program design and development, and research design methodologies.

Beginning salary will be in the CE assistant advisor rank, salary commensurate with experience and education. The complete vacancy announcement and required application for position #ANCM 07-09 is available at http://ucanr.org/jobs.shtml or contact Academic Recruiter, UCCE, ANR-NCMR, One Shields Avenue, Davis, CA 95616, pdtise@ucdavis.edu. Complete packets must be received by Jan. 14.

Townsend, Ontai, Sutherland land \$390,000 NRI grant

Marilyn Townsend, Lenna Ontai and Barbara Sutherland have been awarded a \$390,000 USDA National Research Initiative grant for a two-year child obesity study. Townsend, UC Davis Cooperative Extension nutrition specialist, is the principal investigator of the project, "Guided goal-setting to achieve behavior change associated with healthy weight maintenance among low-income mothers and children."

Ontai, UC Davis Cooperative Extension family and early childhood specialist, and Sutherland, director of the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program, are co-principal investigators.

This project has two major aims:

1) To produce a valid and reliable riskassessment tool (called Healthy Kids)
for predicting obesity that is culturally
sensitive, and identifies problematic food
and lifestyle behaviors in mother-child
pairs among ethnically diverse lowincome adults and preschool children participating in USDA nutrition programs.

2) To examine the feasibility of the guided
goal-setting strategy in pediatric obesity
prevention interventions aimed at getting
the mother-child pairs to achieve dietary
improvement, health risk reduction, and
increased physical activity.

This risk assessment tool will have potential value in obesity prevention efforts throughout California and nationwide.

"What is special is that this new proposal is a continuation of the Core Issues grant awarded to Lenna Ontai and me several years ago," Townsend said, referring to the Healthy Kids project. "So ANR's goal of using these core grants as seed money surely paid off in this case." Two ANR workgroups – Families with Children and Body Weight & Health – were involved in the initial development of the Healthy Kids risk assessment tool.

The USDA/NRI grant reviewers wrote: "Based on the success of the guided goal-setting strategy in EatFit, this approach is also worth testing with mother-child pairs, especially in combination with the Healthy Kids assessment."

Kearney REC shrinks its carbon footprint

The Kearney Research and Extension Center has cut its annual energy usage by 287,425 kilowatt hours, the result of an effort led by Robert Ray to reduce energy consumption at the facility. The initiative represents savings in energy expenditures of over \$40,000 annually.

"In addition to reducing energy consumption," said Ray, superintendent of the physical plant, "I have seen estimates that these initiatives reduced the research center's carbon footprint by 187,641 pounds per year."

Ray developed several equipment retrofit projects which qualified for participation in the UC/CSU Energy Efficiency Partnership Program. This program, funded by the California Legislature, provides grants for energy saving projects.

Ray submitted project requests that resulted in grants for the center amounting to \$78,485. The funds were used to retrofit more than 800 fluorescent lighting fixtures inside the buildings and to convert the inefficient exterior mercury vapor fixtures.

"Even with lower wattage bulbs, the retrofitted fixtures provided a much better quality of light," Ray said.

In addition to the lighting retrofits, Ray has implemented extensive modifications to the center's postharvest refrigeration system.

"By modifying the electrical controls for the evaporator fans and replacing the refrigeration systems' condensing unit, we have lowered our electrical consumption at the postharvest facility to levels we have not seen since 2001," Ray said.

Participation in these projects has also increased awareness among the academics and staff at the center about their energy usage and potential ways to conserve.

Shawn Tibor, ANR facilities director, said he sees potential for similar projects at other research and extension centers and other facilities in the Division, such as Cooperative Extension offices.

"The facilities group hopes to develop a Divisionwide program modeled after the process that Bob successfully implemented at Kearney," Tibor said. "We have great admiration for Bob's work."

– Jeannette Warnert



Jeff Adolph of PG&E, left, presents Bob Ray with a check for energy savings.



Modifying the electrical controls for the evaporator fans saves \$7,000 annually.

Names in the news

Dairy program wins state's top environmental award

The California Dairy Quality Assurance Program (CDQAP) has received California's highest and most prestigious environmental honor, the Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award.

The CDQAP received the award on Nov. 20 for "Environmental and Economic Partnerships," having demonstrated exceptional leadership in building public-private collaborations to conserve California's resources and protect and enhance the environment.

The CDQAP comprises 17 regulatory agencies, dairy organizations, environmental advocacy groups and UC. The partnership offers classroom and on-farm assistance in meeting regional, state and federal environmental regulations.



Linda S. Adams, secretary of California EPA, on left, presents the state environmental award to Michael Payne, Denise Mullinax and Deanne Meyer.

Making sense of these complex regulations and providing outreach to the state's nearly 2,000 family dairy farms requires leveraging financial, personnel and technical resources of each of the partnering organizations.

With new air and water regulations being promulgated or modified, the CDQAP has responded by offering a variety of courses, some statewide in scope and some specific to particular regions. Since the program's formation in 1997 some 2,400 producers or dairy advisers have attended one or more CDQAP classes for a total of more than 8,400 classroom contacts, according to Michael Payne, CDQAP director.

In addition to Payne, UC participants include UC Davis Cooperative Extension specialists Deanne Meyer, Frank Mitloehner, Carolyn Stull, Thomas Harter, Larry Schwankl and Stuart Pettygrove; farm advisors Carol Collar, Marsha Campbell-Mathews, Alejandro Castillo, Carol Frate, Gerald Higginbotham, Debra Costa Bacon, and Shannon Mueller; and program representative Betsy Karle.

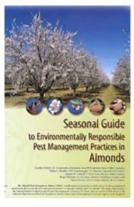
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Almond Pest Management Alliance wins award

The Almond Pest Management Alliance (PMA), with its publication of a "Seasonal Guide to Environmentally Responsible Pest Management Practices in Almonds," has earned an IPM Innovator Award from the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) for 2007.

The Integrated Pest Management Innovator awards honor California organizations that emphasize pest prevention, favor least-hazardous pest control, and share their successful



strategies with others.

In 1998, the Almond PMA was initiated by the Almond Board of California with funding from DPR to evaluate the possibility of reducing pesticide use in California almonds. UC IPM advisors Walt Bentley and Carolyn Pickel led this project.

The PMA is a cooperative effort among industry stakeholders including the Almond Board of California, the Board's Environmental Committee, the Almond Hullers and Processors Association, the UC Statewide IPM Program, UC Cooperative Extension, pest control advisers, growers, DPR and U.S. EPA Region 9.

"All the players—the Almond Board, DPR, UCCE, and UC IPM—partnered to make this effort a success," says Pickel. "The seasonal guide was a new approach to organizing IPM information to highlight environmentally responsible practices and give thresholds for growers to follow. The Almond PMA demonstrations showed that growers could use these pest management practices over the long term without substantial increases in pest populations."

The guide was written by UC IPM advisors and farm advisors Walt Bentley, Mario Viveros, Roger Duncan and Joe Connell, with input from other PMA members.

The eight-page "Seasonal Guide to Environmentally Responsible Pest Management in Almonds," Publication 21619, is available for \$7 from ANR Communication Services http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu.

Groundwater research receives national award

The UCCE Groundwater Hydrology Program received the 2007 Kevin J. Neese Award at the Biennial Groundwater Conference and Groundwater Research Association meeting, held recently in Sacramento.

The award recognizes significant accomplishment that fosters the understanding, development, protection and management of groundwater.

The program was chosen for its efforts to engage scientists, regulators, farm advisors, dairy industry representatives and dairy farmers to better understand the effects of dairy operations on water quality.

UCCE specialist Thomas Harter leads the program and accepted the award. Co-principal investigators are Marsha Campbell-Matthews, Stanislaus County farm advisor; UC Davis specialists Stu Pettygrove, Rob Atwill and Roland Meyer; U.S. Geological Survey's Brian Bergamaschi and Carol Kendall; and dairy operators.

Pollard honored by alma mater

Mignonne Pollard, 4-H Youth and Development Program assistant director, will be honored this month with the Doctor of Laws Honoris Causa degree from Flagler College of St. Augustine, Florida. Pollard



Mignonne Pollard

received her bachelor's degree from Flagler in 1985 in Spanish / Latin American Studies with a minor in drama. She has a master's degree in public policy from the New School for Social Research, and a doctorate in administration, planning and social policy from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

"I love working with the 4-H volunteers and designing educational courses," said Pollard, who is in charge of staff and volunteer training. The classes she has designed range from respecting cultures to the fiscal management of 4-H clubs.

Pollard is interested in connecting 4-H programming with sustainable agriculture, farmers markets, links between food and obesity, and food security issues.

Zalom leads ag exchange to China

Frank Zalom, Integrated Pest Management specialist, led a U.S. agricultural exchange program to China.



From left, Michael Hoffman, Frank Zalom, Douglas Walsh and Helene Dillard stand in front of China's Mazu Temple, built in 987 AD.

The group participated in a two-week scientific exchange, Oct. 20-Nov. 3, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service and the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture.

The scientists included Michael Hoffman, Cornell University entomology professor and director of the Agricultural Experiment Station; Douglas Walsh, associate professor of entomology at Washington State University; Helene Dillard, professor of plant pathology and director, Cooperative Extension Service, Cornell University; and Ed Rajotte, Pennsylvania State University professor of entomology.

Forest stewardship leaflet series on Web

The UCCE Forestry Program and the UC Center for Forestry have released a 24-part Forest Stewardship leaflet series.

The series has been in preparation for nearly a decade. Although designed for California landowners, people in other regions may find it helpful for their education programs.

It can be downloaded from the Web for free. Go to http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu and type "forest stewardship" into the search box for the complete list.

In memoriam

James Lider

James Vernon Lider, former Napa County director and farm advisor, died on Nov. 19. He was 82.

Liderwasbornin Esparto and worked on his family's farm in Yolo County in his youth.

At 18, he was drafted into the Army and served under General Patton. He fought in the Battle of the Bulge. While in Europe, Lider received the World War II Victory Medal, Good Conduct Medal, the European Theater of Opera-

tions Medal and the combat Infantryman's Badge.

Lider joined ANR as the Napa County farm advisor in 1952, then was promoted to county director in 1968. Through his research, he was instrumental in introducing frost protection and irrigation in vineyards. During his tenure as Napa County farm advisor, he collaborated with UC Davis colleagues to make major contributions to

the wine industry, resulting in great increases in grape production.

After serving UC for 20 years, Lider became a private viticulture consultant, opening Lider Ranches Vineyard Services in Napa. He also started Casa Verde Grapevines, a family-run grapevine nursery, in Yolo County.

He earned a bachelor's degree in horticulture and a

master's degree in horticulture / viticulture from UC Davis.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Cecelia Marie; his five children, David Lider, Joseph Lider, Mary Lider White, Anita Lider Hart, and Patricia Lider Springer; 12 grandchildren, and two greatgrandchildren.



Agricultural policy and pest management program leader search committee members:

Jim MacDonald (chair), UC Davis plant pathologist and College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences executive associate dean

Lucia Kaiser, UC Davis CE specialist and human resources program leader

Vernard Lewis, UC Berkeley CE specialist

Phil Phillips, UCCE Ventura County IPM advisor

Agricultural productivity program leader search committee members:

Steve Welter (chair) UC Berkeley entomologist and College of Natural Resources executive associate dean

Mike Murray, UCCE Colusa County director

Marylynn Yates, UC Riverside environmental microbiologist and natural resources and animal agriculture program leader

Bill Frost, UCCE El Dorado County director

Dynes tours continue in 2008

President Dynes will continue his agricultural tours in 2008. New VP Dan Dooley will host the tours and other ANR staff will participate.

On Jan. 18, they will visit Coachella Valley – seeing UC research in use at a date farm, broccoli and cauliflower fields and an aquaculture facility. A lunch with local stakeholders will be held at the UC Riverside Coachella Valley Agricultural Research Station.

Agronomy conference set for Feb. 5-6

The 37th annual Plant and Soil Conference will be held on Feb. 5 and 6 at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Conference Center in Visalia. The theme of this year's general session is "Conservation of Agricultural Resources," featuring government, industry and research speakers.

The conference, sponsored by the California Chapter of the American Society of Agronomy, includes technical sessions on a wide range of topics: spray technology, water supply, irrigation, water quality, pest management, maintaining soil resources, plant and soil nutrition, and food safety.

A poster session including submissions from students and professionals will be featured during a wine and cheese tasting on the first conference day. Continuing education credit will be available for pest control advisers and certified crop advisers.

A program and registration information for the 2008 conference are available at the California ASA Web site http://calasa.ucdavis.edu. For more information, contact Larry Schwankl at schwankl@uckac.edu or (559) 646-6569.

ANR REPORT

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