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From the Director

Hungry In California

We often see on television or read in newspapers and magazines of the plight of hungry children in countries other than the United States. We pride ourselves on being the best fed nation on Earth. Yet, recent reports indicate that there are many hungry children in the Central Valley of California. (See Resources, p.7.) There are probably also hungry children in most California cities.

How is it that the most productive agricultural state in the nation has hungry people, particularly in areas where the food is produced? How can farmworkers and their children go to bed hungry? I do not know the answers to these questions, but the fact that they exist indicates that the issue of hunger needs to be addressed if our society wants children to have a chance to develop to their potential. Individual farmers and citizen groups in the agricultural community have taken steps to distribute crop gleanings, which is commendable. The rest of us in agriculture must help solve the problem on a larger scale, to eliminate the very idea of hunger in a state where agriculture is still the largest industry. In both the short-and the long-run it is humane and it makes good business sense to have well-fed children. By addressing the problem of hunger, we will be following Governor **Pete Wilson's** philosophy of preventive strategies to solve society's problems. By helping children grow and thrive, we are increasing our own agricultural markets in a positive way, and living in a truly sustainable agricultural community. If we address the issue of hunger, everyone wins. If we do not, everyone loses. -*Bill Liebhardt, director, UC Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education Program.*

USDA Funds Sustainable Agriculture Network

SAREP Information Systems Manager **Jill Auburn** is the chair of a new Sustainable Agriculture Network being planned by representatives from 14 universities, government, business and non-profit organizations. The network has received a grant for \$90,000 from the USDA's Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program (formerly known as the Low-Input Sustainable Agriculture or LISA program).

"The idea for the network is to share information about sustainable agriculture among many information users and providers," Auburn said. Information related to sustainable agriculture is increasingly available from an informal network of research and education institutions, private non-profits, farmer organizations and other groups, she said. "However, locating the information and identifying the gaps is an increasing challenge."

A "Yellow Pages" format directory of individuals and organizations in sustainable agriculture is one of the first goals of the network, and should make it easier for those interested in sustainable agriculture topics to find what they need, Auburn said. The network is also sponsoring a showcase of sustainable agriculture information at an international sustainable agriculture symposium at the Ohio State University November 10-13. (See **Calendar**, back page).

The network committee was formed last year to develop a plan and send recommendations to the national Sustainable Agriculture program for information development and dissemination. The following recommendations were presented at a meeting in Washington, DC last December:

- The collection, evaluation, synthesis and dissemination of information should be a high priority of the national Sustainable Agriculture program, including computerized networking of electronic information as well as better organization and access to information in more traditional forms.
- The network should be a decentralized system in which databases, documents, and decision aids are developed and maintained locally, but shared in printed and electronic form among a wide variety of institutions and individuals.
- Materials developed by the national Sustainable Agriculture program should complement rather than duplicate those available from other sources.
- The electronic network should conform as much as possible to the standards being adopted by USDA nationally, such as the use of the

existing Internet/NSFNET computer network, as long as that system is accessible by nongovernmental institutions and individuals.

- The regional Administrative Councils (who solicit and recommend grants for the national Sustainable Agriculture program) should specifically request and fund projects that identify, collate, synthesize and disseminate information.
- A minimum amount of central coordination should be supported at the national level, for establishing standard formats, maintaining an index to the information available in the network, and other activities that should be centralized.
- Special attention should be given to "experiential" information: information that comes from careful observation, case studies, and other non-experimental sources. In doing so, issues of credibility and reliability must be addressed.

The new funding will be used by the committee to begin implementing the parts of the plan that are best accomplished centrally, Auburn said. In addition to developing the directory mentioned previously (in database and printed form), the activities include developing a "taxonomy" or organizational scheme for classifying sustainable agriculture information, and a thesaurus of terms used to identify sustainable agriculture materials; identifying examples of documents and other products that are exemplary in providing well-integrated information on high-priority topics (an end-product of the November showcase noted previously); adopting a standardized format for electronic exchange of documents; and developing a plan for including more and better experiential information in sustainable agriculture and databases.

Much of this planning will take place over several years, Auburn said. "The two most visible products in the first year will be the showcase of information and the directory," she said.

The showcase was the idea of committee member **John Ikerd**, extension economist at the University of Missouri, as a way to identify exemplary educational materials in a forum that would also get the information to end users (conference participants) immediately. If the showcase is successful, it may be repeated at other meetings, Auburn said.

The directory is being compiled by the staff of Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas (ATTRA) under the direction of **Jim Lukens**, ATTRA program manager. Rather than an exhaustive compilation, it will contain entries representative of the broad range of types of people and organizations involved in sustainable agriculture. The first version will be available by September 1992, in both electronic (database) form and a printed version published by Rodale Press. Rodale has been chosen as the national Sustainable Agriculture program's central publisher for these and other documents, including a forthcoming handbook on cover crops. **Mike Brusko**, publisher of the Rodale Institute's *The New Farm* magazine, serves on the information network committee. Reports of the committee's progress will appear in future editions of *Sustainable Agriculture News*.

Note: Individuals who have expertise or interest in particular areas of the

committee's work (such as experiential information, or electronic document preparation) are welcome to correspond with Auburn. While the 14 committee members span a broad range of institutions and expertise, the network will function best if it has creative input from a wide array of potential contributors and users of sustainable agriculture information, she said. Correspondence can be by electronic mail (see box), by mail (Jill Auburn, Information Group -UC SAREP University of California, Davis, CA 95616), or by telephone (916) 757-3278

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Sustainable Ag Network Electronic Mail

An Internet electronic mail group has been started for individuals to share their experiences and interests in networking information about sustainable agriculture. I will post information about the SA Network as it develops, as well as related activities at UC SAREP. I expect that it will be a good forum for sharing tips, experiences, questions, and sources of information among people developing databases, publications, and other information resources.

To subscribe, you need access to a computer that is connected to the Internet system. (Most university computers and an increasing number of computers at other sites are connected to this system.) From Internet, send the following statement in the body of a message to almanac@oes.orst.edu:

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subscribe sanet-mg
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The Almanac software at Oregon State University was developed under the direction of extension computing specialist **Kevin Gamble**, also a SA Network committee member, to automatically deliver information in response to electronic mail requests. -*Jill Auburn* (jsauburn@ucdavis.edu)

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Organic Symposium

Organic agriculture proponents will help bridge the information gap with conventional agriculture and academia at "Organic Farming Symposium" scheduled January 22-23, 1992 at the Asilomar Conference Center in Pacific Grove.

"The critical issue is that the symposium will provide a forum for exchange of the best available information on organic farming theory and practice, including academic research and practical farming experience," said **David Visher** of the UC Small Farm Center, one of the event's sponsors. The symposium is also sponsored by the Committee for Sustainable Agriculture, a private non-profit group which sponsors the Ecological Farming Conference scheduled immediately after.

Symposium organizers hope to connect the science and practice of organic farming, according to Visher. He said many in the academic community question the science behind organic farming. The conference will feature current research on crop rotation, cover crops, soil fertility, organic soil management, beneficial insects, pests, crop selection, minimum tillage, organic livestock production and organic certification. It will also include discussions of the definitions of sustainable, transition and low-input agriculture, and state and federal organic laws.

Organizers are expecting the published symposium proceedings to be an important product of the event. The symposium is aimed at farmers, researchers, educators, Extension staff, agricultural commissioners, soil conservationists, pest control advisers, and others in related agricultural fields.

For more information contact the Davis-based UC Small Farm Center (916) 757-8742.

New PAC/TAC Members Join SAREP

by [Lyra Halprin](#), SAREP

UC SAREP is required by the California Legislature's 1986 Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Act to have both public and technical advisory committees to advise the university on program goals and to make recommendations on the award of competitive grants. The Public Advisory Committee (PAC) includes approximately 15 individuals actively involved in agricultural production, as well as representatives from government, public organizations, and institutions of higher education. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), made up of approximately 15 university wide faculty and staff with knowledge and experience related to sustainable agriculture, makes recommendations about the scientific merit of grant applications and advises the program. Each PAC or TAC member serves for three years. In 1991, SAREP added 10 new members to its advisory committees. The following is a complete list of PAC and TAC members. New members are marked with an *

Public Advisory Committee Members

KATHLEEN (BARNES) BARSOTTI is a farmer in Capay, Yolo County. She and her family have an intensive organic operation of mixed tree and vegetable crops. She is interested in soil structure, organic codling moth control and low-input soil fertility.

AUDY J. BELL is a former ranch manager who works as an agricultural consultant in Orangevale, Sacramento County. He has managed cotton, seed alfalfa, wheat, barley, safflower, corn and hay alfalfa. His interests are weed control, crop rotation, insect control, breeding for varietal disease resistance and insect resistance.

BILL BRAMMER is the owner of Be Wise Ranch, 30 acres of mixed orchard and vegetables including oranges, lemons, limes, avocados, tomatoes, squash and cucumbers. The president of California Certified Organic Farmers, he is interested in research showing why and how organic farming methods work, and the conversion of conventional agriculture to organic production.

* **VASHEK CERVINKA** is the research manager of the Agricultural Resources branch of the California Department of Food and Agriculture. His specialty is energy use in agriculture, alternative farming methods and agroforestry research for the management of salinity on Irrigated farmland.

STANISLAUS J. DUNDON teaches philosophy at California State University, Sacramento. He studies social, institutional and philosophic constraints on agricultural innovation, and the ethical issues and human

values of agriculture. He is interested in sustainability as a new model, and in the changes required in agricultural schools, UC Cooperative Extension and other institutions to deliver new interdisciplinary concepts.

* **MAREN HANSEN** is the founder and director of the Santa Barbara County Safe Food Project, a non-profit group organized to design a masterplan to increase organic agriculture at the county level. A resident of Santa Barbara, she is the mother of two, an ordained Unitarian Universalist minister and a licensed psychotherapist.

JACK PANDOL, JR. farms more than 4,500 acres in Kern and Tulare counties. His principal crops are table grapes, kiwi, Granny Smith apples, Asian pears and almonds. He is interested in advanced water management and irrigation techniques, alternative pest control techniques, and innovative quality control methods.

* **MOLLY PENBERTH** is an associate land and water use analyst with the California Department of Conservation where she is the field mapping coordinator for the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program. The mapping program reports soil survey and land use information from 45 California counties to the state legislature every two years. She is also the president of the Committee for Sustainable Agriculture, a non-profit educational organization aimed at providing information on alternative agricultural methods to farmers and consumers. She is an avid organic gardener in Sacramento.

* **JORGE ARAUJO RAM** is the production manager at Frieda's, Inc., a Los Angeles-based international wholesaler of specialty vegetables and fruits. An agronomist with a specialty in tropical fruit crops, his main interest is in rural development as it relates to fruit production. He works with many small farmers throughout the world.

* **JUDITH REDMOND** is the director of California Action Network, a non-profit organization interested in promoting sustainable agriculture as an alternative to conventional agriculture, and as a means to bolster California's rural economy. She is interested in the social and economic issues of sustainability, including farm labor and the structure of agriculture. She is a partner in a 100-acre diversified organic farm in Guinda, Yolo County.

* **LUPE SANDOVAL** is a pesticide safety educator for the Davis-based UC Statewide Integrated Pest Management Project. He develops and distributes pesticide safety information and programs to the agricultural community, and is developing pesticide safety training programs. He has a continuing interest in the health and safety of farm workers and is on the steering committee of the Ag-Safe Coalition, a California non-profit organization made up of representatives of various groups interested in farm health and safety including the insurance industry, the medical community, the university, farmers, the state Department of Health Services, and farm workers.

ED SILLS is the owner operator of a mid-sized family farm in Pleasant Grove, Sutter County. He raises rice, corn, popcorn, wheat, oats, vetch and almonds on 2000 acres, 95 percent of which is in organic production. He is interested in devising systems of production in which the soil is improved through cropping, while maintaining adequate production levels and

profitability.

TONY TURKOVICH has a diversified farming operation in Winters, Yolo County. He raises tomatoes, wheat, corn, alfalfa, prunes and oranges.

GEORGE WORK is a rancher and farmer in San Miguel, Monterey County. He raises dryland grain, including barley, safflower, wheat and vetch, has a cow-calf operation, and takes hunters out on fee hunting trips. His other major interests are the re-establishment of native perennial grasses, and interpersonal relationships as they relate to changing agricultural systems.

Technical Advisory Committee Members

LESLIE "BEES" BUTLER is a marketing economist in the Agricultural Economics Department at UC Davis. His specialty is dairy and poultry marketing, with responsibilities for sustainable agriculture, biotechnology and technological change in agriculture.

DAN DESMOND is a UC Cooperative Extension advisor in Sonoma County focusing on agricultural literacy. His specialty is urban-agricultural interface issues, and a major interest is educating the urban population about the realities of food and fiber production. He also raises walnuts in Lake County.

MARY LOUISE FLINT is director of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Education and Publications (UC Statewide IPM Project), an IPM Specialist, and a Cooperative Extension entomologist. She specializes in biological control of agricultural pests and alternatives to synthetic pesticides, and works to disseminate information to farm advisors, farmers and gardeners. Her special interest is in the reduction of pesticide use.

* **GEORGE GOLDMAN** is an economist with an Extension appointment in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at UC Berkeley. His specialties are land use and development economics, the economics of water use in California, economic and community development, and local government finance. He has a particular interest in rural economic development and its relationship to sustainable agriculture.

JAMES GRIESHOP is a Cooperative Extension community education specialist at UC Davis. He specializes in the adoption of innovations, including some related to integrated pest management practices, water management, and community and risk assessment management.

JODIE S. HOLT is an associate professor of plant physiology at UC Riverside where she studies the ecological/physiological aspects of herbicide resistance in weeds, crop/weed competition (especially in cotton/perennial weeds), and weed ecology. She is interested in encouraging reduced use of pesticides.

DESMOND JOLLY is an agricultural economist with the agricultural economics department at UC Davis. He specializes in consumer survey research, consumer demand for food safety and alternative food products, and agricultural and food marketing. He is also interested in international agricultural development-technology transfer, cooperatives, and project evaluation.

* **CAROL J. LOVATT** is an associate professor of plant physiology in the UC Riverside botany and plant sciences department. Her research program is designed to answer basic questions about the regulation of intermediary nitrogen metabolism, to provide an understanding of how plant cells meet their needs during environmental stress. She is interested in nitrate and phosphate pollution of groundwater, and her research has attempted to provide citrus and avocado growers with an economic incentive to switch from soil to foliar applications of N and P.

* **JACKELYN LUNDY** is the associate director of the UC Santa Cruz Agroecology Program. Her research focuses on agricultural policy issues as they pertain to sustainability, and cooperatives, rural development, and Third World economic development. She teaches in the UC Santa Cruz environmental studies and economics departments, and raises wheat and designs agroforestry projects on 40 acres in Yolo County.

* **MICHAEL MCKENRY** is a nematologist with a joint appointment at UC Riverside: 60 percent Experiment Station and 40 percent as an Extension Specialist. He is based at the Kearney Agricultural Center in Parlier. His special interest is in soil pests, their damage and control. He is interested in "growers making a living in a rural setting."

FAUSTINO MUNOZ is a UC Cooperative Extension farm advisor in San Diego County. His specialty is small farm enterprise development, organic/sustainable agriculture, and legume cover crops and conversion systems.

WILLIAM PEACOCK is a UC Cooperative Extension farm advisor in Tulare County. His areas of expertise are table, raisin and wine grape production. He is interested in "keeping the family farm a viable, wholesome way of life."

* **HOWARD ROSENBERG** is a Cooperative Extension Specialist in labor management, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, UC Berkeley. He is also director of the statewide UC Agricultural Personnel Management Program, which supports research and education to increase the use of farm personnel practices compatible with economic risks as well as public policy. He is particularly interested in farm labor issues as they are affected by developments in federal and state law, product and labor markets, and production technology.

JAMES RUMSEY is a lecturer in the agricultural engineering department at UC Davis. His main interests are reduced tillage of row crops, machinery management, teaching agricultural skills to university students, and transitional tree crop farming. He also is a walnut grower in Yolo County.

LAWRENCE YEE is the UC Cooperative Extension county director in Ventura County. He manages programs in sustainable agriculture research and education, youth education, home economics and agricultural/food policy.

Sources of Funding

Energy Efficiency Awards

The California Institute for Energy Efficiency (CIEE) is soliciting proposals for its Exploratory Research Program. Awards will be in amounts of up to \$60,000 each for one-year projects. Projects should involve innovative energy end-use research that benefits California utility rate-payers. One of the suggested project areas is enhancing the productivity and competitiveness of California's agricultural industry. Researchers are encouraged to apply for the funds to augment current on-farm demonstration activities. Applicants must be researchers located at or affiliated with a California college or university. CIEE is a research unit of the University of California, funded primarily by California's energy utilities. For proposal applications telephone **Jim Cole**, CIEE director at (415) 486-5380, or **Carl Blumstein** or **Mike Lederer** at (415) 642-9588, or write to Jim Cole, CIEE Director, do UERG, Building T-9, Room 216, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720. Completed proposals must be received by November 1, 1991.

Consumer Food Safety Grants

Two competitive research grants of up to \$1,250 each will be awarded by the Center for Consumer Research for 1991-92 in the area of "Consumer Aspects of Food Safety." Food safety is broadly defined to include consumer information, decision-making, or behavior relative to safety issues. Proposals must be submitted by October 12, 1991 to **Robert Sommer**, director, Center for Consumer Research, University of California, Davis, CA 95616, (916) 752-2647. Applications must contain title, principal investigator(s), budget (general assistance, supplies, travel), number of students involved. Proposal itself must not exceed five pages and include objectives, justification, previous work on topic, research design, and analysis of data.

\$1000 Organic Article Award

The Organic Farming Research Foundation will award \$1,000 to the author of the best article published in 1991 aimed at educating the general public about organic farming. Articles must be published between January 1, 1991 and December 1, 1991 in a regularly published newspaper, journal or magazine. Applications should include 15 copies of the article, including date published and page numbers; name address and telephone number of the author(s); and information about the periodical in which it was published, including exact title, how long it has been in publication, purpose and audience, and circulation (15 copies). Applications must be received by January 10, 1992 at Organic Farming Research Foundation, P.O. Box 440, Santa Cruz, CA 95061. For more information contact the Foundation at (408) 426-6606.

Resources

California Environmental Policy Plans

Our Blueprint for Future: Safeguarding California's Environment, prepared by the California Senate Office of Research, **Elizabeth Kersten**, director. Contributors include project coordinator and former SAREP PAC member **Bruce Jennings, Buzz Breedlove, Dan Flynn, Dean Misczynski, Steve Sanders** and **Martha Valdes**. The January 1991 34-page report is edited by **Rebecca LaVally**, and is a collection of environmental blueprints "intended to foster discussion, debate and action to improve California's environmental policies and protections." Topics include pollution prevention, environmental health, ecological farming, market approaches to pollution control, managing growth, preserving open space, traffic congestion, and coastal protection. Order Publication No. 548-S from Senate Reprographics, 1100 J St. Room B10, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 322-3397. The price is \$4.73, tax included. Make checks payable to the State of California.

Hunger Identification Project

Hunger in the Heartland: Community Childhood Hunger Identification Project in California's Central Valley, produced by the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation, March 1991. A 47-page report documenting the serious problem of poverty and hunger for the children of California's Fresno, Kings, Stanislaus, and Tulare counties. "This 'shadow society' includes over 86,000 households living in poverty. Sixty percent of them are Hispanic, and most are children, who often go to bed hungry, whose parents skip meals so their children can eat." The study is part of a national survey of hunger among children-the Community Childhood Hunger Identification Project-which uses a scientifically rigorous questionnaire developed by the Connecticut Association for Human Services. Interviews were conducted in 1990 by interviewers speaking the languages of the 335 randomly selected families. Nine other states conducted similar surveys under the auspices of Food Research and Action Center in Washington, DC. Producers of the California survey hope that their work will provoke action in this state "where the state's rich agricultural heritage stands in stark contrast to the reality that thousands of children in the Central Valley do not have enough to eat." For copies of the \$10 report, contact the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation, 2111 Mission Street, Suite 401, San Francisco, CA 94110, (415) 863-3520. Make checks payable to CRLAF.

OSU Sustainable Ag Newsletter

Pacific Northwest Sustainable Agriculture, a quarterly newsletter focusing on sustainable farming systems and practices that protect human health and environmental resources for Oregon and Washington, is available at no charge. The publication covers USDA Sustainable Agriculture Research and

Education (formerly LISA) program research at Oregon State University and Washington State University, grower activities and reference lists. Contact **Jack Waud**, 223 E. 4th St., Port Angeles, WA 98362 for a free subscription.

Sustainable Ag Guide

Sustainable Agriculture in California: A Guide to Information, by **Steve Mitchell** and **David Bainbridge**. This 200-page guide, funded by UC SAREP and The Librarians Association of the University of California, is aimed at helping farmers, ranchers, researchers, farm advisors, planners, gardeners and consumers find information about sustainable agriculture. Specific topics include cover crops, ley farming, agroforestry, range management, weed and pest control, specialty crops, gardening, on-farm research, and farm worker safety. Mitchell will be at the UC Davis Bookstore October 9, 1991 for a booksigning from noon to 2 p.m. Order Publication No.3349 (\$12) from UC ANR Publications, University of California, 6701 San Pablo Ave., Oakland, CA 94608-1239, or call (415) 642-2431.

Symposium Proceedings

Proceedings/Sustainable Agriculture in California: A Research Symposium, includes 23 papers ranging from practical crop production and pest control systems to developing computerized information distribution systems, and transcripts of a panel discussion on sustainability. From the spring 1990 SAREP symposium on sustainable agriculture research and extension. Publication No. 3348, available for \$15 from UC ANR Publications, ordering information above.

Small Farm Newsletter

Small Farm News, a free bimonthly newsletter published by the UC Small Farm Center, reports on the latest UC research, farm profiles and resources of interest to the small farm community. Available from Small Farm Center, University of California, Davis, CA 95616, (916) 757-8910.

UC SAREP Progress Report

Progress Report: 1986-1990, reviews the work of UC SAREP. It includes summaries of the 51 SAREP-funded projects. Free copies are available from UC SAREP, University of California, Davis, CA 95616, (916) 752-7556.