

Bi-County Farm Advisor

Chris Greer – County Director

101-6300	FY 13/14 Adopted Budget	FY 14/15 CAO Recommended	Change
EXPENDITURES			
Salaries and Benefits	0	0	0
Services and Supplies	78,777	78,922	145
Other Charges	(18,000)	0	18,000
Fixed Assets	0	0	0
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	60,777	78,922	18,145
REVENUE			
Fed/State	0	0	0
Grant	0	0	0
Realignment	0	0	0
Fees/Misc	0	0	0
TOTAL REVENUE	0	0	0
FUND BALANCE	0	0	0
NET COUNTY COST	60,777	78,922	18,145

Program Description (6-301)

The Bi-County Farm Advisor Office (UCCE Sutter/Yuba Counties) operates under an agreement with the Counties of Sutter and Yuba and the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE). Its mission is to provide research-based educational programs to the residents of the two counties including:

- Agriculture & natural resources
- 4-H & youth development
- Nutrition education
- Home landscape or garden assistance

In addition, UC Agricultural and Natural Resource applied research is conducted with local producer operators.

Major Budget Changes

There are no major budget changes for FY 2014-15.

Program Discussion

Today's UCCE Mission remains similar to that of 1918: to assist people at the local county level in accessing appropriate information to achieve their goals. This is accomplished through applied research and educational programs and events. In Sutter and Yuba Counties, programs are conducted related to agriculture, natural resource, youth development and nutrition education subject matters.

Agriculture and Natural Resource Advisors assist local clientele, through individual consultations and farm visits, with issues such as:

- Pest management
- Water quality/water use efficiency
- Plant variety selection
- Plant nutrition
- Farm and ranch planning
- Fire safety

In addition, advisors are responsible for identifying emerging issues and working with

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local clientele to develop and conduct research to address these areas of concern. Research activities in FY 2013-14 included:

- Water quality
- Pest management
- New variety evaluation
- Exotic and introduced pests
- Plant nutrition
- Cultural practices
- Farm/ranch economic viability
- Fire safety
- Alternative cattle feeds

Programs focus on local natural resources and economically important crops such as rice, dried plums, almonds, walnuts, and peaches; as well as interest in emerging or alternative crops.

The 4-H Youth Development Program (YDP) is an organization for youth ages 5-19 that promotes hands-on, experiential learning. 4-H welcomes youth members and adult volunteers from all backgrounds and all locations. 4-H emphasizes enrichment education through inquiry based learning. Youth are encouraged to discover their passions, adopt a growth mindset, practice self-reflection and set goals. 4-H projects and programs are focused around the core content of citizenship, healthy living, and science, engineering, and technology.

In FY 2013-2014, the 4-H YDP expanded its reach into after school programming. The 4-H Science in Afterschool program was launched in partnership with the Yuba City Unified School After School Education and Safety Program (ASES) and The Spot in Live Oak to bring inquiry based, science education to students in the after school program. This program has served over 100, 1st-5th graders. In the coming year, the program is planning to expand into other local afterschool sites.

Our traditional club program continues to thrive with 19 clubs serving the bi-county area, including a club on Beale AFB. 4-H members in

the club program participate in projects that are of interest to them. Each project is led by caring adults who engage youth members in hands-on learning in the project area. Some of our projects include: sewing, rocketry, shooting sports, poultry, Legos, dairy goats, guide dogs, and gardening. Over 550 youth members and nearly 200 adult volunteers participate in the 4-H club program.

In FY 2013-14, the UC Master Gardener program recorded over 1,600 individual contacts through the County office and outreach activities. Over 50 volunteer Master Gardeners volunteered nearly 2,000 hours and participated in:

- The Total Home and Garden Show
- The Yuba City Farmer's Markets
- Marysville Community Garden and workshop series
- Spring and fall plant clinics at local nurseries
- A gardening project at Yuba County Probation Department Day Reporting Center for inmates on a release program
- The start-up of a Live Oak Community garden
- Butchie's Pool plant sales
- Gardening programs in Sutter and Yuba County elementary schools
- Assistance with Gauche Park Community Garden
- Home gardeners' workshops and display booths
- Farm Day presentations to local school children

The UC CalFresh Nutrition Education Program works through local public school teachers and community based organizations to deliver researched based curricula related to healthy lifestyles and eating habits. A Sutter/Yuba-based UC Nutrition Educator manages and delivers the program to local clientele. This University position and program support are funded by a federal USDA grant administered

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by the State CalFresh Office within the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences at UC Davis and has minimal impact on the County Budget.

Additional support, beyond that provided by the “resident advisors” in the bi-county office, is received from advisors in surrounding counties and campus-based specialists and/or faculty. The UC/County partnership provides programs that are designated for local needs and solutions, while leveraging the resources of the County/University partners. UCCE Sutter/Yuba also secures substantial grants and gifts to augment county and UC funding. This allows staff to conduct activities and purchase equipment that UC or County budgets do not permit. These grants directly support specific research and education programs in the areas of:

- Crop production
- Integrated pest management
- Water quality and watershed management
- Nutrition education
- Youth development

The University of California contributed in excess of \$1,000,000 to support the local UC Cooperative Extension office through direct and indirect support related to programs specific to the local office as well as statewide programs that benefit local clientele.

This budget unit is funded in the following manner:

- Sutter/Yuba Counties
 - Clerical support
 - Office space, supplies and expenses
 - Transportation
 - Fixed assets
- University of California
 - Salaries and benefits for the four University Advisors, two University Program Representatives and other programmatic personnel
 - Other expenses related to programs as described below

Individual UC staff members have developed revenue streams to support additional field assistance, services and/or equipment including computers, printers, cameras, audio-visual equipment, office equipment, tools and labor. These items would typically be considered County funding responsibilities, but fiscal realities have required UC staff to develop significant external funding sources to meet these needs. University staff’s travel to professional development activities such as national or international scientific conferences, technology workshops, and other learning opportunities is funded by a combination of UC and grant/gift money. Grant/gift funding also provides seasonal field/lab assistants for the advisors.

The Bi-County Farm Advisor’s FY 2014-15 goal is to continue assisting local clientele by developing and delivering appropriate information to ensure goals and needs are met. This will be accomplished through applied research and educational activities. In addition, we intend to foster continued growth of the UC CalFresh Nutrition Education Program and further develop the 4-H Science in Afterschool program to address local critical challenges facing our young people.

Despite the recent elimination of 33% of the county clerical support for the Department, the University of California is demonstrating its commitment to local partners and clientele. The Director of the Bi-County Farm Advisor Department was successful in securing two new UC academic positions that will address critical local programmatic issues. An Area Agronomy Advisor position, housed in Colusa was filled in 2013 and is addressing field and vegetable crop issues in Colusa, Sutter, and Yuba Counties. In addition, an Area 4-H/Youth Development Advisor position is expected to be released in March of 2014 and will address youth development issues in Colusa, Sutter, and Yuba Counties.

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Sutter County is the designated lead agency for the Bi-County Farm Advisor Department, which is located in Yuba City. Sutter County bills Yuba County for its portion of the budget.

Apportionment of costs, as agreed by the two funding counties, is 63% from Sutter and 37% from Yuba. This formula is based historically on a comprehensive evaluation of the workloads and an approximation of the time spent delivering UCCE programs in the respective counties.

Use of Fund Balance

This budget unit is within the General Fund.

The General Fund has a Committed Fund Balance for Farm Advisor/Agriculture Building to collect money to fund future improvements to the Sutter County owned Farm Advisor/Agriculture Building.

Each year, as directed by the Board of Supervisors through the annual budget, \$5,000 is budgeted in the Farm Advisor budget and in the Non-Departmental expense budget #1-103 to increase the General Fund Committed Fund Balance for Farm Advisor/Agriculture Building account #37309.

Yuba County has agreed to participate in this expense and is billed annually for its proportionate share of cost.

ACCOUNT NUMBER	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL EXPENDITURES 2011-2012	ACTUAL EXPENDITURES 2012-2013	BOS APPROVED 2013 - 2014	CAO RECOMMENDED 2014 - 2015
	AGRICULTURE EXTENSION				
	Services & Supplies				
101-6300-463.23-00	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	75,616	62,062	78,777	78,922
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*	Services & Supplies	75,616	62,062	78,777	78,922
	Cost Reimbursements				
101-6300-463.90-00	REIMBURSEMENTS	18,000-	18,000-	18,000-	0
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*	Cost Reimbursements	18,000-	18,000-	18,000-	0
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**	AGRICULTURE EXTENSION	57,616	44,062	60,777	78,922
***	AGRICULTURE EXTENSION	57,616	44,062	60,777	78,922