



University of California

Agriculture and Natural Resources | Research and Extension Center System

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**Message from the director: Jeff Dahlberg**

Rain in December and we all hoped for a break in this drought. Unfortunately, January was the driest month on record since they started to measure such things here in the state. We can only hope that things will get wet in February and March and help relieve some of the water pressures facing our Valley growers. It is supposed to be in the 70's this first week of February and driving around there are already some orchards in full bloom. It would be nice to get back to a "normal" winter one of these years. We continue to prepare for the coming season, so our crews have been busy pruning and preparing fields. A new almond orchard has been planted, as well as two new table grape varieties, and a new promising raisin variety. A 4-6 acre Peach/Nectarine plot is going in that will be used to showcase best practice management strategies that have been advocated from the UC system over the last 30 years. This should be a great teaching tool for the Center.

We welcomed Andreas Westphal and his wife Fen to the Center. Dr. Westphal is our new nematologist here on the Center and we look forward to his research getting off the ground and running in the next couple of months. Dr. Florent Trujillas is settling in and getting to know the commodities he will be working with and setting up his lab. We are interviewing for a Ag Engineer this month and ANR will be looking for an irrigation specialist and a new entomologist later this year. I'm really excited about the possibility of new folks here on the Center.

We are preparing for the Tulare World Ag Expo Febraury 10-12 in Pavillion A, space 1412. We'll be sharing some of the research and outreach activities taking place on the Center, so I look forward to seeing you at the Expo. We are also preparing a celebration for our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, so look for some additional information about this event on our web page in the near future.

As always, feel free to contact me at [jadahlberg@ucanr.edu](mailto:jadahlberg@ucanr.edu), through our Facebook page, [blog](#), or at our [website](#).

*Jeff Dahlberg*



### **A new nematologist joined Kearney January 15, 2015.**

Andreas Westphal, UC Assistant Cooperative Extension Specialist in the Department of Nematology at UC Riverside and UC ANR Kearney Agricultural Research and Extension Center started January 15, 2015.

Westphal's research program will focus on nematode problems of tree and vine crops. He will explore a multitude of cultural, biological and chemical strategies for managing nematodes in almond, grape, peach, walnut and other crops. Westphal moved here from the Julius Kühn-Institut, Braunschweig, Germany where he researched nematode management on field crops, and was responsible for determining plant resistance to plant-parasitic nematodes in a cultivar release program. [Read more.](#)

### **Come visit the UC ANR booths at the 2015 World Ag Expo.**

On your tour of World Ag Expo 2015, make sure to come by the University of California [Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources](#) (UC ANR) exhibits clustered at booths **1411** - [UC Cooperative Extension, Tulare County](#) office; **1412** - UC ANR [Kearney Agricultural Research & Extension Center](#) (KARE); **1512** - UC ANR [Lindcove Research & Extension Center](#) (LREC); and **1513** - University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Other ANR booths include booths **M54** - UC Conservation Agriculture Systems Innovation ([CASI](#)); **6014** - UC Davis [Veterinary Medicine Teaching and Research Center](#); and **8013 & 8014** - [UC Davis College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences](#). [Read more.](#)



### **Girl Scouts enjoy being crop science investigators at the GIRL Expo.**

Girl scouts, parents and scout leaders investigated pest management and agricultural careers at the GIRL Expo organized by Girl Scouts of Central California South on January 24, 2015. The annual scouting event attracts more than 1,200 visitors from Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera and Tulare counties for a day of "learning by doing" and inspiring girls to take action for their planet and their communities.

Roberta Barton and Julie Sievert represented UC ANR Kearney Agricultural, [West Side](#) and Lindcove Research and Extension Centers at an interactive information booth in the "CSI" area. In keeping with the crime scene investigation theme, different "crop science investigation" dioramas were presented containing clues to common pests and pest management methods. [More information.](#)

### **Jeff Mitchell receives grant funds for new high school ag sustainability courses.**

[Jeff Mitchell](#), Cooperative Extension Cropping Systems Specialist at the UC Davis Department of Plant Sciences and Kearney Agricultural Research & Extension Center, recently received a [\\$5000 grant](#) from the agricultural biotechnology company Monsanto to support a program of high school activities aimed at Ag sustainability.

Mitchell will work with the Conservation Agriculture Systems Innovation ([CASI](#)) Center, which promotes the principles of conservation agriculture, which include reduced soil disturbance, permanent soil cover cropping, and crop rotation practices.





### **Scholarships available for California Naturalist training in the Central Valley.**

[Applications](#) are now being accepted for scholarships to attend [California Naturalist](#) training in the San Joaquin Valley and central Sierra region in 2015. To become a certified California Naturalist, trainees take part in 40 hours of classroom and field courses and complete a capstone project.

Partial scholarships will be awarded in two categories: Student Scholars Award and Service Award. The Student Scholars Awards are open to graduating high school seniors and currently enrolled college students. The Service Awards are open to people engaged in work (volunteer or paid) that directly impacts under-served communities. [Read more.](#)



### **Students explore science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) career pathways at Kearney.**

UC ANR Kearney Agricultural Research and Extension Center is providing fun learning opportunities to Fresno Unified School District 4th grade students and W.E.B. DuBois & Carter G. Woodson Public Charter Schools' students.

The teachers get lesson plans on experimental design and integrated pest management strategies prior to the students coming for their field trip. Each field trip has a tour where students learn about different crops, issues, and experimental designs. After the field trip, the students learn about how UC helps people and the environment. They are also exposed to “the more you learn, the more you earn” concept and given examples of great local STEM related career opportunities. [Read more.](#)

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