COOPERATIVE EXTENSION UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

U.C.D. Small Farm Center

SMALL FARM NEWS

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 1 JULY 1981

SMALL FARM ADVISORS

The role of Cooperative Extension Farm Advisors is to deliver useable agricultural information at the county level. Most farm advisors specialize in certain crops, farm management, 4-H, or home economics. Recently, the Cooperative Extension System added six farm advisors to work specifically with small farmers.

The small farm advisors provide farmers with information on pest management, seed varieties, fertilization, farm management, and marketing.

Farm advisors contact U. C. Cooperative Extension Specialists when they encounter farm problems needing more extensive research. When the specialist completes his/her research, the farm advisor conveys the results back to the farmer. In this way, the farm advisor bridges the gap between scientific research and farm applicability.

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FAMILY FARM RESOURCE GUIDE

AVAILABLE NOW

COULD YOU USE A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION SOURCES?

If so, you're in luck because the first Family Farm Resource Guide is off the press and available !

The Family Farm Resource Guide identifies and describes services that public organizations provide pertaining to California agriculture. The address and phone number of each organization accompanies its description. So, when you need agricultural information, the Guide will help you locate sources from which you can obtain answers.

Many of the information organizations serving California agriculture are county-based. To streamline the Resource Guide for your use, we are offering 58 different guides - one for each county in the state.

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The University of California Cooperative Extension in compliance with the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, religion, color, national origin, sex, or mental or physical handicap in any of its programs or activities. Inquiries regarding this policy may be directed to: Eugene D. Stevenson, 317 University Hall, University of California, Berkeley, California 94720, (415) 642-0931

University of California and the United States Department of Agriculture cooperating

Small Farm Advisors

(From Page 1)

Small farm advisors divide 60% of their time between conducting applied research and consulting farmers (in response to requests). In the remaining 40% of the time, small farm advisors write newsletters and catch up with new developments. They also give seminars and workshops on planting, harvesting, marketing, and other agricultural topics.

Small farm advisors currently service the counties of:

FRESNO - Pedro Ilic
IMPERIAL, RIVERSIDE - Alphonso Durazo
KINGS, TULARE - Manuel Jimenez
MONTEREY - Stephen Mendivil
SAN DIEGO - Faustino Munoz
SAN LUIS OBISPO, SANTA BARBARA, VENTURA - Louie Valenzuela
SANTA CLARA - Nancy Garrison

For further information, contact the Cooperative Extension Offices in these counties.

--REZA ZAFARI

Family Farm Resource Guide

(From Page 1)

The Guide is divided into ten subject matter sections: Agricultural Production, Education, Energy, Finances, Labor Marketing, Pest Management, Social Services, Soil and Water, and Taxes.

Reference copies of the Resource Guide will be located at the county offices of the: Agricultural Commissioner, Cooperative Extension, Farmers' Home Administration, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, and Soil Conservation Service.

Non-profit agriculture-related institutions may order a copy of the Resource Guide free of charge. Individuals who wish to order a copy of the Guide may do so by reimbursing us for the cost of reproduction. Please make checks for $5.00 payable to "Regents of U. C.".

When ordering your Resource Guide, please indicate which county's copy you would like to receive. Please send requests to: Patricia Allen, U. C. D. Small Farm Center.

--PATRICIA ALLEN

Small Farm Information Access Network

Only two years ago there were but a handful of programs specifically designed to make information available to the estimated 35,000 small farmers in California. Most of these programs were isolated from each other. Today the number of programs is growing rapidly. Small farmers who were having difficulties acquiring the production, marketing, and financial information they needed to make their farms economically viable are beginning to be served.

The impetus for initiating these new efforts grew out of the Small Farm Viability Project. Its report, The Family Farm in California (1977), highlighted the difficulties of small farmers in accessing needed information. The report recommended that an entity be created to provide leadership in establishing a statewide Small Farm Information Access System.

In early 1979 a planning group made up of small farm program operators, public agency officials, educators, and resource persons designed a plan to develop this system. By mid-year the Small Farm Information Access Council (recently changed to the Family Farm Council) was created to fill this leadership role. By the end of the year, plans were completed for the initiation of several new programs designed to address pressing needs and to support the development and integration of the overall network. These new programs and projects were initiated in 1980, thanks primarily to the support of the State CETA office, and were quickly integrated as a part of the large system.

The present Small Farm Information Access System includes the following programs:

The Family Farm Council. The FFC has 17 members and meets monthly to plan and coordinate the various programs and to discuss policy issues (see story on page 5).

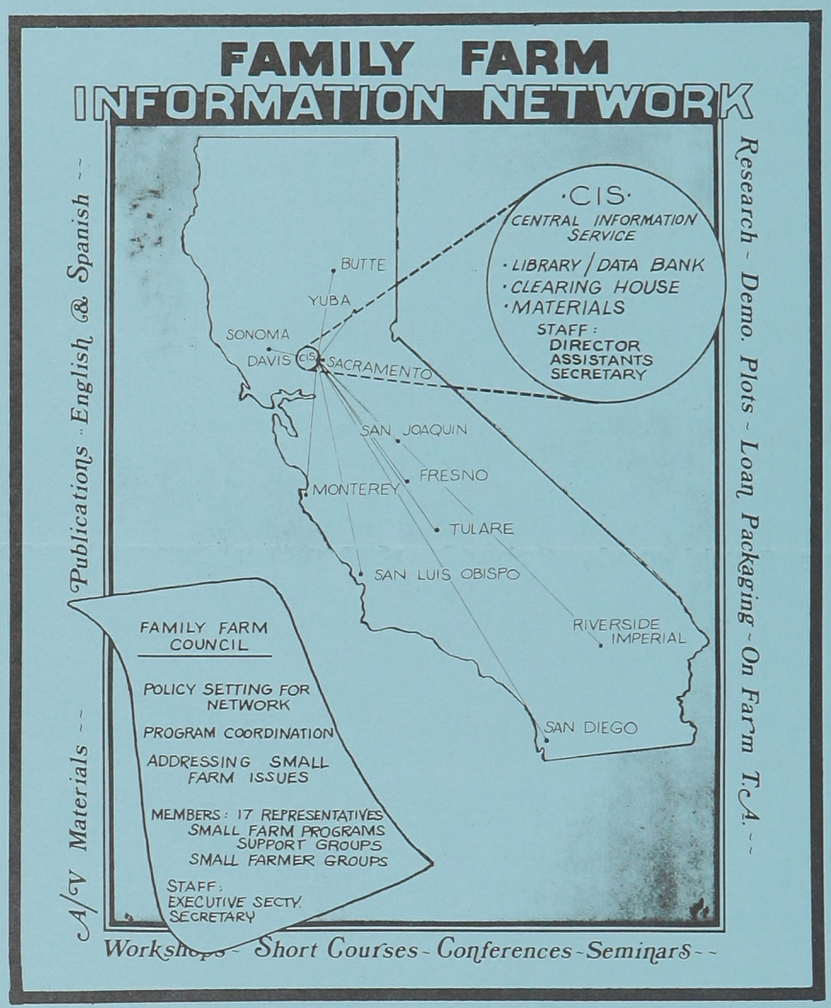
The Central Information Service. Based at U.C. Davis, the C.I.S. accesses information needed to serve family farmers. (Article to appear in a future issue of this newsletter.)

Regional Resource Centers. Small Farm Resource Centers at Hartnell and Kings River Community Colleges serve as focal points in the Central Coast and Central San Joaquin Valley regions to assess information needs, coordinate local resources and programs, develop materials, and conduct short course training classes. Yuba Community College in North Central California also provides short courses for small farmers.

Small Farm Advisors and Programs of the U.C. Cooperative Extension Service. Six Farm Advisors now have specific responsibilities to serve the limited resource small farm clientele in 13 counties (see story on page 1). The San Joaquin County office has its own integrated program and coordinating Committee which has been established within the Statewide Cooperative Extension System.

Farmer Cooperative Service (USDA). A staff person is available to assist in the development of cooperatives, primarily agricultural production cooperatives.

Private Community Base Programs. The Confederación Agrícola and the Central Coast Community Development Corporation (Santa Cruz County) have been assisting production cooperatives made up of former farm workers. The Rural Economics Alternatives Project (REAP) is working to help small farmers find markets for their produce through Farmer's Markets in the central valley area.



These programs comprise the heart of the Small Farm Information Access System; several other action and support programs are also involved. Three new programs are planned for the near future: A Small Farm Resource Service program for Riverside/Imperial Counties; a training and resourcing program in the Northeast, and a special training program directed toward farm workers wanting to become farmers. Announcements of these programs will be made in a future issue of this newsletter.

Much has been accomplished in a short period of time to open new avenues of access to information for small farmers, and much remains to be done. We're off to a good start and momentum is building!

--TOM HALLER

Family Farm Council

The Family Farm Council (FFC) was formed in 1979 to support and promote the economic viability of family farms. The Council facilitates access to agriculture information and promotes better understanding among decision makers about small farm policy issues. The clientele includes all family farmers in the State, but a special emphasis is placed on those farmers with limited resources, including the estimated 3,500 Spanish-speaking small farmers.

The FFC presently has 17 members representing public and private agencies that are involved in serving small farmers. These members are:

Charles Cekola, Small Farm Resource Center, Reedley
Clair Christensen, U. C. Cooperative Extension, Davis
Alfonso Durazo, Farm Advisor, El Centro
Roy Ekland, Small Farm Resource Center, Salinas
Don Ferraiuolo, Yuba Community College, Marysville
Jesus Gamboa, Proteus Adult Training, Inc., Visalia
Roger Granados, La Cooperativa Campesina de California, Sacramento
William Alvarado-Greenwood, Confederacion Agricola de California, Salinas
Ann Hartfiel, State CETA Office, Sacramento
Steven Huffstutlar, County Farm Advisor's Office, Salinas
Pedro Ilic, County Farm Advisor's Office, Fresno
Jeff Jacobs, Department of Food and Agriculture, Sacramento
Everardo Martinez, Small Farm Resource Center, Reedley
Dr. Charles Smallwood, School of Agriculture, Fresno
Nancy Springer, California Human Development, Santa Rosa
Daniel Villa, Central Coast Counties Development Corp., Salinas
Mack Warner, AFSC/REAP, Stockton

The FFC plans to add at least three farmers to its membership later this year.

The Council meets on the second Friday of every month. These meetings are open to the public and a number of resource persons and special guests are usually present. The Executive Secretary, Tom Haller, has his office in the Small Farm Center at U. C. Davis.

This year the Council looks forward to becoming more active in discussing and promoting small farm issues by sponsoring symposia, developing position statements, and communicating with decision makers and the general public.

--TOM HALLER

Newsletter Clip Sheet

The State of California is holding the first California Agricultural Solar Design Competition.

The competition, sponsored by the California Energy Commission with assistance from the State Department of Food and Agriculture, aims to encourage innovative solar design applications for agriculture. Outstanding agricultural solar designs will be selected for cash awards.

An application handbook detailing the elements of the Competition, explaining entry requirements of each category and providing forms for entry design submittals are available.

The Competition will accept entries up until July 31, and winners will be announced on August 29 at the California State Fair and Exposition. Mail requests for entry materials to:

California Agricultural Solar
Design Competition
California Energy Commission
1111 Howe Avenue MS 7000
Sacramento, CA 95825

--UCAT NEWS AND VIEWS
VOLUME 4 NUMBER 2 - SPRING 1981

SYMPOSIUM: Research for Small Farms - The purpose of this symposium, to be held at the USDA Agricultural Research Center in Maryland, November 15-18, is to identify the research needs of small scale farm operators. The results of research tailored to small farmers will be reported.

Further information may be obtained from Howard W. Kerr, Jr. Room 230, Building 003, BARC-West, Beltsville MD, 20705/ (301)344-3087.

--USDA SMALL FARM FAMILY NEWSLETTER
NO. 8/SPRING 1981

SMALL FARM NEWS is published monthly by the U.C.D. Small Farm Center to convey news of the Family Farm Council and the Central Information Service. --Project Director: Clair Christensen

The FAMILY FARM COUNCIL supports and promotes the economic viability of family farms in California. --Executive Secretary: Tom Haller

The CENTRAL INFORMATION SERVICE will be the focal point at the state level for the collection, storage and dissemination of agricultural information pertinent to small farms. --Director: Dennis Stewart

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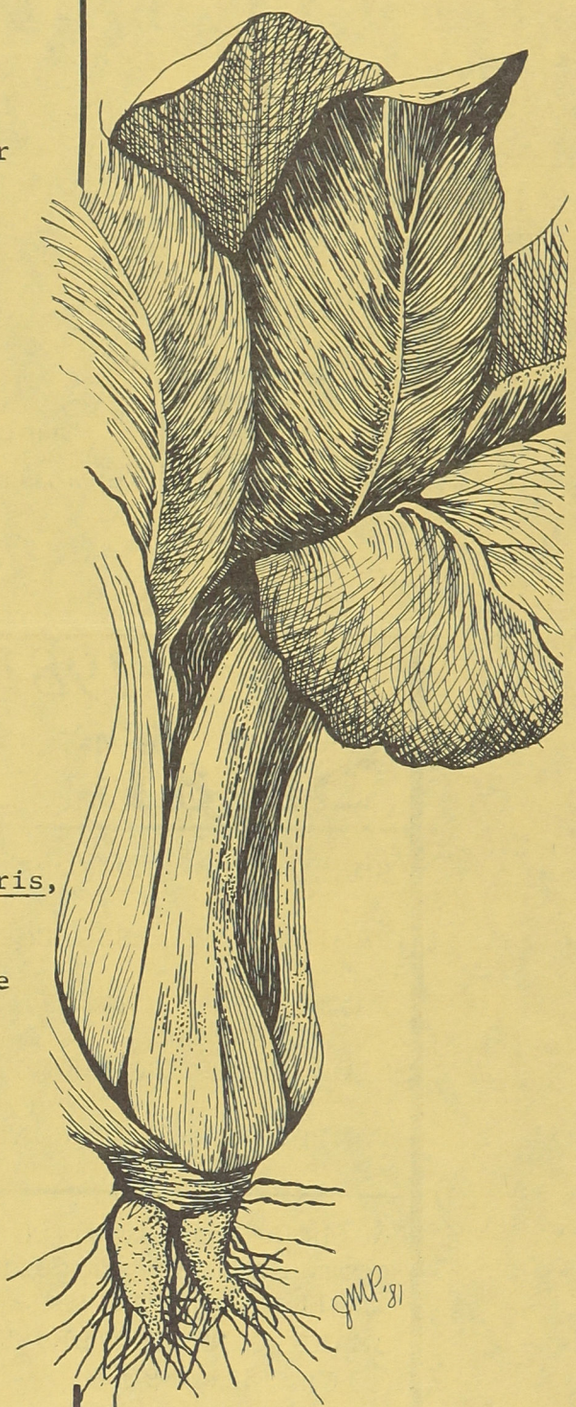
Secretary: Lillian Sciaraffa

Crop News:

Q. What's green and white, thrives in the cold, and drinks only rain water?

A. A variety of Bok-Choy recently collected in China.

CROP PROSPECT FROM CHINA



Dr. Tom Orton has a limited amount of seed available for trial plantings. Orton, a University of California Vegetable Crops professor, collected the seeds in Shanghai last summer at the Institute of Horticulture.

The Bok-Choy may have potential as a small farm crop. It can be economically grown on small acreages and does well in cold and dry conditions. Even more important, it can be harvested during the often slack winter marketing period.

When planted in Davis last mid-November, this staple in Cantonese cooking was ready for harvest before the end of February. The crop survived several hard frosts during the winter and thrived without irrigation.

It only bolted with the onset of warm weather in early May. A farmer could therefore wait to harvest the crop until marketing conditions were best.

"Feather Leaf", the Chinese name for the Pak-Choi or Celery Mustard, is somewhat similar in appearance to Chinese cabbage. The botanical name is Brassica campestris, Chinensis Group.

The open-pollinated variety is being investigated by the Oilseed Group in the U.C.D. Agronomy and Range Science Department because of its potential as a vegetable oil source.

Contact the Small Farm Center if you are interested in planting a small plot of Bok-Choy next winter.

--DENNIS STEWART

Bok~Choy

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FAMILY FARM COUNCIL

CROP PROSPECT FROM CHINA

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We hope you find this newsletter useful. We look forward to comments and suggestions. Contributions are enthusiastically invited and will be considered for publication.....
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