

University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources

POSITION VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

University of California
Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Project Scientist – UC Merced - Sierra Nevada Research Institute
(Project Series)
AP #19-07

LOCATION HEADQUARTERS: UC Merced - Sierra Nevada Research Institute

SUBMISSION DATE: To ensure full consideration, submit application materials by **February 24, 2020**. Those received after this date may be considered if the position has not yet been filled (open until filled).

POSITION PURPOSE: The Project Scientist will work closely with project investigators at UC Merced, USDA California Climate Hub, USDA Agricultural Research Service, and partners at the UC Davis – John Muir Institute of the Environment and UC ANR IGIS team, to develop locally relevant, climate-based agriculture decision support systems and dissemination processes designed to give specialty crops a competitive edge in increasing productivity and reducing risks associated with climate variability and change. The Project Scientist will develop an ensemble of

decision support tools and resources similar to the Northwest Climate Tool box or AgroClimate.org in collaboration with Informatics and GIS (IGIS) team including but not limited to yield tradeoff decisions, pests and disease management decisions, irrigation decisions, and heat and frost risk mitigation. The Project Scientist will routinely publish research on applied climate science and agriculture decision support tool development in high-ranking peer-reviewed journals in collaboration with project investigators. Additionally, the Project Scientist is expected to assist project investigators in developing proposals for funding from federal, state agencies, and



UC Cooperative Ext.
photo by M.Norton

other funding organizations such as commodity boards. The UCANR project scientist will be located at and affiliated with the UC Merced, with multi- UC campus collaborations.

This is appointment is not eligible for indefinite status. The Project Scientist will be appointed to a term ending March 31, 2022. Continuation beyond the initial term is contingent upon a review of continuing need and the availability of funding.



BACKGROUND: University of California, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR), is the statewide division of the University of California that administers Cooperative Extension, which is responsible for local program development and delivery throughout the state of California. UCCE 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. UC ANR is the bridge between local issues and the power of UC Research. UC ANR's CE advisors, CE specialists and Agricultural Experiment Station (AES) faculty develop and deliver practical, science-based solutions that contribute to healthy food systems, healthy environments, healthy communities, and healthy Californians.

Our priorities in research, education, service, and resource allocation are guided by the UC ANR Strategic Vision

(http://ucanr.edu/About_ANR/Strategic_Vision/).

There are 5 strategic initiatives that ANR is currently focusing on: Endemic and Invasive Pests and Diseases (EIPD), Healthy Families and Communities (HFC), Sustainable Food Systems (SFS), Sustainable

Natural Ecosystem (SNE), and Water Quality, Quantity and Security (WQQS). This position will primarily address priorities found in the Strategic Plan for the Sustainable Food Systems Strategic Initiative and Water Quality, Quantity and Security (WQQS) Initiative. The Strategic Plans for each strategic initiative can be found at <http://ucanr.edu/sites/StrategicInitiatives/>.

ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS: All UC ANR Project (e.g. Scientist) series titles are expected to make significant and creative contributions to a research or creative program or project in their academic discipline. Appointees are also responsible for performance in areas of professional competence and activity. University and public service is encouraged.

Research: All UC ANR Project Scientists are expected to make significant and creative contributions to applied research programs to provide science-based information addressing complex issues.

Professional Competence: All UC ANR Project (e.g. Scientist) series titles are required to demonstrate professional competence in their programmatic areas. Professional competence includes participation in training activities to enhance professional development, such as

professional conferences, or workshops. Professional competence also includes activities that reflect professional standing within the programmatic area, such as presenting at conferences or workshops, holding offices in professional societies, invited presentations, or reviewing/editing publications.

University and Public Service:

All UC ANR Project (e.g. Scientist) series titles are encouraged, although not required, to actively serve the University, as well as the public. University service may occur at the local, division, state, national, or international levels. Examples of potential University service activities include serving on a university workgroup or committee, providing leadership in program teams, or advocacy efforts. Public service involves activities and events in which the incumbent uses their professional expertise to benefit groups or efforts outside the University. Examples may include serving on external boards or councils, participating in community events, and leadership of non-University collaborative groups.

Major Responsibilities:

Programmatic Competence

- Research and development of web-based decision support tools through effective integration of historic and projected climate and weather information for agricultural decisions.
- Analyze data and publish manuscripts in peer reviewed journals in collaboration with project investigators as well as in non-technical formats.



Communication

- Present research at professional society meetings.
- Coordinate outreach and extension around research in cooperation with project directors.
- Develop resources in formats such as fact sheets, short videos for web-based agroclimate information portal

Collaboration, Teamwork & Flexibility

- Collaborate with stakeholder, commodity boards, project steering committee, ANR academics, and state and federal agencies to understand and document types of decision support tools needed.
- Assist project investigators in writing grants and soliciting external funding.

Professional Development & Lifelong Learning

- Maintain a program of continuous self-improvement by participating in in-service training, seminars, workshops, work group & program team meetings, short courses, professional society meetings and other relevant opportunities.

RELATIONSHIPS: The Project Scientist is administratively responsible to the Climate Adaptation in Agriculture CE Specialist located at the UC Merced – Sierra Nevada Research Institute.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION: An understanding of and commitment to UC ANR's affirmative action goals and commitments is expected of all project scientists. Compliance with affirmative action policies includes supporting outreach efforts to underserved and underrepresented audiences. UC ANR Affirmative Action policy and information can be found at:
[http://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/Diversity/Affirmative Action/](http://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/Diversity/Affirmative_Action/)

Information on UC ANR's commitment and strategy to improve Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the workplace, can be found in Goal 7 of the UC ANR Division 2016-2021 Strategic Plan:
<https://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/files/291232.pdf>

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

Required Qualifications:

Programmatic competence

- An earned Ph.D. in agricultural engineering, agricultural climatology, agronomy, agroecology, biometeorology, data science or closely related field is required at the time of appointment.
- Experience and knowledge in computer programming skills ideally for decision support tool development in applied climate science and agricultural science applications, and skills to integrate a variety of climate, ecosystem, and crop models.
- Strong statistical and quantitative skills.
- Ability to work productively both independently and as part of an interdisciplinary team.
- Experience publishing peer-reviewed research in high impact journals.

Communication

- Skills to communicate and extend technical information to diverse audiences are required.

Collaboration, Teamwork & Flexibility

- Demonstrated ability to work collaboratively as a team member with other professionals

Desired Qualifications:

- Candidates with previous experiences with web-based decision support tool development in applied climate science and sound understanding of agricultural systems will be preferred.

SALARY: Beginning salary will be in the Assistant Project Scientist Rank, Step 1 and commensurate with applicable experience and professional qualifications. For information regarding Project series salary scales, please refer to:

<https://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/files/317761.pdf>. This is a represented position.

The Assistant Project Scientist position is a non-career track position. The position is a two-year term appointment. The performance in the position will be evaluated annually.

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. 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 seven components of the Application Packet via UC Recruit by visiting: <https://recruit.ucanr.edu>

1. Cover Letter
2. Curriculum Vitae or Resume
3. Statement of Contributions to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI): Please submit a 1-page Statement of Contributions to DEI addressing past and/or potential contributions to diversity through personal experience, teaching, research, extension, professional activity, and/or service. This should include how you would ensure that all potential clientele have access and benefit from your program. Guidelines for writing a DEI Statement can be found at: <https://academicaffairs.ucdavis.edu/guidelines-writing-diversity-statement>
4. Statement of Research and Extension Interests: Please submit a 2-page Statement of Research and Extension Interests including how your current and/or past research and extension experience could contribute to, or be applicable to, the needs of the local community. Provide examples of potential goals and outcomes from your research and extension activities.
5. College Level Transcripts: Electronic transcripts or legible scanned copies (PDF) of original transcripts will be accepted. Transcripts must identify course work completed, grades earned, degrees conferred and confer dates. Please DO NOT send transcripts that are password protected.
6. Two of your most relevant publication samples.

Note: Please do not send letters of reference.

To submit your application materials, please visit UC Recruit at: <https://recruit.ucanr.edu/> and select "Applicants". For full consideration, application packets should be submitted in their entirety no later than February 24, 2020.

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.

Interview information:

Approximately 2 to 3 weeks after the submission deadline, applicants with appropriate and applicable education and experience will be invited to participate in a preliminary, remote interview.

The formal interviews will take place approximately 2 to 3 weeks after the preliminary interviews for those applicants selected to proceed.

Please note that successful applicants are responsible for ensuring their eligibility to work in the United States (i.e. citizen or national of the United States, a lawful permanent resident, a foreign national authorized to work in the United States without need of employer sponsorship) for the duration of the appointment period.

Applicants may wish to explore the UC Davis Services for International Students and Scholars web page at https://siss.ucdavis.edu/scholars_depts/permanent_residence.html as a resource.

For information regarding this position, please contact:

University of California

ANR Academic Human Resources

Tatiana Avoce

(530) 750-1277

E-mail: anracademicsearch@ucanr.edu

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

PLEASE REFER TO POSITION NUMBER AP #19-07 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, national origin, disability, age or protected veteran status.

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.