

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

919



FROM: Cooperative Extension Department

SUBMITTAL DATE:
March 21, 2013

SUBJECT: 2011-2012 Cooperative Extension Annual Report

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:
Receive and file the 2011-2012 Cooperative Extension Annual Report.

BACKGROUND: Cooperative Extension presents our annual report for FY 2011-12. Our department is an educational program cooperatively funded by the University of California (the Land Grant Institution in California), the county government, and the federal government to provide research based education to county residents in agriculture, natural resources, environmental horticulture, 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).

Departmental Concurrence

Etaferahu Takele 3-21-13

Etaferahu Takele, Department Head

FINANCIAL DATA	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$ N/A	In Current Year Budget:	N/A
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$ N/A	Budget Adjustment:	N/A
	Annual Net County Cost:	\$ N/A	For Fiscal Year:	N/A

SOURCE OF FUNDS: N/A	Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Requires 4/5 Vote	<input type="checkbox"/>

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE

BY: *Steven C. Horn*

Steven C. Horn, MPA

County Executive Office Signature

- Consent
- Policy
- Consent
- Policy

Dept's Recomm.:
Per Exec. Ofc.:

Prev. Agn. Ref.: **District:** **Agenda Number:**

ATTACHMENTS FILED
WITH THE CLERK OF THE BOARD

2-5

BACKGROUND (Continued)

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 services for:

- Improving agricultural productivity by searching for best practices including plant nutrition, control of diseases and invasive species, pest management, irrigation and water management, meeting regulatory requirements and ensuring the viability and sustainability of growers' returns as well as the local and state economies.
- Increasing public wellness with nutrition education which targets low-income populations and the prevention of childhood obesity and diabetes.
- Improving the community environment resulting in better landscape and plant growth
- Ensuring the sustainability and quality of water and natural resources.
- Training 4-H Youth to develop good life skills, good citizenship and leadership.

Summary of program accomplishments, 2011-2012:

- **Searching for New Crops:** Pitahaya trials are being conducted to examine potential for production in the Coachella Valley climate. This high returns crop will be valuable for crop diversification for the Coachella Valley Small Scale Producers.
- **Variety Trials:** Table Grape variety research over three years showed market window advantage for grape growers. Sweet Scarlet and Scarlet Royal have opened a high return market window as late season reds for the Coachella Valley table grape growers. Also, a white selection has been identified and to be determined as an excellent grape variety to meet the early season market window.
- **Pest and Disease Control:** The Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP)/Citrus Greening identification and control education has succeeded in reaching over 4,000 clientele. We have been fighting the deadly disease from establishing in the California citrus orchards since 2009. We collaborated in providing pest locations to Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner for quarantine and to avoid spread of the pest and disease.
- **Integrated Pest Management (IPM):** Research and education in the Palo Verde Valley is experimenting ways of reducing chemical applications in alfalfa for improving the environment without reducing grower returns.
- **Economic Analysis:** Avocado grove establishment and production costs in a recent study in Riverside County showed huge cost increases since our last study (in Year 2000). A second study also investigated the profit prospects of organic avocado production in the county.

- **Nutrition, Family and Consumer Sciences:** Research based education with emphasis on childhood obesity and diabetes prevention helped improve the nutrition, physical activity and health of thousands of low income families and youth in Riverside County. Also, many families and youth in the UC CalFresh programs improved their knowledge in money management and nutrition. This year the CalFresh program received a proclamation from the Riverside County Board of supervisors for a collaborating effort with other county departments and attracting funding from USDA for expanding the program.
- **Youth Leadership and Good Citizenship Training:** Our 4-H program has continued to achieve recognition in youth leadership and good citizenship skills.
- **Improving our Environment:** The Master Gardner program in Riverside County has grown significantly. We opened a new training center in Palm Desert; an on-line training and a new hot line in our Indio Satellite office. This year, our Master Gardner Program was honored by receiving a special recognition and accomplishment certificates including one from Supervisor Bob Buster at our Volunteers Training Graduation of Class 2011.

The 2011-2012 Cooperative Extension Annual Report can be accessed from the Cooperative Extension Department web site: <http://ceriverside.ucanr.edu/> or directly from the following link: <http://ceriverside.ucanr.edu/files/163717.pdf>.