

FARM, HOME & 4-H

MISSION STATEMENT

The Farm, Home & 4-H Department, also known as the University of California (UC) Cooperative Extension, is part of a statewide system that makes UC research based information available to the public, local agencies and industries. Our mission is to serve the County through the creation, development and application of knowledge in agricultural sustainability, natural resources and youth and family development.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

The Department consists of 15 county based University of California paid staff—two Farm Advisors, one Nutrition and Family Consumer Science Advisor, one 4-H Youth Development Advisor, one Research Field Assistant, nine program staff, one Master Gardener Coordinator, and three county-paid clerical staff. In addition, the Department is served by three cross-county advisors and Specialists and Agriculture Experiment Station faculty at the Riverside, Davis & Berkeley campuses. All work on problems identified by local clientele and the University.

The **4-H Youth Development Program** provides meaningful, learn-by-doing educational activities and is locally administered through the Department. Over 525 Butte County youth between kindergarten and age 19 are enrolled and 195 adult volunteer leaders assist with this program. Over 4,000 students participated in our agriculture literacy program.

The **Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program** is directed to families with children near and below the poverty income level. Teaching nutrition, food preparation, food safety and shopping skills, this program reached over 200 families and reached over 900 persons in program families.

The **Youth Food Stamp Nutrition Education Program** reached about 4,800 low-income Butte County school children. Nutrition education activities are brought to the classroom with over 193 teachers trained and 18 schools participating.

The **Agriculture and Natural Resource Program** is aimed at sustaining Butte County agricultural productivity and competitiveness and enhancing the health and safety of local growers. Together with local growers, allied industries and University of California (UC) Specialists, they identify current and emerging agricultural opportunities and problems.

Started in 2006, the **Master Gardener Program** has four trained volunteers who help the Farm Advisors by providing practical scientific horticulture & gardening information to the public. In May 2008, 22 Master Gardener trainees will complete their 17 week training and will be prepared to assist in public service outreach.

From this Department, Farm Advisors serve on the Technical Advisory Committee of the Butte County Water Commission & Butte Basin Water Users Association, Weed Management District Committee, and Butte County Land Conservation Act Committee. Nutrition staff collaborates with Public Health, CHDP, schools and local community agencies to better serve families.

Summary of Departmental Budget Request

- The Department budget request includes funding to maintain the current staff of three County funded clerical staff and existing operation levels to support the work of 15 University of California employees as well as required work called for by the County.
- The Department budget includes additional funding to replace two vehicles and paving of the parking lot adjacent to the Farm, Home, and 4-H office.

CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE RECOMMENDATION:

- The recommendation includes sufficient appropriations to maintain fiscal year 2007-2008 staffing and operation levels for the department.
- The recommendation includes one-time funding (\$14,000) for pothole repair in the parking lot adjacent to the Farm, Home and 4-H office.