



## **POSITION VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

**University of California Cooperative Extension  
Division of Agriculture & Natural Resources**

### **Crop Production/Entomology Advisor (#ACCSO-08-04)**

**Location:** **Eastern Riverside County (Palo Verde Valley), California  
Headquarters in satellite office - Blythe, California**

**Closing Date:** **To assure full consideration, application packets must be  
received by January 15, 2009 (Open Until Filled)**

**Background:** The Palo Verde Valley is the second largest agricultural production area in Riverside County. Agricultural production primarily includes field crops production of cotton and alfalfa with a rapidly growing industry of vegetable and tree crops. Total crop acreage exceeds 120,000 with gross value exceeding \$110 million dollars. Cotton and alfalfa, the primary crops, include over 81,000 acres and produce close to 430,000 tons of feed and 31,000 tons of cotton staples and seed. The Palo Verde Valley, like most agricultural valleys in the western U.S., has a unique production situation. The hot dry desert conditions allow for year-round irrigated production. Environmental conditions, soil and irrigation aspects, and pest problems are similar to contiguous areas of Arizona, which allows for cross-state collaboration. Unique production practices allow specialization in many areas of pest management and growing conditions. The position, headquartered in Blythe, and located in eastern Riverside County, is about 165 miles from the main Moreno Valley office and 90 miles from the Coachella Valley.

The successful candidate will join a distinguished team of Farm Advisors who specialize in entomology, water resources, weed science, viticulture production, vegetable production, agricultural economics, urban horticulture and floriculture as well as programs in 4H and 4H subtropical horticulture. The county provides excellent support including office space for the advisor, a laboratory and clerical support. The area is rich with research opportunities and funding from a variety of sources.

**NATURE AND PURPOSE:** The Crop Production/Entomology Advisor is responsible for designing and implementing applied research programs related to crop production with emphasis on maximizing production, quality and economic returns. The focus will be on increasing productivity and efficiency of commercial crop production, thus maximizing the return on invested capital, and at the same time providing consumers with a high quality, safe, and reasonably-priced product.

The Advisor is expected to focus on agronomic crops including cotton, forage crops, wheat, new alternative crops and vegetable crops. A large variety of field and vegetable crops are grown in the Palo Verde Valley with the majority of acreage being forages such as alfalfa (70% of total acreage), bermudagrass (both seed and hay) kleingrass, and timothy grass. Other crops include cotton, melons, sweet corn, onion seed, wheat, lettuces, broccoli and some vegetable seed crops in addition to peaches and citrus. The low desert is a unique area in terms of new pests and invasive species. The Advisor is expected to contribute to a statewide effort to implement an IPM approach to pest management by addressing issues of the low desert for both irrigation/water and pest management.

The Advisor will work with a broad spectrum of clientele, including large- and small-scale producers, public agencies, agricultural-related businesses, and consumer-oriented groups. The Advisor will extend results of research, as well as other pertinent information, in a timely fashion for utilization by producers, Pest Control Advisers, and other groups/individuals.

**MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES:** Academic appointees in Cooperative Extension are responsible for performance in four major areas: extending knowledge and information; applied research and creative activity; professional competence; and University and public service.

Crop Production/Entomology Advisor in eastern Riverside County is expected to:

- Conduct research in crop production in areas such as entomology, plant pathology, weed sciences, integrated pest management, plant nutrition and variety testing. New potential crops, as well as those already in existence, need local research and education programs due to the unique environmental conditions for crop production; where appropriate, collaborate with others to conduct economic analyses.
- Provide research results and educational information to various clientele groups for the major expanding and new alternative crops;
- Provide local leadership needed for important issues facing agriculture such as pest management, diseases and the transaction and use of water resources in the Palo Verde Valley;
- Provide services to large-scale as well as limited-resource growers, and provide diagnostic services for production problems;
- Disseminate information to Pest Control Advisers, growers, allied industry personnel, other government agencies, fellow UC personnel and the public;
- Establish productive research and extension collaborations with fellow farm advisors, locally and in other counties, UC specialists, campus-based UC researchers, and researchers from non-UC institutions;
- Engage in multi-state research with other land grant university personnel; and
- Demonstrate exemplary professionalism in dealing with clientele, colleagues and the public.

**Extension:**

- The advisor will extend research-based applied information to the primary audience of commercial growers and Pest Control Advisers through newsletters, publications, meetings, websites, popular articles, farm calls, demonstrations and other means as suitable; and
- Publish research-based findings in peer-reviewed articles and publications contributing to the scientific body of knowledge in the appropriate discipline.

**Relationships:** The Advisor is administratively responsible to the Cooperative Extension County Director in Riverside County and, through the County Director, to the Regional Director in the Central Coast and South Region.

**AFFIRMATIVE ACTION:** Implement outreach efforts to ensure nondiscrimination in program identification and delivery. Promote and encourage maximum participation of minorities, women, and other underserved groups. Include outreach objectives as a component in planning, implementing, and evaluating program efforts. Establish and update statistical data pertaining to populations served, and to be served, by programs. Record, document, and report outreach plans, goals, activities, progress and results; and submit required activity reports as scheduled.

**EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:** A minimum of a **Master's degree** in plant science, entomology, vegetable or agronomic crops production, or a related agricultural field is required. Coursework may include entomology, statistics, soils, irrigation, plant physiology or plant pathology.

Experience in conducting applied research and education programs is required. Experience in crop production is desirable.

**SALARY:** Beginning salary will be in the Cooperative Extension Assistant rank, commensurate with applicable experience and professional qualifications.

The Advisor position is an academic career-track appointment. Prior to the completion of the initial appointment, the position and the incumbent's performance will be reviewed. If the review reflects a continuing need for the position and the incumbent's performance is judged to be of high quality, the incumbent will be offered a second definite term appointment of two years, subject to renewal based on the same criteria. After a maximum of three such consecutive definite term appointments, a decision, based upon the above criteria, will be made whether or not to offer an indefinite appointment (equivalent to tenure).

If the successful candidate is currently a UCCE Advisor, the candidate will be offered the position as a lateral transfer, retaining their current rank, step, salary, and definite or indefinite status.

**BENEFITS:** The University of California offers comprehensive benefits including two days per month paid vacation, one day per month paid sick leave, and approximately thirteen paid holidays per year. ANR is part of UC's Family-Friendly Policies. A variety of health and dental insurance plans are available, with employer contributions to the premiums. In addition, the University provides basic life and disability insurance, which may be supplemented at group rates. Workers' Compensation Insurance is provided. An excellent UC Retirement System is coordinated with social security, and optional annuity plans may supplement retirement. Automobile insurance is available. Sabbatical and study leaves are available. For more information, refer to the UC Benefits website at: <http://atyourservice.ucop.edu>.

**INTERVIEWS:** A search committee will review all applications and associated materials, interview candidates, and recommend individuals most suitable for the position. Candidates selected will be asked to come to the Blythe satellite office for an interview and seminar presentation. Travel expenses for interviews will be reimbursed according to University of California policy.

**HOW TO APPLY:** To be considered, applicants must submit the following four components (by hard copy) of the Application Packet:

- 1) Cover Letter indicating interest in the position.
- 2) UC-ANR Academic Application form—which can be downloaded in PDF format from our website (<http://ccsr.ucdavis.edu/>)
- 3) Brief resume.
- 4) College Level Transcripts (original transcripts preferred, however, legible photocopies of original transcripts will be accepted. Transcripts downloaded from websites will not be accepted.)

Please do NOT send Letters of Reference. If you are selected for an interview, the Search Committee will contact the references you listed on the UC-ANR application form--a minimum of four (4), and a maximum of six (6) names, current addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses.

**Application and associated materials will not be returned to the applicant.**

To request a UC-ANR Academic Application packet,  
or  
For questions on the application process, contact us at:  
[ccsracadrecruitment@ucdavis.edu](mailto:ccsracadrecruitment@ucdavis.edu)  
or Phone (951) 827-2529

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For further questions on the position details, contact:  
Eta Takele, County Director ([ettakele@ucdavis.edu](mailto:ettakele@ucdavis.edu))  
or Jose Aguiar, Search Committee Chair

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Return completed application packet to:  
Debora Felix, c/o Academic Recruitment  
ANR - Central Coast & South Region, #213  
University of California  
Riverside, CA 92521  
Phone (951) 827-2529; Fax: (951) 827-2328

To download the UC-ANR Academic Application form, and related materials,  
visit our CCSR Regional website at: <http://ccsr.ucdavis.edu>

**Please refer to Position #ACCSO-08-04**

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