

University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources

POSITION VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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

**Area Environmental Horticulture Advisor
Serving Fresno, Madera, Tulare and Kings Counties
AP #15-05**

Location Headquarters: Fresno County, Fresno, California

CLOSING DATE: To assure full consideration, application packets must be received by August 28, 2015 (open until filled)

BACKGROUND and PURPOSE: The University of California, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, a statewide program with local development and delivery, is seeking a Cooperative Extension (CE) area environmental horticulture advisor to conduct an extension, education and applied research program that will provide technical support for sustainable and best management practices to professionals in the turfgrass, ornamental, and environmental horticulture industries, including landscape maintenance, floriculture and nursery production, arboriculture/urban forestry, and golf course/sports turf management. Research and extension topics include water conservation in landscapes including degraded water reuse, and pesticide training to protect water quality. Research and education in the area of reduced nitrogen use in urban landscapes and large parks/golf



courses is critical to contributing to an overall reduction in nitrates moving into ground water. Many of the invasive species recently found in California are linked to commercial nurseries, home gardeners, and materials brought into the area intentionally or unintentionally from other countries. Because of the large immigrant population in these counties, the CE advisor can focus on extending information about the importance of these pests to agriculture and be a part of the first line of detection of new pests.

The CE advisor will also provide programmatic support and academic leadership to the UC Master Gardener (MG) Programs in Fresno, Madera, Tulare, and Kings Counties and supervise the two MG coordinators overseeing these volunteer programs as outlined in the statewide and local MG policies. MG volunteers serve urban, suburban, and rural residents engaged in home horticulture in all four counties and these volunteers require the subject matter expertise of an environmental horticulture advisor in order to develop and better extend appropriate science-based information and recommendations.

Key clientele also include wholesale container and field-grown nursery personnel, retail nursery personnel, maintenance gardeners, and parks personnel, the Metropolitan Flood Control District, Tree Fresno, Urban Tree Foundation, California Landscape Contractors Association, California Association of Nurseries & Garden Centers, International Society of Arboriculture, Golf Course Superintendents Association, and Pesticide Applicators Professional Association.



The UC ANR Strategic Vision guides our priorities in research, education, service, and resource allocation. The Strategic Vision is available at:

[http://ucanr.edu/About ANR/Strategic Vision/](http://ucanr.edu/About%20ANR/Strategic%20Vision/). UC ANR is a network of colleagues with a focus on research, education programs, and outreach to resolve local challenges in

communities where they live and work. Please read about these vibrant counties and UCCE programs at <http://cetulare.ucanr.edu/> , <http://cefresno.ucanr.edu/> , <http://cemadera.ucanr.edu/>, and <http://cekings.ucanr.edu/>

EXTENSION:

The CE advisor will provide research-based information and educational outreach in sustainable landscape practices, production issues, irrigation and pest management across many ornamental commodities including urban forestry and urban agriculture. The CE advisor will collaborate with professionals and organizations in the environmental horticulture/landscape industry to organize and present educational programs for clientele including seminars, workshops, field days, tours, meetings and web conferences. Knowledge and information will be extended to clientele via newsletters, web sites, and articles in popular press and professional journals, ANR publications, and electronic and social media.

RESEARCH:

This position will conduct applied research through interactions with UC academics, including campus faculty, CE specialists and CE advisors and working with appropriate internal and external partners including two UC ANR workgroups (Landscape & Urban Horticulture and Nursery & Floriculture). The UC Nursery and Floriculture Alliance (at UC Davis), the Turfgrass CE specialist (at UC Riverside), and UC Statewide Integrated Pest

Management Program provide additional linkages. The CE advisor will also have connections with the UC ANR California Communities Program Team which includes Urban Food Systems CE advisors, Small Farms CE advisors, Nutrition, Family and Consumer Science CE advisors, local USDA and UC Agricultural Sustainability Institute/UC ANR Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program staff.

The CE advisor will evaluate and assess the impact of projects and their benefits to local communities. In addition to environmental horticulture, areas of research may include urban food production, direct marketing, education, and/or policy related to these fields of study. The research areas addressed by the CE advisor will focus on the UC ANR Strategic Initiatives and include: Improved Water Quality, Quantity and Security; Managing Endemic and Invasive Pests; and Enhancing the Health of Californians. Specific research efforts will be identified and prioritized based upon statewide needs as well as local needs assessment results.

Publication opportunities include: American Society of Horticultural Science Journal, Horticultural Science, online agricultural science journals, California Agriculture, UCCE ANR Publications, UC Nursery and Floriculture Alliance Newsletters, manuals, web sites, commodity technical reports, and popular press.

MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Conduct and report regular needs assessments to identify priority issues or problems relevant to the local clientele groups being served.
- Develop and implement effective UC ANR Cooperative Extension applied research and educational programs to address the identified priority needs of the clientele that are consistent with ANR's Strategic Vision and ANR initiatives
<http://ucanr.edu/files/906.pdf>
 - Conduct applied research designed to solve locally relevant problems and to monitor changes.
 - Disseminate useful, science-based information to inform clientele, using extension methods that are responsive to clientele needs and appropriate for the audience and situation.
 - Evaluate programs and report accomplishments, results, and potential or actual impacts to scientific and lay audiences.
 - Develop collaborative teams with other UC ANR academics, including campus-based CE specialists, AES faculty, CE advisors and/or others, to address priority issues for UC ANR.
- Provide leadership and oversight to Master Gardener program coordinators and volunteers.
- Represent UCCE in county government and other clientele group meetings as directed by the county director.

RELATIONSHIPS: The CE advisor is administratively responsible to the UCCE Fresno-Madera MCP Director, with input from the Tulare-Kings County Director.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION: An understanding of and commitment to UC ANR's affirmative action goals and commitments is expected of all advisors.

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE: A minimum of a master's degree is required in an appropriate agricultural discipline such as environmental/ornamental horticulture, urban agriculture or a related field of study. Experience working with ornamental production, turfgrass, forestry, or landscape maintenance, and/or small scale agriculture production industries would be beneficial. Excellent written, oral and interpersonal communication skills are required. A demonstrated ability in applied agricultural research and extension experience is highly desirable. Supervision experience is desirable.

SALARY: Beginning salary will be in the Cooperative Extension Assistant Advisor Rank and commensurate with applicable experience and professional qualifications. For information regarding the Cooperative Extension advisor salary scale, please refer to: <http://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/files/187037.pdf>.

If the successful candidate is currently a UCCE academic with indefinite status, the candidate will be offered the position commensurate with applicable experience and professional qualifications with eligibility to retain such 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. This position is eligible for sabbatical leave privileges as per the terms of University policy. For more information, refer to the UC Benefits website at: <http://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/>

HOW TO APPLY: To be considered, applicants must electronically submit the following four components of the Application Packet to ANRacademicsearch@ucop.edu:

1. Cover Letter
2. ANR Academic Application Form— from the ANR website at: <http://ucanr.edu/academicapplication>

Please include a list of potential references. 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 email addresses). Please do not send letters of reference.

3. CV or Resume
4. College Level Transcripts: Only electronic transcripts or legible photocopies of original transcripts will be accepted.

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

A search committee will review all applications, interview candidates, and recommend individuals most suitable for the position.

For information regarding this position, please contact

***University of California
ANR Academic Personnel
Kim Ingram
(530) 750-1282***

E-mail Address: ANRacademicsearch@ucop.edu

Internet: <http://www.ucanr.edu/jobs>

PLEASE REFER TO POSITION NUMBER AP #15-05 IN ALL CORRESPONDENCE

The University of California is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, age, protected veteran status or other protected categories covered by the UC nondiscrimination policy.

As of January 1, 2014, ANR is a smoke- and tobacco-free environment in which smoking, the use of smokeless tobacco products, and the use of unregulated nicotine products (e-cigarettes), is strictly prohibited.