

Entomology Advisor

Applied Research and Extension

Serving Imperial County

Position Overview

The University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR) offers a unique recruitment opportunity for a **UC Cooperative Extension (UCCE) Entomology Advisor**. UC ANR operates a statewide network of researchers and educators dedicated to the development and application of knowledge to address local agricultural, environmental and health issues. Over 150 UC ANR UCCE advisors conduct research, outreach and education from locally based CE offices serving all 58 counties from 70+ locations throughout the state. Our mission is to bring the power of the University of California directly to Californians through research, extension and education programs that support:

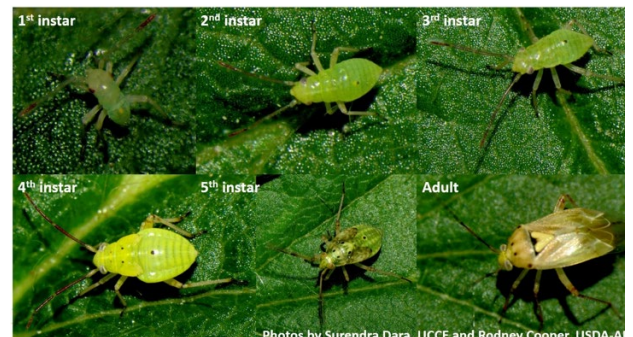
- Sustainable, safe, and nutritious food production and delivery
- Economic success in a global economy
- A sustainable, healthy, and productive environment
- Science literacy and youth development

By working and living among those we serve, UC ANR expands the University of California's reach to engage all people and communities in California, ensuring equal access to the UC system.

Location Headquarters: UCCE Imperial County, Holtville, California

Purpose

Various crops (field, vegetable and horticultural) are grown on large acreages in California's low desert, the Imperial Valley. Imperial County is ranked #1 for vegetable production in California but has a long history of arthropod pest management issues, in a wide range of row, field and vegetable crops. The county's cropping systems vary from multi-month to multi-year plantings and are important in the food, feed, and fiber production systems. Crops include seed alfalfa, wheat, sugar beets, sugar cane, carrots, onion and garlic, leafy vegetables, melons, broccoli, and feeds for livestock that occupy a large footprint in the region. The county lies on the border between Arizona and Mexico, hence is exposed to invasive insect pests that plague California's agriculture with Imperial County as the major entry point. Pesticides continue to be a primary input for pest management in these crops but environmental and human health issues, including surface or ground water



Lygus bug adult (top) & Nymph (bottom), of the insect pest problems in the low desert

contamination, food safety and risks to pollinators and bystanders during pesticide application are becoming more important factors.

The Entomology Advisor develops and implements an applied research and education program on insect pest management for the diverse and expanding vegetable and field crop production in the Imperial County. The Imperial County Farm Bureau lists entomology and vegetable crop issues as the most pressing research needs to be addressed throughout the county. The Cooperative Extension (CE) Entomology Advisor holds a pivotal role in initiating, contributing to and developing integrated pest management strategies for managing arthropod pests by incorporating the agronomic and pest management approaches for forage crops, vegetable crops and ornamental plant production and many other specialty crops.

Major Responsibilities

Extension and Research: This is an exciting opportunity to develop and deliver relevant program content to have meaningful impacts in local communities and throughout California. Opportunities abound for extension and research partnerships with a variety of stakeholders and partnerships, including public agencies, pest management and structural pest control professionals, public health professionals and UCCE Master Gardener (MG) Programs. The advisor joins a team of highly motivated UCCE colleagues who are passionate about their work and are dedicated to making a difference within the communities and throughout California. The potential for collaborative projects within the UC ANR system is nearly limitless and includes the following:

- Development and implementation of 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/sites/StrategicInitiatives/>
- Conducting and reporting regular comprehensive needs assessments to identify priority issues or problems relevant to the local clientele groups being served.
- Conducting applied research designed to solve locally relevant problems and monitor change.
- Representing UC ANR in a professional manner.
- While working with existing research/extension teams or by building new ones, the Entomology Advisor will assess and improve arthropod management programs for invertebrate pest populations, including, for example: Stink and plant bugs (broccoli, leafy greens), leaf hopper and thrips vectoring diseases (mixed melons, sugar beet), armyworm and other lepidopteran pests (alfalfa, lettuce), etc.
- The Entomology Advisor will also respond to endemic and invasive threats by developing immediate and long-term programs to manage the endemic brown stink bug, and the invasive brown marmorated stink and bagrada bugs, for example. He or she will provide demonstration research to compare and contrast chemical and non-chemical controls and compare integrated vs. single control approaches.

County of Responsibility. This position will be headquartered in the UCCE Imperial County office and serve Imperial County. The CE office in Imperial is located at the same location as the Desert Research and Extension Center (DREC). The DREC has laboratories and facilities to conduct applied research and opportunities to work with campus-based colleagues on existing and new projects at the DREC location, allowing a new advisor with immediate access to opportunities for collaboration. To learn more about UCCE in this vibrant community visit: <http://ceimperial.ucanr.edu>.

Reporting Relationship: The CE Advisor serves under the administrative guidance of the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) Imperial County Director. The Entomology Advisor will work with other local CE Farm Advisors to extend knowledge to the local clientele.

Qualifications and Skills Required

Required Qualifications

Education: A minimum of a Master's degree in entomology, crop protection or a closely related field is required at the time of appointment.

Additional Requirements

- The candidate should have a broad understanding of integrated pest management principles and practices, including knowledge of crop production of the area, cultural and biological controls, and pesticide use.
- Experience with more than one pest discipline is desirable.
- Quantitative skills and knowledge of, and experience using, statistical analysis and experimental designs is required.
- Ability to work with clientele across a wide range of socio-economic classes and ethnicities is essential.
- Ability and means to travel on a flexible schedule as needed, proof of liability and property damage insurance on vehicle used is required. Must possess valid California Driver's License to drive a County or University vehicle.
- The CE Advisor must possess or obtain within one year a Qualified Applicator Certificate (QAC) or License (QAL) prior to applying or supervising the application of any pesticide.
- Ability to effectively communicate in more than one language is a plus.
- This is not a remote position. The candidate must be available to work onsite.



Skills Required

To be successful, the CE Advisor requires skills in the following area:

Technical Competence and Impact

There is an expectation that advisors evolve and grow across their career and respond to changes in the industry and by clientele.

Communication

Demonstrated excellence in written, oral, and interpersonal and information technology communication skills. Public speaking to stakeholders is a routine part of this position. Demonstrated ability to share complex information in a manner tailored to the audience. Being bilingual is desirable.

Collaboration, Teamwork and Flexibility

Demonstrated ability to work collaboratively as a team member with industry and other stakeholders. Able to adapt as circumstances warranted.

Aware and willing to actively promote diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Lifelong Learning

Demonstrated commitment to ongoing professional improvement. Ability to shift program focus as times and organizational needs change.

Learn more about Skills and Areas of Programmatic Review (including Professional Competence, University and Public Service, Affirmative Action and DEI) at:

<https://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/files/319460.pdf>

About UC ANR

The University of California, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR) consists of a network of scientists and educators working in partnership across the state of California. We are committed to developing and supporting healthy food systems, healthy environments, healthy communities, and healthy Californians. UC ANR administers Statewide Programs and Initiatives (SWP/I's) that focus research and extension on solving priority problems that engage ANR academics and UC faculty in integrated teams to work on complex issues requiring trans-disciplinary approaches; as well as UC Cooperative Extension (UCCE), which is responsible for program development and delivery in counties throughout the state.

Learn more about

- UC ANR at <https://UCANR.edu>
- UC ANR in counties: https://ucanr.edu/sites/ucanr/County_Offices/
- Our Strategic Initiatives <http://ucanr.edu/sites/StrategicInitiatives/>
- Our Public Value statements at: https://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/Divisionwide_Planning/UC_ANR_Public_Values/
- DEI: Further to the above, advisors are expected to share and exhibit UC ANR's commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion https://ucanr.edu/sites/Professional_Development/Office_-_Team_Management/Diversity_Equity_Inclusion_Belonging/
- Affirmative Action: Further to the above, advisors are expected to share and exhibit UC ANR's commitment to affirmative action. Learn more of UC ANR Affirmative Action policy: http://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/Diversity/Affirmative_Action/
- The University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources is committed to attracting and retaining a diverse workforce and will honor your experiences, perspectives and unique identity. We encourage applications from members of historically underrepresented racial/ethnic groups, women, individuals with disabilities, veterans, LGBTQ+ community members, and others who demonstrate the ability to help us create and maintain working and learning environments that are inclusive, equitable and welcoming.

Salary & Benefits

Salary: The salary range for this Cooperative Extension Advisor position is Assistant Rank, Step I (\$79,500) to Step VI (\$100,900). Step placement in the advisor series is based on applicable experience and professional qualifications. For information regarding Cooperative Extension Advisor salary scales, please refer to the University of California website: <https://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/files/358478.pdf>.

The Assistant CE Advisor position is a renewable definite term appointment funded through a partnership between UC ANR and Imperial County, with a merit cycle every two years. The performance in the position will be evaluated annually. Reappointment is contingent upon a review of continuing

need for the position, the availability of funding, and performance in the position. This position is not eligible for indefinite status.

Benefits: The University of California offers comprehensive benefits including health insurance, retirement plans, two days per month paid vacation, one day per month paid sick leave, and paid holidays. This position is eligible for sabbatical leave privileges as per the terms of the University policy. For more information, refer to the UC Benefits website at:

<https://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/compensation-and-benefits/index.html>

How to Apply

If interested in this position, please visit: <https://recruit.ucanr.edu/> and choose “applicants” (refer to position #23-12)

Closing Date: To assure full consideration, application packets must be received by **January 15, 2024** - (open until filled)

Questions?

Contact Mikyla Perez; email: mikperez@ucanr.edu

Applicants may wish to explore the UC Davis Services for International Students and Scholars web page at <https://siss.ucdavis.edu> and the [UC ANR Green Card Sponsorship Guidelines & FAQ's](#) for reference.

University of California Cooperative Extension

As a University employee, you will be required to comply with all applicable University policies and/or collective bargaining agreements, as may be amended from time to time. Federal, state, or local government directives may impose additional requirements.

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.