

Bi-County Farm Advisor (6-301)

Whitney Brim-DeForest, Director

	FY 20/21 Adopted Budget	FY 21/22 CAO Recommended	Change
101-6300			
EXPENDITURES			
Salaries and Benefits			\$0
Services and Supplies	\$105,552	\$106,857	\$1,305
Other Charges	\$0	\$0	\$0
Fixed Assets			\$0
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$105,552	\$106,857	\$1,305
REVENUE			
Fed/State			\$0
Grant			\$0
Realignment			\$0
Fees/Misc			\$0
TOTAL REVENUE	\$0	\$0	\$0
FUND BALANCE	\$0	\$0	\$0
NET COUNTY COST	\$105,552	\$106,857	\$1,305

Mission

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). This relationship has been in place since 1918. The Bi-County Farm Advisor Office’s mission is to provide research-based educational programs to the residents of the two counties including agriculture, natural resources, youth development, home gardening, and nutrition education.

Program Discussion

UCCE Advisors

Agriculture and Natural Resource Advisors assist local clientele through individual consultations, farm and landowner visits, and extension meetings with issues such as pest management, water quality/water use efficiency, plant variety and rootstock selection, plant nutrition, farm and ranch planning, and cost studies. Programs focus on local natural resources and economically important crops such as rice, walnuts, prunes, peaches, almonds, tomatoes, melons, field crops, and kiwifruit, as well as emerging or alternative crops, including hemp.

Additionally, advisors are responsible for identifying emerging issues and working with local clientele to develop and conduct research to address these areas of concern. Research activities in FY 20-21 included:

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- New variety and rootstock evaluation
- Plant nutrition/nitrogen management
- Protecting livestock from predators
- Farm/ranch economic viability
- Evaluation and safety of pesticides in both pre- and post-registration phase
- Integrated Pest Management in rice, tomatoes, and tree crops
- Healthy soils and cover crop research and demonstrations in field crops

4-H Youth Development Program

The 4-H Youth Development Program is an organization for youth ages 5-18. 4-H uses hands-on learning experiences to teach civic engagement, healthy living, science, engineering, technology, and leadership. These experiences build life skills to aid in youth's future careers and academics. In FY 20-21, the 4-H Program served 957 Sutter County youth and 732 Yuba County youth. 4-H provides in-school and afterschool programming including Embryology in the Classroom and the Teens-as-Teachers Cooking Academy. Water Wizards, a water education project, provided teachers with the training, supplies, and curriculum to teach 221 youth about the importance of water. Students self-reported using 67% less water after being in the program. The Community Club program has 14 clubs locally. Club members participate in projects led by adult volunteers. We also have club programs at Beale Air Force Base and host the Able Riders Club, which provides therapeutic horseback riding to children with special needs.

Master Gardener Program

The UC Sutter-Yuba Master Gardeners held a "Meet Your Master Gardener" workshop in Oregon House before our office closure due to COVID-19 in March 2020. They remotely answered the public's gardening questions by assisting over 1014 clients via email, telephone, and through samples left at our office. Our 60 Master Gardeners volunteered over 1,344 hours (a value of \$42,350*). 2021-2022 plans include holding our spring vegetable plant sale, assisting school gardens, and preparing The Learning Garden for when schoolchildren can visit again.

**2019 Independent Sector's value of volunteer time for California*

CalFresh Healthy Living, UCCE Sutter-Yuba Nutrition Education Program

Using schools as community change hubs, the CalFresh Healthy Living, UCCE Sutter-Yuba Nutrition Education Program provides interactive, age-appropriate direct nutrition and physical activity education for children ages pre-school through 12th grade. We also support low-income adults. Working with communities, CalFresh Healthy Living, UCCE builds comprehensive programming that teaches adults how to stretch their food dollars, builds a positive connection to locally grown farm foods, and enables a healthier school culture and environment. In FY 20-21, our program resources and classes reached over 10,100 youth and adults.

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Bi-County Department

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 County and 37% from Yuba County. 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.

Support/Contributions

UCCE Sutter-Yuba secures 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. The University of California contributed over \$2.5 million in FY 2019-20 to support the local UC Cooperative Extension office through direct and indirect support.

Goals

The Bi-County Farm Advisor Department's goals for FY 2020-21 align with the Board of Supervisor's Goal H: "Protect, support, and enhance Sutter County's rich agricultural base."

1. To increase the number and diversity of clientele reached through our extension and applied research programs in agriculture and natural resources.
2. To increase the number and diversity of youth reached through our 4-H and CalFresh Healthy Living programs, supporting the next generation's capacity to be involved in agriculture and natural resources.

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 (1-103) budget unit 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 the cost.