

2005-2006 GRAND JURY REPORT

Riverside County

Cooperative Extension Program

Background

In 1917, the Riverside County Board of Supervisors created a county support base, which is known as the Cooperative Extension Program, to work with the University of California and the United States Department of Agriculture.

Mission Statement

"The mission of the University of California Cooperative Extension in Riverside County is to serve the people of Riverside County by providing science-based research, education and public service to help them solve problems in agriculture, natural resources (including environmental quality), food and nutrition, food safety and human community development.

The areas of staff expertise in agriculture include: agronomy, vegetable crop production, integrated pest control and entomology, field crop production, viticulture, plant pathology, subtropical crop production, agricultural economics and poultry and animal sciences, and environmental resources. We also have expertise in the human resources including 4-H youth development, nutrition and consumer sciences, family well-being, environmental enhancement and community development."

The basic system for the delivery of services is through academic personnel working out of county offices staffed by campus-based academic specialists. Most Cooperative Extension services are free or at a minimal fee to all interested persons.

SOURCES OF FUNDING FISCAL YEAR 2004-2005		
University	44%	\$863,000
Gifts / Grants	21%	\$420,300
Federal	17%	\$325,100
Riverside County	18%	\$348,000
Total Budget	100%	\$1,956,400

The three offices of the Cooperative Extension in Indio, Blythe and Moreno Valley, are important information sources. The following is a summary of programs provided in 2004-2005.

PROGRAMS IN 2004-2005	
Educational	598
Master Gardener	28
4-H Youth Development	70
Research	38
Total Programs	734

Findings

1. The expertise provided by the Riverside County Cooperative Extension is instrumental to egg processing facilities and preventing the spread of Avian Influenza, also known as the Bird Flu. In a joint effort with the Cooperative Extension Program, a Riverside County Avian Influenza Task Force was organized and includes several county health agencies.
2. The County of Riverside leases space for the Cooperative Extension's main office in Moreno Valley from the Farm Bureau for \$108,368. This 6,000 square-foot workplace accommodates 18 employees, offices, and small and large conference rooms.

3. There are no laboratory facilities available, forcing researchers to use their workrooms as makeshift laboratories both in Moreno Valley and Indio. Some researchers have indicated that this is disruptive and sometimes hinders research. Indio personnel must transport samples and equipment to Riverside, which can compromise the quality of samples.
4. The Indio office is based in the County Administration Center and has 900 square-feet of workspace. This includes just one office for five employees plus seasonal staff.

Recommendations

Riverside County Board of Supervisors Cooperative Extension Director

1. Riverside County Board of Supervisors continue to support and budget for the Cooperative Extension and its joint effort with the Avian Influenza Task Force.
2. The Board of Supervisors provide a main office with space for:
 - a. A 700 square-foot research laboratory to include:
 - Natural gas
 - Fume hood
 - Water
 - Bench space
 - b. Conference room with a capacity for 150

3. The Board of Supervisors provide the Indio staff space for:
 - a. A 700 square-foot research laboratory to include:
 - Natural gas
 - Fume hood
 - Water
 - Bench space
 - b. Four offices
 - c. Conference room with a capacity for 20
 - d. Work area to house a large photocopier with collator computer, postage meter and table

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