

FARM ADVISOR

FARM ADVISOR.....6210

JOHN M. HARPER, Farm Advisor

FARM ADVISOR'S BUDGET UNIT

Farm Advisors 6210

MISSION

Programs: The University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) in Mendocino County is part of a Statewide system that serves as the primary public outreach and off-campus delivery vehicle for the University of California (UC). This system is designed to provide UC research-based information to landowners, public agencies, private industries, various organizations and the general public. UCCE has been actively involved in serving the people of Mendocino County since 1918. UCCE's mission is "to serve California through the creation, development and application of knowledge in agriculture, natural and human resources to improve the quality of life for all Californians." In Mendocino County our mission is achieved by providing University of California academics that extend research-based information in plant and animal agriculture, natural resource management, nutrition and consumer sciences, community, youth and human development.

Public Trust: UCCE serves the residents of Mendocino County by conducting agricultural research and delivering the results directly to the people who farm. Focus is placed on resource management as a means to conserving natural resources. Emphasis is also on care for the health and well-being of individuals by focusing on issues such as food security and nutrition education in addition to providing meaningful learn-by-doing educational activities to children in 4-H clubs and to children participating in school enrichment programs.

Practices: The UCCE Farm Advisors' work is aimed at enhancing agricultural productivity and competitiveness and natural resource conservation. Together with ranchers and other landowners, pest control advisors, and industry representatives, they identify current and emerging agricultural opportunities and problems. They collaborate with campus-based specialists and scientists to research, adapt and field-test agricultural and resource improvements or solutions and deliver the results through local workshops and trainings. The UC 4-H program includes traditional offerings for local youth such as cooking, animal husbandry and sewing plus new programs to engage today's youth including rocketry, GIS, computer science and leadership.

People: Staff includes 4-UC academic advisors and 4-additional academic advisors with cross-county assignments, 3-UC paraprofessionals, 2-UC grand-funded staff, and 3-County support staff. There is currently one vacancy in the process of being filled. The staff operates with accuracy, efficiency, respect, and candor when dealing with the public and other clientele.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2007-08 FISCAL YEAR

Programs: The University hired a 4-H Youth Development/Human Resources Advisor to fill a seven-year vacancy. The new Advisor created a Master Gardener program to focus on sustainable food production. Continued work with the Mendocino Winegrape and Wine Commission offering educational programs to improve local wines in addition to researching new varieties and growing practices to enhance local production. In collaboration with the Mendocino Water Agency, Cooperative Extension assisted with developing a Water Wise program to understand irrigated agriculture water demand and irrigation needs for the Mendocino County portion of the Russian River. A recent study conducted jointly with the Mendocino Economic Development & Financing Corporation is reviewing the economic feasibility of a meat harvest and processing plant in the North Coast region.

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Public Trust: Staff provides training and support to sixteen 4-H Clubs and special projects for nearly 500 youth and 220 adult volunteers. 4-H Projects are learn-by-doing activities designed to develop life skills, provide youth with positive and safe after-school activities and prepare youth for leadership roles. The Master Gardeners Fertile Grounds Project was created to improve food security by supporting and expanding County school, community and commerce gardens. On the Coast, the Master Gardeners (a collaborative effort with the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens) serve as docents who also help answer questions from the gardening public. Focusing on resource management and sustainable agriculture, an Eco-Winegrowing Conference brought together over 120 participants to learn about environmentally friendly ways to grow wine grapes and make wine including timely topics such as biodynamic viticulture and biological control of insects and mites, among others. The UCCE assisted the Redwood Forest Foundation in completing management and conservation plans for County forests.

Practices: A Water Quality Research Update was held in February, and a program on Irrigation for Wine Grape Growers was offered in May. The fifth year of water quality and flow research to understand the effects of prescribed burning of chaparral vegetation on watersheds was completed. The vertebrate pest chapter for an organic winegrowing manual was completed as well as the Planner's Guide to Oak Woodland matrix was put into use in Mendocino County. UCCE co-sponsored two Masters of Winegrowing seminars on Chardonnay and Pinot Noir with the Mendocino Winegrape and Wine Commission offering a critical evaluation of local wines and suggestions for improvements to more than 60 participants. Integrated pest management activities developed monitoring techniques and control strategies for katydids, a new pest in pear orchards.

People: Began hiring process to add a Staff Assistant I to the department. Staff trained in new County financial and payroll systems as well as new UC administrative programs to streamline ledger reviews and reimbursements. An AmeriCorps Vista volunteer with First Five was assigned to the department as a hunger prevention coordinator.

GOALS/OBJECTIVES FOR 2008-09 FISCAL YEAR

Programs: Continue to provide educational and applied research programs that ensure conservation and sustained stewardship of Mendocino County's agricultural, natural and human resources through promotion of scientifically sound management practices. Assist in developing markets for animal and plant agricultural products to expand the County's economic base. Develop and promote the use of integrated and ecologically sound pest management programs in the County. Initiate study of water demand for irrigated agriculture in the Navarro Watershed and complete the sixth and final year of water quality and flow research to understand the effects of prescribed burning of chaparral vegetation on watersheds.

Public Trust: Expand 4-H into existing after school programs throughout the County with trainings, curriculum and on-site support, plus continue developing leadership, citizenship and life skills for youth throughout the County. Support the Redwood Forest Foundation in completing their management and conservation plans plus provide a two-day workshop on Community Forestry.

Practices: Study the post-harvest irrigation of wine grapes to evaluate whether or not it is beneficial to irrigate vineyards after harvest with overhead sprinklers. The benefits to grape vines and subsequent vine yields have never been assessed and may be a potential problem for migrating salmonids and declining water supplies. Develop a UC Cost Study on Growing Winegrapes Organically and Biodynamically with the University's Department of Agriculture Economics. These studies are used by growers, bankers, investors and people interested in assessing the cost of wine grape production in our region.

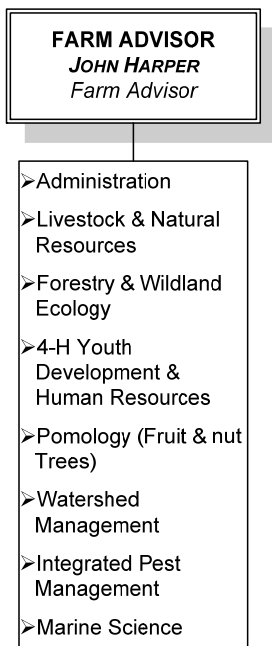
People: Provide for succession by cross-training administrative staff. Continue to offer staff development and training opportunities.

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PROGRAM CHART



BUDGET UNIT 6210 SUMMARY

Fund: 1100

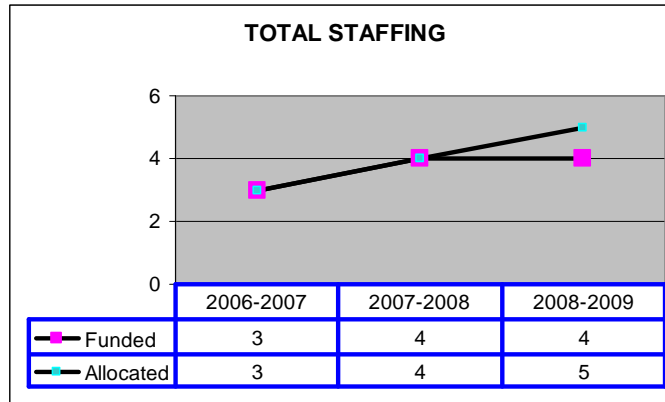
	Actual 2005-06	Actual 2006-07	Adopted 2007-08	Actual 2007-08	Recommend 2008-09	Adopted 2008-09
Salaries & Employee Benefits	175,787	181,787	240,548	199,810	263,621	273,621
Services & Supplies	39,709	51,910	55,204	52,268	52,884	52,884
Fixed Assets	6,890	1,174	0	0	0	0
Net Appropriations	222,386	234,871	295,752	252,077	316,505	326,505
Revenues	2,516	3,071	2,500	2,880	2,500	2,500
Total Net County Cost	219,870	231,800	293,252	249,198	314,005	324,005

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STAFFING CHART



FINAL BUDGET ~ MAJOR BUDGET CHANGES

(2008-09 Recommended Compared to 2008-09 Adopted)

During the Final Budget Deliberations the Board of Supervisors approved the Recommended Budget from the Executive Office for the Farm Advisor and by Board action in Final Budget hearings of funding for \$10,000 to retain a ½ time position for a 4-H coastal representative due to depletion of funding reserve for FY 2008-09.

Salaries & Employee Benefits

- ✧ Acct. 1011 Provides funding for 4 full time positions. Increase of \$23,073 from prior year for salaries and benefits. CEO recommendations for funding of 4 positions.

Services & Supplies

- ✧ Acct. 2239 Provides funding for supplies from Friedman Bros., Mendocino Farm Supply, and Ben Meadows and other agriculture suppliers.