



This was a transition year for the Trust as the process of finding a new director took longer than anticipated. UCCE Farm Advisor and Hansen Board Member, Dr. Ben Faber, was appointed Acting Director. The Hansen Trust Advisory Board and staff are grateful to Ben for his leadership and support.

The new full-time director position was filled by Jose De Soto on May 1, 2009. Jose came from the Desert REC where he was the Interim Center Director. Due to DREC active projects and management vacancies, Jose traveled between the two sites for the first three months before fully settling in at Hansen. We welcome Jose to the Hansen team and look forward to his contributions as director.

With the purchase of the Faulkner Farm and establishment of the Hansen Agricultural Center in 1997, the administrative oversight and processing was split between UCCE for programs and REC for farm and facility operations. After administrative oversight was moved entirely to UCCE in 2007, final determination was made in December 2008 to integrate HAC into the REC system. We welcome this change and the opportunity to function within this system.

In May 2009, the Hansen Trust Advisory Board participated in a retreat. The purpose of the retreat was to review the goals and vision, to evaluate performance, and articulate concepts for future program planning. The outcome of the retreat was a recommitment to the established goals with a more proactive approach. There was agreement to revise the wording of the goals to convey the Board's proactive nature. The modified goals are:

- Assure the economic viability of agriculture to sustain agriculture's contribution to a healthy Ventura County
- Increase the public understanding and support of agriculture, including the relationship of agriculture to the economy and the natural resource base
- Study, discuss, and debate agricultural/urban issues for better policy decisions and achieving balance among competing interests

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

UC HANSEN AGRICULTURAL CENTER  
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# UC HANSEN TRUST ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2008-2009

## **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.

## **UC Hansen Trust accomplishments by goal**

### **Goal #1 – Assure 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. During 2008-2009, the competitive grant process awarded \$86,407.

The Research Advisory Committee is chaired by Dr. Jim Downer, and includes Jane Delahoyde, Oxnard Pest Control Association; Dr. Loren Oki, CE Specialist UCD; Dr. Timothy Paine, Professor and Program Leader UCR; and Chris Sayer, Hansen Trust Advisory Board Member.

Below is a list of the projects that were funded.

- Using drip-produced strawberry nursery plants to control anthracnose and enhance marketable yield in Ventura County – Dr. Oleg Daugovish, UCCE Ventura - \$25,000
- Use of Capillary Mats as a low-cost greenhouse runoff retention system – Richard Evans, UC Davis and Dr. Julie Newman, UCCE Ventura - \$19,347
- Leafminer Control in Ventura County – Dr. John Trumble, UC Riverside - \$24,850
- Foreign Exploration of Greenhouse Thrips Natural Enemies in Peru – Dr. Mark Hoddle, UC Riverside - \$17,210

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

In addition to the grant program, on-site research projects take place at the Center to further our efforts towards Goal #1. Currently, approximately 5 acres are being utilized for research projects. This area is expected to grow to a maximum of 12 acres in the near future. Hansen currently provides free of charge the land, some labor assistance and materials in the preparation and maintenance of the projects. Expenses for this year totaled \$27,120. Volunteers also provided approximately 528 labor hours.

The following is a list of research projects that were on-going in 2008-09:

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

Projects that ended in 2008-09

- Blueberry Spacing Trial – Dr. Ben Faber, CE Ventura
- Biofumigation potential of Cover Crops – Dr. Oleg Daugovish, CE Ventura
- Powdery Mildew Control in Bell Pepper – Dr. Mike Coffey, UC Riverside

### **1.3 SRA Support**

The Trust continues to fund a Staff Research Associate for the UCCE Ventura farm/research advisors efforts in the county. The total expense for 2008-09 was \$64,094 and includes salary, benefits, travel and incidentals.

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

### **Education Program**

We are in our third year of the combined Cooperative Extension and Hansen Trust Education Team lead by Rose Hayden-Smith, UCCE Ventura County Director. The team includes 4-H Program Rep Susan Gloeckler, Hansen Education Program Coordinator Susana Bruzzone-Miller, and Master Gardener and Hansen Volunteer Coordinator Leah Haynes. The Trust continues to fund the MG Coordinator position at 50%.

Programs are delivered with the help of Program Assistant Annabel Faris and Hansen volunteers. Volunteer hours for direct program delivery totaled 990 hours and 2,706 hours in general support primarily for the maintenance of the educational theme gardens. Members of the farm staff also provided labor in preparing designated areas for planting and harvesting for the 4-H Farm Field Trip Program.

Accomplishments / Programs delivered this year:

#### *Youth Programs* (aligned with state curriculum standards)

- 4-H Field Trips – Held in fall and spring. Students visit the farm and participate in activities that help them understand where their food comes from and explore basic nutrients that help people and plants grow and stay healthy. Youth have the opportunity to harvest and taste farm fresh vegetables. Curriculum is geared for Kindergarten, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade and Special Ed students.
  - Total number of students reached: 982 during 19 field trips
- Classroom Outreach – Provides education in the classroom. Kindergarteners learn about the life cycle of a pumpkin from seed to pie. Second graders learn about plant parts and pollination and third graders learn about composting.
  - Total number of students reached: 497 during 5 outreach visits
- 4-H Afterschool Programs
  - Briggs School – Pilot program for students Grades 4 – 8 across the street at Briggs Elementary School held three times each month between January and May. Students learn about plant growth and development, basic gardening, nutrition, and art in the garden. 95 students enrolled completed 500 hours of instruction.
  - Cabrillo Middle School – Agricultural Journalism project with 11 students participating between January and May. Students

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research various agricultural and gardening topics and write articles for publication in county-wide newspaper.

- UC Victory Growers – A youth community gardening workshop on home vegetable gardening.
  - Total number of youths participating: 28

### *Adult Programs*

- Saturday at the Farm Program – The farm is open to the public one Saturday a month (except for July, October, December 2008 and June 2009) for self-guided farm and garden tours, the Historical Faulkner House tour, Master Gardener plant sales and various workshops. Some of the workshops are Master Gardener programs. Workshops topics include Mastering Your Home Garden and Home Vegetable Gardening. Total combined attendance at these workshops was 297.

### *Volunteer Program*

Besides volunteers helping with research projects and education program delivery, volunteers help with care and maintenance of the education theme gardens, propagation of seedlings for school gardens throughout the county, carpentry and restoration projects, and clerical projects.

Hansen Volunteers contributed a total of over 6,600 hours in 2008-09. According to the National Association of Volunteer Service, volunteer service is valued at \$20.25 per hour, which makes this year's in-kind contribution valued at \$133,670.

Forty-four new volunteers were recruited this year. At present 75% of our volunteers are Master Gardeners. Each year a small portion of Hansen Volunteers sign up and complete the Master Gardener training. We provide continuing education workshops for our volunteers once a month in topics such as composting, assembling a drip system, landscape lighting, and hand tool maintenance and repair.

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### **Goal #3 – Study, discuss and debate agricultural/urban issues for better policy decisions and achieving balance among competing interests.**

UC Hansen Trust pursues Goal #3 by funding grants through the Sheri Klittich Agricultural Literacy and Issues Grant Program. We conduct a competitive grant process in fall. If available funds are left over after the competitive process, we review and award projects on a case-by-case basis.

The review committee consisted of Chris Sayer, HAB member and Chair of the committee, Edgar Terry, HAB member, and Scott Deardorff, HAB member.

A total of \$42,040 was awarded in 2008-09. Below are the projects that were funded:

- Digging Deeper: Using Experimental Learning to Bring Home the Lessons of Farm to School – Food for Thought, Ojai - \$10,000
- California Ag in the Classroom Conference – CFAITC – \$5,000
- Ventura County Ag Futures Alliance – Ag Innovations Network – \$20,000. AFA is a community-based coalition whose goal is to maintain and enhance Ventura County agriculture.
- Watershed U – Ventura River Project – UCCE Sabrina Drill – \$7,040. Project will educate interested stakeholders and lead to the development of a comprehensive vision for the Ventura River watershed.

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

The major project this year was the refurbishment of a surplus greenhouse donated to the center from the County of Ventura. The Education Greenhouse project started in 2007-08 with dismantling and transporting the greenhouse to our center. In 2008-09, the project continued with removing existing glass, sidewall framing the door openings and laying a new foundation for the greenhouse. The project is not completed yet and the expenses for 2008-09 were \$70,019.

Smaller projects from the previous year included:

- Large Barn Lighting Project - \$1,567
- Parking lot to barns/house Lighting Project - \$1,832
- Property Signage - \$451
- Emergency access to Faulkner Well - \$759

Total expense on site development projects for 2008-09 was \$74,628.

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## **Facility Use**

The number of people that visited the Center in 2008-09 to participate in our education programs or attend various meetings and activities (including the Pumpkin Patch) was over 24,000. Besides our education programs, the facility is primarily used by the UCCE Farm Advisors conducting workshops, and the UCCE Master Gardener Program for meetings, workshops for the public, and training classes for MG applicants. The facility also housed goats for the Briggs 4-H Club's Goat Project as they prepared for the Ventura County Fair.

The Faulkner Farm Pumpkin Patch, operated by the Rotary Club of Santa Paula, is a weekends-only event in October. It is estimated that more than 20,000 people attend over the five-weekend period. The event proceeds are distributed through several non-profit organizations back to the Santa Paula community.

## **Saticoy Property**

With the on-going efforts and dedication of Allen Meacham, Assistant Director, for Endowment Real Estate at UCOP, the Saticoy Property was successfully annexed to the City of Ventura and the entitlement process was completed in March 2009. This year's costs totaled \$69,695. The entire expense to-date for development of the plan and securing the entitlements is \$1,034,794.

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**Hansen Trust Staff  
as of June 30, 2009**

Jose De Soto, Director  
Susana Bruzzone-Miller, Education Outreach Coordinator  
Annabel Faris, Program Assistant\*  
Jose Hernandez Alvarez, Farm Assistant  
Leah Haynes, Volunteer Coordinator and MG 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 Advisory Board Members  
as of June 30, 2009**

Representing Agriculture

Scott Deardorff  
Don Rodrigues  
Chris Sayer  
Edgar Terry

Representing the Ventura County Farm Bureau

John Krist

Representing the Community

Sandra Shackelford  
Michael Hause

Representing the University of California

Bill Frost  
Rose Hayden-Smith

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**REVENUE AND EXPENSE SUMMARY**

**REVENUE**

Endowment Distribution	\$ 1,034,657
Farming and Operations Income	\$ 5,820
OMP State Income	\$ 49,843
Saticoy Lease Income	\$ 23,800

**TOTAL REVENUE** **\$1,114,121**

**EXPENDITURES**

Administration	\$ 198,376
Programs	
Research and Extension	\$ 187,914
Education Outreach	\$ 191,722
Ag Literacy & Issues	\$ 50,070
Return of Unused Grant Funds	\$ <u>(14,603)</u>
Total Program Expenses	\$ 415,103
Farming/Facility	\$ 346,058
Historical Preservation	\$ 3,000
Site Development Improvements	\$ 74,627
Saticoy Property	\$ 69,696
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$1,106,860</b>

**NET REVENUE** **\$ 7,261**

The balance of the accumulated reserve at June 30, 2009 was \$500,971 net of the balance of reserves for planned maintenance and historical preservation.