

What is UC Cooperative Extension doing to adapt to the changes in agriculture here on the Central Coast?

Everybody knows that the agriculture of the Central Coast of California encompasses a wide diversity of crops – anything from the berries, to the production of landscape plants, to standards like corn, beans, squash and timber.

Some of these areas of agriculture are well covered by UCCE Farm Advisors and some indeed have whole assignments dedicated to them. But also the Central Coast has whole classes of agriculture; diversified farms, organic production practices, forestry and a burgeoning tree crop sector which would benefit much from the research and extension efforts that UCCE can offer.

To address these areas, your office of UC Cooperative Extension here in Santa Cruz County has posted two position proposals for consideration; one for a Farm Advisor in diversified farms, tree crops and organic farming systems and the other for an Advisor in forestry.

The Farm Advisor in diversified farms, tree crops and organic farming systems program would be expected to address current and emerging issues that are critical to the sustainability and profitability of these farms. The position is designed to address the challenges, from production to marketing in these unique operations which are such a large part of the agricultural community here on the Central Coast.

The link to this position posting and opportunity to write a note of support is here:

http://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/Divisionwide_Planning/2016_Call_for_Position/?propnum=4502#position_details

The Forestry Advisor will be expected to run a program of research and extension excellence addressing the challenges facing local landowners, companies and land trusts in the uniquely regulated forests of the Santa Cruz Mountains of the Southern District of the Central Coast region. The position will generate information on the management of local forests for silviculture, air and water quality, wildlife and fisheries management and recreation and extend it to clientele.

The link to this position posting and opportunity to write a note of support is here:

http://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/Divisionwide_Planning/2016_Call_for_Position/?propnum=4484#position_details

The process to getting these positions to move forward and getting an Advisor is highly competitive. For us to get these positions, it is absolutely a plus to have those letters of support be written by the people who would directly benefit from them – the growers, the timber industry and related operations.

Your support for these positions is very much appreciated!

If you have further questions concerning these two position proposals for Santa Cruz County, please contact Mark Bolda at 763-8025 or mpbolda@ucanr.edu.