



UC HANSEN AGRICULTURAL CENTER ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2009 -2010

November, 2010

As we put these lines together for the 2009 – 2010 Annual Report, we are also preparing for a *Program Review* of all our programs and activities, developed over the previous ten years. This process, instituted by the University to periodically assess the effectiveness and impact of statewide research and extension programs as well as the efficient use of their allocated resources, will allow us to maintain accountability and assure the greatest benefit to the communities we serve. The forthcoming analysis and recommendations from the Review Team will help us map the course for the years ahead.

As the “newbie” in the Director’s position, I am happy to report a very successful first year in most areas of the activities accomplished by the staff and volunteers of the Center, which could have not been achieved without their dedication and the continuous support and encouragement from all members of the Advisory Board.

This past year we initiated the unification of the different types of grants offered in the past, under a single annual Request for Projects (RFP), all of which will be reviewed by an expanded Research Advisory Committee (RAC), with input from the Advisory Board. This centralized approach will provide a more uniform format and a specific set of requirements for all project proposals, thus facilitating decision making and streamlining funding processes. The decision was also made to continuously strive to find ways for expanding every year the percentage of the budget directly allocated for project support.

Another new activity for this year was the celebration and institutionalization of an Annual Symposium designed to showcase the results of the research and educational activities funded by Hansen. The on-center educational activities, school field trips and classroom outreach visits were also expanded and increased to accommodate a larger number of children and adults and thus growing exposure to our programs.

I invite you to review the following pages and learn about our different programs and activities.

Respectfully submitted,

Jose F De Soto, Director
UC Hansen Agricultural Center

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Purpose of the UC Hansen Endowment

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.

Goals

Our goals were developed after participation of local community members and University personnel in a number of focus groups trying to determine the best way to utilize the gift that Thelma Hansen left to the University. Those goals were slightly modified at last year's Board retreat. Below are the modified goals and the relevant programs and activities that address each goal.

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

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

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

PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

Research Grant Program

In order to accomplish Goal#1 we primarily provide research grant money for studying issues relevant to Ventura County. The topics selected generally include research on exotic pests and diseases, studies on water quality management and cultural practices to meet environmental standards, and feasibility of new crops in Ventura County. During the 2009-2010 call for projects, we received 14 new project proposals requesting

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over \$250,000 in funding. The Research Advisory Committee approved five new projects in this area and awarded \$69,612 within the competitive grant process.

The Research Advisory Committee chaired by Dr. Jim Downer, included Jane Delahoyde, Oxnard Pest Control Association; Dr. Loren Oki, CE Specialist UCD; Dr. Timothy Paine, Professor and Program Leader UCR; Chris Sayer, Hansen Trust Advisory Board Chair; Laura Torte, County Director and Farm Advisor, Santa Cruz County; and Valery Mellano, UCCE Environmental Issues Advisor, San Diego County.

The addition of the last two new members allowed better management of the increased load caused by merging into one single call, all the projects submitted under the Research Competitive Grant Program and the Sheri Klittich Ag Literacy and Issues Grant Program. The augmented number will also facilitate a three year rotation of no more than one third of the members.

Below is a list of the projects that were funded.

- Classical biological control of Asian Citrus Psyllid in California – Dr. Mark Hoddle, UC Riverside - \$13,751
- Development of a sampling program for Persea Mite in avocados - Dr. Mark Hoddle, UC Riverside - \$16,613
- Mitigating alternate bearing in Nules, Clementine and Pixie mandarin in Ventura County – Dr. Carol Lovatt, UC Riverside - \$16,853
- Nutrient uptake of different California native plants to be used as bio-filters – Dr. Donald Merhault, UC Riverside - \$22,395

On-Site Research Projects

In addition to supplying monetary resources for the completion of research projects, Hansen currently provides free of charge the land, limited labor, and materials for the preparation and maintenance of several on-site research projects carried out by the local Farm Advisors. This activity also contributes to further our efforts towards Goal #1.

During 2009 - 2010 we increased the direct participation of the Hansen Volunteers and Master Gardeners in support of the projects established at the Center. Their involvement with and understanding of the project objectives and the researcher needs provided an additional educational experience for these avid life-learners and contributed to the dissemination of the lessons learned in the field. Their combined efforts provided over 1000 labor hours. Expenses for this year totaled \$26,571.

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The following is a list of research projects that were on-going in 2009 - 2010:

- 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
- 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
- Optimizing Anaerobic Soil Disinfestations – Dr. Oleg Daugovish, CE Ventura

New projects started in 2009 - 2010:

- Evaluation of Container Media for Home Gardeners – Dr. Jim Downer, UCCE Ventura

Projects that ended in 2009-10:

- Weed Control in Strawberries, Flavor and Sugar Development – Dr. Oleg Daugovish, UCCE Ventura
- Blueberry Variety Trial – Dr. Ben Faber, UCCE Ventura
- Strawberry Establishment Irrigation – Dr. Oleg Daugovish and Dr. Ben Faber, UCCE Ventura.

SRA Support

In an effort to support the UCCE Ventura Farm Advisors' contribution to the county, a full time Staff Research Associate position has been funded since 1998. The total expense for 2009 - 2010 was \$65,821 including salary, benefits, travel and incidentals.

Research Symposium

In December 2009, the Hansen Agricultural Center demonstrated a commitment to address and support the critical issues affecting Ventura County agriculture by sponsoring the first annual Ventura County Research Symposium in collaboration with UC Cooperative Extension-Ventura. Eighty-eight participants attended a program designed to highlight results from previously Hansen funded research projects, The agenda included presentations on *“Ventura County’s Agricultural Future: Challenges and Opportunities”* by Dr. Bill Watkins; *“Carbon dioxide: A new tool to increase the yield of red raspberries”* by Dr. Oleg Daugovish, UCCE Farm Advisor; *“Emerging pests and pathogens in Ventura County, and what is being done to combat them”* by Dr. Ben Faber and Dr. Oleg Daugovish; *“New crop varieties that can help Ventura County growers keep*

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their profitable edge in the global marketplace” by Dr. Ben Faber, UCCE Farm Advisor. Chris Sayer, UC Hansen Trust Advisory Board Chair, provided a final summary.

Education Program

Over 3250 youth (K-8th grade) participated in agriculture literacy programs this year. Interactive hands-on activities aligned to California content standards entertained and educated students emphasizing the importance of agriculture, natural and renewable resources, plant growth and development, and nutrition

Volunteers, an important programming component, contributed 2289 hours in program delivery and support, and over 1800 hours maintaining the educational theme gardens. Farm staff provided labor for preparation, planting, and maintenance of designated areas used for harvesting activities in the 4-H Farm Field Trip Program.

Accomplishments / Programs delivered this year:

Youth Programs (California content standards-aligned)

- 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, 2nd, 3rd Grade and modified for Special Education students.
 - Total number of students reached: 1154 during 30 field trips. We also had increased parent participation totaling 266 adults reached. There was an overall 15% increase in student participation over the previous year.
- 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: 578 during 6 outreach visits
 - Total number of adults reached: 25
- Afterschool Programs
 - Briggs School – This program was carried out from January to May 2010. 20 students from grades 5th to 8th participated in 9 meetings for a total of 13.5 hours of instruction to install a garden in the Briggs School courtyard. Students assisted with every aspect of the garden installation. Other topics included: Where does food come from, nutrition, harvesting, cooking, composting and beneficial insects.

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- Other outreach: Two military camps, one science night, one CWA Farm Day that reached 856 youth and 204 adults, and one teacher training.

The ethnicity breakdown for students reach was:

- Asian – 2%
- Black – 1%
- Hispanic – 46%
- Native American – 1%
- White – 50%

Adult Programs

- Saturday at the Farm Program – The farm is open to the public one Saturday a month (except for July, October and December 2009) for various workshops including 4 seasonal VC Master Gardener sponsored workshops, self-guided farm, garden, and Historical Faulkner House tours, and Master Gardener plant sales. Total combined attendance at these workshops was 260.

Volunteer Program

In addition to helping with direct research, project support, and education program delivery, volunteers help with a number of other tasks like care and maintenance of the education theme gardens, propagation of seedlings for school gardens throughout the county, and carpentry, restoration and clerical projects.

Hansen Volunteers and Master Gardeners contributed a total of 7837.5 hours in 2009 - 2010. According to the National Association of Volunteer Service, each hour is valued at \$20.25, which makes this year's in-kind contribution reach almost \$160,000. Their total combined experience and diversity of backgrounds provided hours of invaluable collaboration.

Thirty-five 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. Hansen also funds a 50% Master Gardener Coordinator position to support the outreach efforts of this group in Ventura County.

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Ag Literacy and Issues Grant Program

Goal #3 is achieved by funding grants through the Sheri Klittich Agricultural Literacy and Issues Grant Program. In order to facilitate the funding process, this type of grant was included with the general request for projects and reviewed by the Hansen Research Advisory Committee with input from the Advisory Board.

A total of ten proposals requesting over \$180,000 in funds were presented at the last call for projects. Three projects totaling \$65,000 were approved for funding in 2009 – 2010. Below are the projects that were selected:

- Asian Citrus Psyllid/Huanglongbing Education and Outreach – ACP/HLB Task Force (coordinated by Ventura County Farm Bureau) - \$35,000
- Beauties and Beasts: Insects in Agriculture – Ventura County Farm Museum – \$10,000
- 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.

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Facility Use

The number of people that visited the Center in 2009 - 2010 to participate in our education programs or attend various meetings and activities (including the Pumpkin Patch) was over 21,000. 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 designation of the Hansen Agricultural Center as a Master Gardener approved site and the extensive use that they have of our facilities is another way in which Hansen contributes to the Ventura County Cooperative Extension efforts. 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. This past year more than 18,000 people attended over the four-weekend period. The event proceeds are distributed through several non-profit organizations in the Santa Paula community.

Saticoy Property

Thought the Saticoy property is ready for sale with entitlements, the Regents of the University of California have decided to hold going forward until the market improves. The University will periodically touch base with the consultants that are monitoring the market. . No expenses were incurred this year for the Saticoy Property.

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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, 2010

Representing Agriculture

Scott Deardorff
Don Rodrigues
Chris Sayer (Chair)
Edgar Terry

Representing VC 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 Interest Distribution	\$1,031,822
Farming and Operations Income	\$ 2,269
OMP State Funding	\$ 41,464
Saticoy Lease Income	\$ 23,650
TOTAL REVENUE	\$1,099,205

EXPENDITURES

PERSONNEL	\$653,284
Administration	\$ 241,243
Program Outreach	\$ 92,908
Facilities	\$319,133
GRANT AWARDS	\$142,201
Research	\$ 73,603
Ag Lit & Issues	\$ 68,750
Return of Unused Grant Award	\$ (152)
SUPPLIES / EXPENSES	\$108,431
Administration	\$ 19,632
Program Outreach	\$ 13,633
Facilities	\$ 75,166
TRAVEL / STAFF DEVELOPMENT	\$ 2,473
CONTRACT LABOR/CONTRACTORS	\$ 1,469
MAJOR SITE PROJECTS	\$ 32,691
UCCE SUPPORT	
SRA – Personnel & Expenses	\$ 69,104
Master Gardener Coordinator Personnel & Exp.	\$ 31,687
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$1,041,340
NET REVENUE	\$ 57,864

The balance of the accumulated reserve at June 30, 2010 was \$565,477 net of the balance of reserves for planned maintenance and historical preservation.

The market value of the endowment at June 30, 2010 was \$22,169,867.