Annual Report 2009-2010

Serving Riverside County residents in delivering research and educational programs in: Agriculture, Nutrition, Youth Development, and Natural Resources Since 1917

University of California, County of Riverside and U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperating

http://www.ceriverside.ucdavis.edu
Cooperative Extension Riverside County

The University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) is an educational program cooperatively funded by the University of California (the Land Grant Institution in our State), the county government, and the federal government to provide research based education to county residents in agriculture, nutrition, consumer sciences and 4-H youth development. Cooperative Extension exists in almost every county in the United States and always involves a partnership between the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the state’s Land Grant University, and the county or local government. In Riverside County, Cooperative Extension has a long standing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the County of Riverside and the Regents of the University of California dating back to ~1917 (updated in 2002).

The Cooperative Extension administration falls under the Office of the Vice President of the University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (Dan Dooley). Locally, the Director of Cooperative Extension for Riverside County, Etaferahu (Eta) Takele, is the liaison between the University of California and the County Board of Supervisors. She is responsible for ensuring that the Cooperative Extension programs conform to University policy; federal, state, and local laws; safety and health regulations; and affirmative action guidelines.

Funding for Cooperative Extension and staffing includes:
- Academic and program support personnel by the University of California;
- Program support dollars including staffing for Expanded Food & Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) and the Food Stamp Nutrition Education Program (FSNEP) by USDA; and
- Clerical and support staff, office spaces, travel, communication and other operational funds by the County of Riverside.

The mission of the University of California Cooperative Extension in Riverside County is to serve the citizens of the County by providing science-based research, education and public service and helping them:
- Address critical and emerging issues and needs in agriculture including control of diseases and invasive species, pest management, irrigation and water management, as well as meeting regulatory requirements and ensuring the viability and sustainability of growers returns and industry economy.
- Increase public wellness with nutrition education which targets low-income population and prevention of childhood obesity and diabetes.
- Promote 4-H Youth Development with life skill training, good citizenship and leadership.

Cooperative Extension research and education in Riverside County includes:
- In Agriculture: agronomy, vegetable crops production, integrated pest management, entomology, field crops production, viticulture, plant pathology, subtropical crops production, agricultural economics, poultry, animal sciences, and environmental horticulture. Last year, we filled the farm advisor position in the Palo Verde Valley. This position is critical in providing leadership in multiregional pest control programs. The advisor is expected to address pest management, implementation of IPM (Integrated Pest Management) practices and crop water use efficiency that have become the most important issues facing agriculture in this region. We also receive services from cross county advisors in floriculture, dairy, water resources, and natural resources. Academics in agriculture serve a diversified and viable industry averaging in the past five years over $1 billion in the production of over 101 crops and in egg production.
- In Nutrition, Consumer Sciences and 4H: We are reaching thousands of families and hundreds of 4-H youth with education and training helping the public improve their nutrition, physical activity, health, money management and youth skill and leadership development. Also, we work with hundreds of volunteers assisting us with our outreach in 4-H and Master Gardener education for urban environmental enhancement and community development.
The following bar graph shows Cooperative Extension funding trends by funding source including the County of Riverside, the University of California, USDA Federal funding and Grants from 2003-2010. The pie graph shows the proportion of funding by source for FY 2009-2010. The budget compositions as presented here provide only the direct incomes from the various sources. However, the value of services provided to the County through the collaborating effort of our academic advisors and program staff with the research and educational activities of faculty and specialists of the University of California and other institutions, is significantly higher than presented here.
Agriculture

Bell Pepper production experiment in shade houses proved to increase production in the Coachella Valley of Riverside County. Growers use shade houses for high value colored bell peppers production.

Table Grape variety research over three years showed that Sweet Scarlet and Scarlet Royal have opened a market window as late season reds for the Coachella Valley table grape growers. Also, a white selection has been identified as an excellent grape variety to meet the early season market window.

Vegetable crops research have released publications with new production practices and economics guidelines to help growers improve their production practices and returns in the following crops: Artichoke; Cabbage; Cauliflower; Celery; and Watermelon.

Citrus Leaf Minor (CLM) research of several years showed that CLM insect damage to leaves of mature citrus trees is only cosmetic. Control can be done through cost effective method of releasing natural predators. Controlling CLM requires more attention in nursery and young trees.

Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP)/Citrus Greening education is in progress to help both backyard gardeners and commercial growers identify and prevent the deadly disease from establishing in the California citrus groves.

Poultry education and consultation is helping each producer implement and integrate the 2010 FDA (Food and Drug Administration) Egg Food Safety Rule into their CEQAP (California Egg Quality Assurance Plan) to reduce the incidence of egg associated outbreaks of Salmonella enteritidis in humans and to ensure producer compliance and egg safety for the consuming public.

A BMP (Best Management Practice) study to meet water quality objectives and eliminate impairments in the San Jacinto River watershed; (one of the sites identified by the Regional Water Quality Board (RWQCB) for impaired water bodies) is completed. BMP in turf, management and in dairy, vegetable crops and citrus production are included. The overall goal is to mitigate nitrogen and phosphorus in storm and irrigation-generated runoff from agricultural and turf-covered lands within the San Jacinto River watershed in Riverside County.

Nutrition, Family and Consumer Sciences
Research based education with emphasis in childhood obesity and diabetes prevention helped thousands of low income families and youth in Riverside County improve their nutrition, physical activity and health. Also, many families and youth in food stamp programs improved their knowledge in money management and nutrition.

4H Youth Development Program
A Bus Stop Shelter was built by one of our 4H clubs this year. The youth fund raised $5,000.00 including $3,000 support from the University of California 4H office—Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Foundation. The shelter is located in front of the Rancho Springs Medical Center in Murrieta.

The Master Gardener Program
This program launched an on-line training this year to accommodate the growing demand of volunteers. Out of the 35 signed up for this year’s class, 10 of them are taking the class on-line. This method has enabled us to reach volunteers who would not have been able to travel the distance to attend the Moreno Valley classes.

Overall: Total projects conducted by UCCE reached 886 (42 research and 844 educational projects).
Vegetable Crops/Small Farms — Coachella Valley

Program Overview

The vegetable crops/small farms program in Riverside County deals with research and educational programs that address critical needs and issues affecting vegetable crop producers in the Coachella Valley. Farm Advisor Jose Aguiar is responsible for establishing a research and extension program that promotes the viability and sustainability of the area farms. He advises growers on the efficient management of irrigation, soil and crop fertility, and integrated pest management for the purpose of improving production and grower returns.

Program Highlights

Improving Crop Production

Bell Pepper: Bell Pepper is one of the major crops in the Coachella Valley constituting over 4,000 acres of production and crop value of over $68 million. Advisor Aguiar has been working to further improve production and value of this crop. From his sabbatical leave study in Mexico, he introduced the technology of shade house production of bell peppers. Growers in the Coachella valley are now using shade houses in the production of high price colored bell peppers.

Coachella Valley Farmers Educational Meetings

Jose conducts monthly educational meetings to help his clientele (growers, pest control advisors and farm labor) acquire new information and technological development in vegetable crops production in the Coachella Valley. He collaborates with advisor and specialist colleagues and USDA (Natural Resources and Conservation Services) research experts to provide most current research findings and information that will improve the Coachella Valley vegetable crop production.

Subjects addressed in 2009-2010

- Jatropha: a new energy crop (Experimental at Desert Research Extension Center).
- Nematode management update in crops grown in the Coachella Valley.
- Drip Irrigation System Maintenance.
- Soil Chemistry covering the interaction of fertilizers in the soil, and identifying potential toxic minerals.
- Bell Pepper production.
- Grapevine Canker Disease and Control.
- 8th Soil Symposium: various soil microbial interactions.
- Seminars co-sponsors: the Coachella Valley Resource Conservation District, USDA-NRCS and the Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District. We strive to build partnerships to better serve our clientele.

Congratulations Jose: Jose graduated from the California Agricultural Leadership Program; one of the unique and prestigious leadership programs in the nation. Jose, among 24 people selected to be in Class 39 had an opportunity to visit with elected officials in Washington DC as part of the program. He also gained a brief exposure of the culture, economics (including agriculture) and values of the people of Peru and Ecuador.
Viticulture and Pest Management

Program Overview
The viticulture program addresses critical needs and issues that affect the wine and table grape production in Riverside County. The overall goal is to conduct a program that provides vineyards and growers with sustainable and viable production practices including developing efficient management of water and the vineyard floor and reduction of chemical use to control pests and pathogens.

Program Highlights
The research program during this period focused on two main areas: Viticulture with the evaluation of new table grape selections in the desert and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) with two projects: the control of trunk diseases using bio-fungicides and the evaluation of resistance to five insecticides to control vine mealybug.

New Table Grape Selections
Table grape production in the Coachella Valley is one of the high value crops in the Coachella Valley, exceeding $117 million in 2009. To further enhance the economic value of the crop and growers returns three years research of Viticulture Advisor Carmen Gispert and colleagues has indicated that Sweet Scarlet and Scarlet Royal have opened a market window as late season reds with the possibility of attracting higher returns for the Coachella Valley table grape growers. Also, a white selection (not released yet) shows excellent quality grapes to meet the early market demand.

Trunk Diseases
Advisor Gispert is testing two conventional materials and three bio-fungicides to protect pruning wounds against a range of fungal pathogens during the entire period of wound susceptibility. The goal is to find an economical way to protect vineyards and to provide organic growers effective materials to control trunk diseases.

Establishment of Baseline Susceptibility to Vine Mealybug
A new report shows baseline susceptibility to five treatments used to control vine mealybug on grapes. This report is the first of its kind. Base line values that are effective to treat 99% of a field population were established. These baseline values will be used in future resistance monitoring efforts. Control failures can be prevented if resistance is detected early.
Crop Production/Entomology-Palo Verde Valley

Program Overview

The Crop Production/Entomology Advisor in the Palo Verde Valley is responsible for designing and implementing applied research programs related to crop production with emphasis on maximizing production, quality, and economic returns. Primary/target crops include field and forage crops (including seed crops), vegetable crops, and commercial fruiting trees (such as citrus). Production issues include entomology, plant pathology, weed sciences, integrated pest management (IPM), plant nutrition and variety testing.

Program Highlights

Progressive Farmers Meeting

Since his arrival in Blythe, California as a Crop Advisor and Entomologist in July 2009, Dr. Barlow has conducted educational programs at the Progressive Farmers Meetings: He collaborates with growers to plan the curriculum. He is receiving several sponsors to hold the meetings. Subjects addressed in 2009-10 FY include:

- Invasive insect management in bell pepper production;
- What it means to control pathogens such as tomato spot wilt virus;
- Plant hoppers and their management;
- Water management in the desert;
- The implementation and status of the pink bollworm area-wide eradication program;
- Hands on insect IPM in alfalfa diagnostic workshop;
- Common aphid pests found in alfalfa (A picture key).

Research Projects

Pesticide Application Reduction in Alfalfa

Alfalfa receives the greatest amount of pesticide applications of the three (3) crops (alfalfa, cotton and lemon) grown in the Palo Verde Valley. Advisor Vonny Barlow’s goal is to use outreach education to demonstrate that the use of targeted chemical applications through improved “scouting” along with economic thresholds can effectively reduce the number and amount of applied insecticides. Reduction of a single application to a crop removes 2.7 lbs of ai per acre into the environment and will allow natural enemy richness to increase. If this happens, then pest pressure could decrease and fall below the economic threshold. This would reduce the need for insecticide applications in alfalfa even further while still maintaining production value exceeding $62 million/year.

Lettuce, Melons, Alfalfa

Other research projects being conducted by the Advisor include:

- Efficacy trials of select insecticides for Whitefly control, *Bemisia tabaci* and Lepidoptera Management on iceberg and Romaine lettuce.
- Spring Stubble Application in Alfalfa for Season Long Management of Three-cornered Alfalfa Tree Hopper, *Spissistilus festinus* Say
- In field trial of Whitefly, *Bemisia tabaci* population dynamics in a drip irrigation system versus conventional spray applications used for management of Whitefly and Lepidoptera on fall planted melon (honeydew).
Agricultural Economics/Farm Management

Program Overview

The Agricultural Economics Program in Farm Management provides research-based education and analyses in crop production economics including investment estimates, production costs, profitability, risk and financial management. Area Advisor, Takele is responsible for programs in Riverside County as well as several other southern California counties.

Program Highlights

Avocado Growers Seminar

A yearly region-wide educational program organized by advisor Takele and colleagues since 2003 provides growers with the most up to date information on production technology, marketing methods, resource allocation practices and regulatory requirements.

In these seminars, new pest issues are addressed urgently, helping minimize crop damage. Overall, despite the fact the avocado industry has been battling pests and import competition, continuing research and education has proved to sustain its viability. During this period, about 20 meetings were conducted in the region with over 2000 attendees.

Vegetable Crops Publications

Vegetable crops production and economics guidelines have been published by a team of advisors. Takele was one of the team of authors for several publications. These guidelines provide growers with the most up to date research information for improving production as well as reducing cost of production. Also guidelines on economics and trends provide growers with current status and future perspectives. Publications are completed for the following crops: Okra; Watermelon; Cauliflower; Broccoli; Spinach; Cabbage; Celery; and Artichoke.

Topics in Subtropics

Through a quarterly statewide newsletter, advisor Takele with a team of advisors edits and disseminates current research to subtropical horticulture producers in California through 4 newsletters each year. The newsletters, which have been widely recognized statewide and nationally provides current information on production improvement, marketing, and economic for enhancing the viability and sustainability of the subtropical horticulture industry and producers in Riverside County and throughout the state.

Major subtropical crops in Riverside County include lemon, Valencia oranges and avocados. The Mango is a new emerging subtropical crop.

Vegetable Crops Publications

The Coachella Valley climate has allowed multiple cropping per year for vegetable crops. We provide continuing research and education to enhance production and crop value.

Riverside County is the 3rd largest avocado producer in California with crop value exceeding $29.7 million in 2009. Growers education is conducted yearly to help them become more economically efficient in producing and marketing the crop.
Subtropical Horticulture

The Subtropical Horticulture Program Staff Research Associate, Tom Shea is supervised by the County Director. His main responsibility is outreach to growers helping them diagnose field problems and answering questions related to subtropical horticulture production. He links with specialists and advisors in the UC system to learn about most recent research results for use in his outreach.

Educational Activities Highlights

Citrus Leaf Minor (CLM)
Several presentations were made based on research results.
- CLM damage to citrus leaves is primarily cosmetic and not affecting quality and quantity of production.
- No evidence found of any of the CLM female moth’s egg laying activity to be an entry point for other diseases.
- CLM is very sensitive to extreme temperatures—the male counts from our traps dramatically drop (50%) when temperatures exceeded 100°F or when temperatures dropped down to freezing for many days in a row.
- CLM causes great danger to nursery stock and young citrus trees with possible effects of causing defoliation and economic losses.
- We recommend to citrus growers that the best long term solution is to allow the CLM’s natural enemies, predatory wasps and green lacewing larva, to control this pest.

Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP)/Citrus Greening Identification and Protection
Since August 2008, we have put on educational programs and coordinated efforts with specialists and faculty of the University of California, CDFA (California Department of Food and Agriculture) and CRB (the Citrus Research Board) to monitor the existence of a new invasive pest in California, the Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP). The ACP is considered to carry Citrus Greening Disease, also known as by its Chinese name as “Huanglongbing” (HLB).

HLB will kill a citrus tree in 3 to 5 years and the fruit becomes bitter, sour and not usable.

ACP has been found in all Southern California counties. However, all have tested negative for the HLB disease. Our program has provided growers and back yard gardeners education on how to identify the ACP and its effect on their citrus trees. We have presented to over 2,000 growers, gardening clubs, Master Gardeners, etc. We will continue educating the public to identify the pest and be able to report to the County Agriculture Commissioner when found.

The Annual National Citrus Institute
We collaborate with UCCE San Diego, the CRB, the California Citrus Mutual, The National Orange Show and the University of California, Riverside to bring the public and the scientists working on citrus to a one day program to highlight current topics of interest and concerns to the citrus industry of California. The institute also honors individuals with significant contributions to the industry.
Cooperative Extension Riverside County

Poultry Sciences

Program Overview

The Poultry Sciences program involves education and applied research in general poultry production with emphasis in biosecurity of poultry farms, disease prevention, egg quality, food safety, environmental protection and public health nuisance prevention associated with poultry production.

Douglas R. Kuney, Area Poultry Advisor

Research and education have helped growers meet regulatory requirements in poultry production.

Biosecurity Training for Government Agency Personnel Visiting Poultry Farms: Preventing Disease Spread During Poultry Farm Inspections

Since 2001, Doug Kuney has conducted multiple training workshops for inspectors from CDFA (California Department of Food and Agriculture) and USDA (United States Department of Agriculture), and the Department of Environmental Health on ways to minimize the risk of spreading disease while travelling from one farm to the other during inspection. This is very important because many of these diseases are highly contagious and pathogenic to poultry and could threaten the existence of the commercial poultry industry.

California Egg Quality Assurance Program (CEQAP)

Continuing educational meetings are held each year for the egg industry. Receiving continuing education is a requirement for certification under the CEQAP. The CEQAP was formed by the commercial egg industry for the purpose of insuring the safest and highest quality eggs and egg products for the egg market in California. The program was developed in cooperation with egg producers, the FDA (Food and Drug Administration), USDA, CDFA, DHHS (California Department of Human Health Services) and the University of California. Best management practices for the production and handling of eggs are the backbone of this voluntary program. This has been an ongoing program since 1998.

Public Health Nuisance Abatement on Poultry Farms

The abatement of public health nuisances from flies or other sources is critically important to the sustainability of the egg industry in California. New strategies for monitoring and controlling nuisances are evaluated and taught by our advisor to the poultry industry each year.

2010 FDA Egg Food Safety Rule

In May, 2010 the FDA implemented new federal requirements for egg producers aimed at reducing the incidence of egg associated outbreaks of *Salmonellosis enteritidis* in humans. The new requirements were largely modeled after the CEQAP, which is a voluntary producer program. Meetings between producers and the FDA were held to aid in the understanding of how the new rule will be applied to California producers. Doug Kuney is working with each producer to integrate the requirements of the FDA rule into their CEQAP plans. He is also working with the FDA inspectors to aid in their evaluation of how California producers are complying with the FDA rule on their farms.

Developing Ectoparasite Control Methods for Organic Egg Production

Increased interest in the production of organic foods in California has called for evaluation of materials fit for controlling ectoparasites (mainly mites and lice) on commercial organic poultry farms.

A number of alternatives have been tried informally through the years, but they have seldom been carefully tested or quantified. Diatomaceous earth, kaolin clay and sulfur as mite and louse control materials used in dust boxes under controlled experimental conditions were evaluated over time for their control of ectoparasites in laying hens.

Preliminary experimental studies have been conducted at the University of California Riverside and have shown the efficacy of these materials when compared with commonly used pesticides by the commercial egg industry today. The advisor presented results to egg producers at workshops held for egg producers throughout the state.

In addition, the advisor serves on numerous public policy and advisory committees where he presents technical information to communities, local agencies and policy makers.
Environmental Horticulture

Program Overview

The Environmental Horticulture Advisor, Emeritus, Mike Henry is still involved in conducting applied research and continuing education for the turf, landscape, and nursery industries. Currently he has been working with the Coachella Valley Water District comparing the State’s weather station network with private stations for crop water use estimates and determining efficient water use of the two methods. This work is in the final stages with a report being prepared. He is also still actively involved in the Master Gardener program.

Master Gardener Program: Volunteer Services

The program includes 185 active volunteer members of which 38 are new trainees. Each year The Master Gardeners contribute 5,500-6,000 hours to the County educating the gardening public with University of California science based gardening information. They conduct their education via phone squad, about 20 hours a week and various public events and meetings. Each year the volunteers receive training to update their skills and knowledge.

One of the unique additions to the program this year is the development and implementation of an on-line training which is reaching volunteers from areas that would have not been able to attend the Moreno Valley training. We have about 10 volunteers taking the on-line classes from the Coachella and Temecula areas.

Each year, our volunteers hold and participate in over 30 activities where they hold demonstrations and share UC gardening information. This year some of the activities they participated in include: the Jurupa Mountains Discovery Center Propagation Garden; County Earth Night at the Western Municipal Water District garden; Citizen Science Week at the Riverside Metropolitan Museum; Home Shows in Riverside and Lake Elsinore. They also participated in several rose pruning demonstrations as well as spring and fall plant sales at the Botanic Garden of the University of California, Riverside.

The Riverside County Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Program is making a difference on our environment through back yard and public gardening education.

The Master Gardener Program went green by having the Master Gardener newsletter available on-line at the University of California Cooperative Extension, Riverside County site:

http://ceriverside.ucdavis.edu/newsletterfiles/newsletter120.htm
Nutrition, Family & Consumer Sciences
Program Overview

Nutrition, Family and Consumer Sciences Program (NFCS) provides research-based education in the areas of nutrition, food safety and consumer economics. This program has one academic advisor and six nutrition educators.

NFCS Program has two on-going nutrition education projects that are federally funded:

1) Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP), and
2) Food Stamp Nutrition Education Program (FSNEP).

California EFNEP Highlights

- **EFNEP’s Mission**

  “To improve the health of limited resource youth and families with young children through practical lessons on basic nutrition and healthy lifestyles, resource management, and food safety.”

  Our focus in both EFNEP and FSNEP has been in reducing and prevention of childhood obesity and diabetes.

- Adult EFNEP classes were delivered at 7 ELAC (English Learner Advisory Council) sites, 16 Head Starts, 2 recovery centers, 4 Cal Safe sites and 5 others in Riverside, Moreno Valley, Perris, Quail Valley, Beaumont, Banning, San Jacinto, Hemet, Corona and Lake Elsinore.

- The pre and post program evaluation shows over 35% of EFNEP participants made improvement in all three categories: nutrition, food safety and food management practices.

- **California EFNEP Highlights**


  - **Youth EFNEP led a project with Riverside County Office of Education (RCOE) Head Start Program.** Twenty teachers from 12 RCOE Head Start sites collectively delivered 431 hours of instruction from Happy Healthy Me curriculum to 552 Head Start children.

FSNEP’s Mission

“To improve the likelihood that persons eligible for the Food Stamp Program will make healthy food choices within a limited budget and choose physically active lifestyles...”

UC-FSNEP Highlights

Riverside County FSNEP staff, Gustavo Rimada, Fatima Afana and Liz Armijo partnered with 11 agencies to deliver 100 nutrition classes/workshops to 726 adult participants in Riverside, Rubidoux, Hemet, Lake Elsinore, Banning, Palm Springs, Indio and Coachella.

- During FY 2009-2010, Youth FSNEP trained 110 teachers and enrolled 65 teachers representing 86 traditional classes in Reading Across MyPyramid or EatFit programs. We partnered with 19 schools in the Coachella Valley Unified, Desert Sands Unified, Alvord Unified, San Jacinto Unified, Banning Unified, Riverside Unified and Romoland School Districts.

- UC-FSNEP collaborated with Riverside Medical Clinic Foundation and Alvord Unified School District to deliver 4 nutrition workshops for Kick Off Riverside Project led by the Foundation’s director Doug Wible.

- UC-FSNEP delivered interactive style poster education at Indio DPSS (Department of Public and Social Services) Office and Sister Mary Alice Food Pantry. Participants learned about calories and fat in fast food, and the need to balance caloric intake with physical activity. This project reached 87 participants. The evaluation shows that 75% of the participants understood the concept of balancing caloric intake with physical activity and that more calories than needed will lead to weight gain. Over 67% made a positive comment regarding the changes they plan to make afterward.

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UC ANR Core Grant: Make Food Safe for Seniors

Riverside County Nutrition, Family and Consumer Sciences Program received $8,596 from UC ANR Core Grant to implement Make Food Safe for Seniors Project. The goal of this project is to prevent food borne illness in this high risk population by providing food safety education to seniors and people who prepare and serve food to seniors. A total of 11 workshops were conducted at Senior Centers in Temecula, Moreno Valley and Indio, and at Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Groups in Hemet, Perris, Temecula and Palm Springs, reaching 145 participants. The 6 month follow-up comments show that participants are washing hands more often and in general are more aware of ways to minimize food contamination.
4-H Youth Development

Jeanne Lothridge, Prog. Rep. II, 4-H Youth Development Program

The 4-H Youth Development program objective is to help youth become responsible, self-directed, and productive members of the global society. The goal is to improve the well being of youth, their families, and their communities.

Program Overview

The 4-H Youth Development Program had 621 youth and 169 Adult Volunteers involved in 24 club units. There were 20 members in the after-school program. Program Representative Jeanne Lothridge provides leadership via training volunteers about 4H rules, policies and regulations.

Program Highlights

Examples of 4H Activities

National Youth Science Day Theme Bio Blast: 4-H members set up a promotional booth at the Southern California Fair, in Lake Perris and conducted an experiment to produce alternative energy sources for cars. They also had posters that showed alternative forms of energy for cars. The members handed out promotional flyers for Summer Camps, Winter Camps and other 4-H activities.

4-H Fun Fair Day:
Youth conducted several activities including SET (Science, Engineering and Technology) activities, plant sciences and other educational activities.

Community Services:
- Ronald McDonald House Recycling Program: Collected 18,975 pull-tabs.
- Earth Day—public education on water conservation, plant growth, environmental impacts, etc.
- Food Banks—food and time donations.
- Community Garden—plan to start a community garden to grow vegetables for themselves and food banks.

Bus Shelter:
A 40 youth 4H club, ages 5 through 18 raised $5,500 and contributed towards building a shelter for a bus stop; bringing comfort and shelter from the weather in front of Rancho Springs Medical Center in Murrieta. $3,000 of the money they raised was provided by the University of California 4H State office from the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Foundation.

From her vantage point just inside the front doors of the Murrieta Senior Center, Betty Campos couldn’t contain her appreciation: (Courtesy of The Californian Paper June 23, 2010).
Programs in Riverside by Cross County Advisors

**Natural Resources:** Chris McDonald’s Desert Weeds Conference drew over 110 people within and outside the state. The conference dealt with the biology and ecology of different weed species, weeds that are on the move into new areas and management strategies in different areas. The clientele were people from federal and state land management agencies (i.e. National Park Service, Forest Service, Cal Parks, Cal Fish and Game) local county offices, several American Indian tribes, private companies and contractors, and the general public.

The advisor also uses the Low Desert Weed Management Area meetings, which cover eastern Riverside County as a forum to share information with agencies and the public and to collaborate and improve weed management.

**Invasive Pests:**

Five years of field research on restoration of Coastal Sage Scrub habitat in southern CA is being used to guide large scale habitat restoration following wildfires.

Four years of field research are demonstrating low cost, effective, and environmentally safe approaches to restoring native grassland in southern CA.

Effective and low cost herbicide treatments for control of giant reed (*Arundo donax*) are available after 3 years of field research in southern CA, including one site on the Hungry Valley Wildlife Area, part of Riverside County Parks Department in Norco.

This past year, a training at the Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District was provided on herbicide application for applicators.

**Floriculture:** Work in nurseries and floriculture in Riverside include teaching Master Gardener trainees and volunteers; and providing training and updates in pesticide use and glassy-winged sharp-shooter; Diaprepes root weevil; Asian Citrus Psyllid; and mealybug pheromones. James Bethke provides field visits in Riverside County and is establishing new contacts. The most current one in the San Jacinto area.

**Water Resources:** The advisor has been a member of the San Jacinto Watershed Ag. Waiver Advisory Group providing technical support to the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) as they develop the waiver particularly as it impacts wholesale nursery plant production. His expertise and work in Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) has been sought by the RWQCB staff.

4-H SET Water Quality Train-the-Trainer in Riverside County benefited from SET curriculum developed by the advisor and another colleague. Teen leaders conducted water quality sampling activities at summer camp teaching younger youth about the impacts of pollutants such as nitrate on water resources at Lake Arrowhead where they attended camp.

**Dairy:** A stable fly research trial found a higher concentration after heavy spring rains. This finding means that dairy owners would be wise to clean out around fence lines and areas before a heavy rain season. Also a two part Environmental Stewardship Course in March attracted 23 dairy owners. Continued work with WRCAC (Western Riverside County Agriculture Coalition) to develop practices and procedures to help the dairy industry remain sustainable.
## Cooperative Extension Staff List by Program Area

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<th>Offices</th>
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</table>

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*EFNEP—Expanded Food & Nutrition Education Program; FSNEP—Food Stamp Nutrition Education Program; CHPR—Community Health Program Representative*
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
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### County Paid Support Staff

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