

# **UC HANSEN TRUST ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2007-2008**

This was the final year for Larry Yee as the Trust's Director due to his retirement from the University. Anticipating Larry's retirement in the fall of 2007, a committee was put together to assess the need for a full-time versus a part-time director. In this process it was determined that UC Hansen Trust would have its own full-time director as opposed to a shared director with the UCCE Ventura. After review and modification, a final position description was developed and recruitment would take place some time after July 1, 2008. The Hansen Advisory Board and the staff are very excited to see this process get under way.

Our staff remains the same as last year with the exception of Jose Hernandez Alvarez filling a vacancy in a farm assistant position in March 2008. With a staff of 12 people (10.15 FTE), and assistance from Dr. Jim Downer, CE Farm Advisor, Chair of the Hansen Research Advisory Committee, and Chris Sayer, Hansen Trust Advisory Board member and Chair of the Sheri Klittich Agricultural Literacy and Issues Advisory Committee, guidance and support from the entire Hansen Trust Advisory Board and tremendous help from many volunteers, we were able to administer our educational programs, grant programs, on-site research projects and make our facility available for use by the Ventura Master Gardener program and others involved in agricultural education and research. County staff from the UCCE office also provided support by offering IT, web site and administrative support for our educational programs.

We are pleased to share with you the highlights of our accomplishments as described on the following pages.

## **Purpose of the UC Hansen Trust**

For the support and maintenance of University research and extension activities and related facilities for the sustainability and benefit of agriculture in Ventura County and matters related to agricultural and natural resource issues.

## **Mission Statement**

To sustain agriculture in Ventura County through research and education to benefit the community as a whole.

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## UC Hansen Trust accomplishments by goal:

### **1 – Enhance the economic viability of agriculture to sustain agriculture's contribution to a healthy Ventura County.**

#### **1.1 Research Grants Program**

The Trust pursues its first goal by providing research grant money for studying issues relevant to Ventura County. This includes researching exotic pests and diseases, water quality management and cultural practices to meet environmental standards, and feasibility of new crops in Ventura County.

In 2007-2008, \$101,049 was awarded through the competitive grant process.

Below is a list of the projects that were funded:

- Bringing Florida Blueberry Expertise to Ventura Growers – Dr. Ben Faber, UCCE Ventura and Dr. Mark Gaskell, UCCE Santa Barbara - \$2,080
- Managing Psyllids and Other Insect Pests on Peppers in Ventura County- Dr. John Trumble, UC Riverside - \$24,750
- Development and Testing of Pheromone Lures for *Stenomoma catenifer* and *Cryptaspasma* sp.: Avocado Fruit Pests with High Invasion Potential for California - Dr. Mark Hoddle, UC Riverside - \$15,006
- Do cover crops used to enhance glassy-winged sharpshooter natural enemies function as reservoirs for *Xylella fastidiosa* – Dr. Mark Hoddle, UC Riverside - \$12,765
- Citrus Leafminer Infestations and Their Effects on Lemon Fruit Yield and Size in Ventura County – Dr. Robert Luck, UC Riverside - \$22,073
- CO2 Raspberry Project (continued from 2006-07) – Dr. Oleg Daugovich, UCCE Ventura - \$24,375

#### **1.2 On-Site Research Projects**

The following is a list of research projects that were either initiated or on-going in 2007-2008:

- Weed Control in Strawberries, Flavor & Sugar Development – Dr. Oleg Daugovich, CE Ventura
- Irrigation of Landscape Plants for Water Conservation – Dr. Jim Downer, CE Ventura
- Acid Soil Amendments – Dr. Ben Faber, CE Ventura
- Powdery Mildew Control in Bell Pepper – Dr. Mike Coffey, UC Riverside
- Fruit Tree Demonstration Block – Dr. Ben Faber, CE Ventura
- Long Term Soil Amendment of Bedding Plants – Dr. Jim Downer, UC Ventura

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- Blueberry Spacing Trial – Dr. Ben Faber, CE Ventura
- Blueberry Variety Trial – Dr. Ben Faber, CE Ventura
- Effect of Planting Depth on Landscape Plants – Dr. Jim Downer, CE Ventura
- Rose Disease – Dr. Jim Downer and Dr. Ben Faber, CE Ventura
- Rose Nutrition – Dr. Jim Downer and Dr. Ben Faber, CE Ventura
- Strawberry Establishment Irrigation – Dr. Oleg Daugovish and Dr. Ben Faber, CE Ventura
- Strawberry Methyl Bromide Alternatives – Dr. Oleg Daugovish, CE Ventura

UC Hansen Trust supports the on-site research efforts by supplying farm labor and materials as needed. This year's expense was \$18,212. Volunteers also provide assistance with labor when available.

### **1.3 SRA Support**

The Trust continues to fund a Staff Research Associate for the UCCE Ventura farm/research advisors. The total expense for 2007-08 was \$58,929 and includes salary, benefits, travel and incidentals.

## **2 – Increase the public understanding and support of agriculture to the economy and the natural resource base.**

### **Education Program**

We are in our second year of the combined Cooperative Extension and Hansen Trust Education Team lead by Rose Hayden-Smith, 4-H Youth and (until January 2008) Master Gardener Advisor for Ventura County. Our Education Team with the valued assistance of our volunteers continues to provide quality programs to youth, educators and extenders, and the general public. The farm staff also provides labor in preparing designated areas for planting and harvesting for the 4-H Farm Field Trip Program.

The accomplishments this year are:

- 4-H Field Trip Program – this program is held in fall and in spring.
  - The fall field trip program consisted of delivering a standards-aligned curriculum to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students. Thirteen field trips were completed reaching 341 students. There was also one field trip provided for 11 special education students at the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade level.
  - The spring field trip program included the introduction of a new adapted FSNEP curriculum for Kindergarten students. In addition to serving a new grade level (kindergarteners), we piloted a

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classroom outreach program for 2<sup>nd</sup> graders, which was delivered by volunteers. There were five 3<sup>rd</sup> grade field trips reaching 185 students, eight kindergarten field trips reaching 297 students, and five 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classroom outreach reaching 200 students at one school.

- Total number of students reached this year was 1,034.
- The Education Team also participated in a statewide pilot program of Creating and Sustaining Your School Garden regional train-the-trainer workshop. This training was in collaboration with UC Davis Children's Farm, California School Garden Network, LifeLab, and UC Master Gardeners. There were 40 participants. Those trained were then able to provide training to 68 teachers and extenders.
- Saturday and Wednesday at the Farm Programs – Program was introduced in July 2007 and is a monthly program (excluding December and June) that makes the farm available to the public for self-guided farm and garden tours, the Historical Faulkner House tour, Master Gardener plant sales and various workshops offered for the general public and for teachers and extenders. Topics include School Garden Basics and Creating and Sustaining Your School Garden for teachers and workshops for the general public such as pruning, rose care, and vegetable gardens. Due to lack of attendance on Wednesdays we dropped the Wednesday program starting January 2008. Total attendance was 441.
- Continuing education workshops for Hansen Volunteers – monthly half hour to an hour workshops with a different topic each month such as composting, assembling a drip system, landscape lighting, hand tool maintenance and repair, accessing and using CIMIS weather data.
- Master Gardener Demo Garden – a 50' X 100' plot of land at the Center has been designated as the MG Demo Garden. This garden was redesigned and revitalized this year and provides a vital education and demonstration resource for the community. The Master Gardeners also have been designated a 40' x 100' area for the propagation project. This propagation is used towards plant sales to raise funds for the MG program, providing free plant material for school gardens, and providing materials to be use during plant clinics at the Saturday at the Farm events.
- The Center hosted the first Master Gardener Speaker's Bureau Symposium which provided continuing education and a recruitment opportunity. Attendance was 50-60. This will be an annual event.
- The Center hosted the MG Home Gardener Workshop that targets home gardeners and educators and is included in our Saturday at the Farm

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events. This will be offered twice a year in spring and fall and can accommodate up to 100 participants.

The Education Team includes a full-time volunteer coordinator position to coordinate the UCCE Master Gardener Program and the Hansen Volunteer Program. The position was designed to be a 50/50 split based on input from Pam Geisel, Statewide Master Gardener Coordinator and experienced gained from management of the program in Ventura County. However, the position is skewed to support of the Master Gardener Program, which is a CE program. While the Master Gardeners volunteers provide vital, valued and necessary support to the Trust, we do need to continue to develop a diverse volunteer base of non-MG volunteers as well. This will need to be addressed in the future, preferably when the new director is appointed.

As with 2006-07, the exact number of Hansen volunteer hours is not available. A new on-line system, which is in widespread use by the California Master Gardener Program, was put into place towards the end of the fiscal year. From the documentation that we do have, we estimate 3,666 volunteer hours at the Center this year. Projects included planting, weeding, and irrigation in the education demo gardens, propagation, composting, helping on Advisor projects, field trip preparation and delivery, other program help and clerical help in the office.

### **3 – Encourage the study, discussion and debate of agricultural issues for better policy decisions and achieving balance among competing interests.**

#### **The Sheri Klittich Agricultural Literacy and Issues Grant Program**

In 2007-2008, \$26,000 was awarded through the competitive grant process. The review committee consisted of Chris Sayer, HAB member and Chair of the committee, Edgar Terry, HAB member; Sue Chadwick, HAB member and Ben Faber, HAB member.

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Below are the projects that were funded:

- Advancing Farm Worker Health Access – Central Coast Alliance for a Sustainable Economy - \$5,000
- Getting to Broccoli – Food for Thought, Ojai - \$5,000
- Ventura County Agricultural Issues and Leadership: Viewing the Future – Ventura County Leadership Academy - \$6,000
- Food Guide for California's South Central Coast – Ag Innovations Network (AFA) - \$10,000

The following projects or sponsorships were funded by the Targeted Grant Program:

- Ag Innovations Network, coordinator of the Ag Futures Alliance (AFA) - \$20,000. AFA is a community-based coalition and meets on a monthly basis at the Center.
- Ventura County Civic Alliance - \$2,500. This was a sponsorship towards the State of the Region Report and Compact of a Sustainable Ventura County coordinated by VCCA.
- Ventura County Museum of History and Art: Living Legacy Book Project - \$30,000 – Remaining expense to finish the Ventura County agricultural coffee table book for printing and marketing by Ventura County Farm Bureau.

### **Hansen Agricultural Center Site Development**

There were no major projects completed this year. The total spent in site development this year was \$8,142. There were some remaining invoices regarding the Briggs Gate which totaled \$6,598 and the remainder of \$1,544 was spent on the Education Greenhouse. Initially we were going to purchase a greenhouse but were informed of a surplus greenhouse at the County of Ventura. We were able to get that donated to the University of California for use at the Hansen Agricultural Center. The advantage to securing the donated greenhouse was the quality of the greenhouse compared to greenhouses made today. However, we will need to do some repair and upgrades such as replacing the glass with a safer product. During 2007-08 the greenhouse was dismantled at the County facility, the asbestos and glass were disposed of and the remaining structure was transported to the Center. The foundation design for the greenhouse and the request for proposal were also completed this year.

There were other projects slated for 2007-08 that did not occur; the budgets were forwarded to 2008-09. These projects included:

- Road definition and removal of existing structure in the designated research area of the property;
- Electrical and lighting project for the large barn;

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- Lighting, walkways, drinking fountains, and other items needed in the public access areas of the property; and
- Additional electrical, gas and phone lines

The sewage/septic system project is on hold due to the Regional Water Quality Board's additional requirements beyond the designed septic system. The other option of hooking up to the city sewer system is cost-prohibitive at this time. It also makes sense to wait until the design of the new facility is done and there is a clear understanding of what our needs will be.

### **Facility Use**

In the last couple of years the Center has seen an increase in hosting a number of meetings and events for UC personnel and related community organizations. The number of people that have visited the Center to participate in our education programs, various meeting and activities is over 22,000 including the estimated 16,000 people for the Pumpkin Patch. The facility also housed goats for the 4-H Goat Project for the Briggs 4-H Club as they prepare for the Ventura County Fair. Groups using the facility include the California Ag Teacher's Association, VC Fair Board of Directors, Ventura County Leadership Academy, Ventura County Community Foundation, VC Ag Commissioner's Office, NRCS, CAUSE, Ag Futures Alliance and the Farm Advisors who hold conferences on various topics.

In October 2007, the Faulkner Farm Pumpkin Patch resumed with the Rotary Club of Santa Paula taking the lead in organizing the event. This is now a weekend only event in October and it is estimated that 16,000 people attended over the four weekends. The event was extremely successful and is now a major funding raising event for the Rotary as well as other local non-profit organizations participating. The event raised approximately \$82,000 for the Santa Paula community. The Rotary Club looks forward to continuing this relationship with the Trust.

The facility was also made available for an annual community fundraiser to benefit the Santa Paula Theater Center. The actors orchestrate a Ghost Walk mixing some ghost stories with historical information about the Faulkner Farm and its agricultural ties to the community. As the venue changes each year, it will be a while before we are asked to provide the property again for this entertaining and informative event.

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## **Hansen Trust Staff as of June 30, 2008**

Lawrence K. Yee, Director\*  
Susana Bruzzone-Miller, Education Outreach Coordinator  
Annabel Faris, Program Assistant\*  
Jose Hernandez Alvarez, Farm Assistant  
Rose Hayden-Smith, Education Team Leader, 4-H Youth & MG Advisor\*\*  
Leah Haynes, Volunteer Coordinator  
Susan Latham, Financial Assistant  
Larry Manning, Physical Plant Mechanic  
Doug Peters, Center Superintendent  
Leon Preciado, Farm Assistant\*  
Louise Rangel, Facilities Coordinator  
Santos Ramirez, Ag Technician  
Patricia Verdugo Johnson, Business Services Administrator

\* Part-time appointment

\*\* Hansen Trust is funding 25%

Note: The Trust pays a director stipend but does not fund the director position. Currently only 20% of his time is allotted for the Trust.

## **Hansen Advisory Board Members as of June 30, 2008**

Representing Agriculture

Scott Deardorff

Don Rodrigues

Chris Sayer

Edgar Terry

Representing the Ventura County Farm Bureau

Chris Mann

Representing the Community

Sue Chadwick

Sandra Shackelford

Representing the University of California

Kay Harrison Taber

Ben Faber

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**REVENUE AND EXPENSE SUMMARY**

**REVENUE**

Endowment Distribution	\$ 986,064
Farming and Operations Income	\$ 8,175
OMP State Income	\$ 50,059
Saticoy Lease Income	\$ 25,783
Misc. Income	\$ 3,941

**TOTAL REVENUE** **\$1,074,022**

**EXPENDITURES**

Administration \$ 178,794

Programs

Research and Extension	\$ 178,688
Education Outreach	\$ 219,102
Ag Literacy & Issues	\$ 79,509
Return of Unused Grant Funds	\$ (4,943)
Total Program Expenses	\$ 472,356

Farming/Facility \$ 334,735

Landmark Preservation \$ 3,726

Site Development Improvements \$ 8,142

Saticoy Property \$ 261,982

**TOTAL EXPENDITURES** **\$1,259,733**

**NET REVENUE** **\$ (185,712)**

The accumulated reserve is used to cover the Site Development expenses and the Saticoy Property expenses. The balance of the accumulated reserve at June 30, 2008 was \$338,520 net of the balance of reserves for planned maintenance and historical preservation.