

**University of California**  
**Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources**  
**Hansen Agricultural Research & Extension Center**

**Thelma Hansen Fund**  
**Research & Education Grants Program**

**Request for Proposals**

*v. August 1, 2015*

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## **I. Overview**

The Thelma Hansen Fund (THF) is a UC endowment that supports and maintains University research and extension activities for the sustainability and benefit of agriculture and natural resources in Ventura County. This competitive grant program is funded solely by THF. This program is not associated with the UCANR REC facility-use research program available at most REC's. THF-funded research and extension activities are driven by the Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources' (ANR) Strategic Initiatives developed to identify and meet the statewide scientific, technological, social and economic demands facing California. Five of the nine initiatives have been implemented.

The five Initiatives are:

- Water Quality, Quantity and Security
- Endemic and Invasive Pests and Diseases
- Healthy Families and Communities
- Sustainable Food Systems
- Sustainable Natural Ecosystems

As part of ANR, THF-funded activities and programs seek to utilize its resources to compliment the above initiatives while maintaining its own goals below:

- Assure economic viability of agriculture to sustain agriculture's contribution to a healthy Ventura County
- Increase public understanding and support of agriculture, including the relationship of agriculture to the economy and the natural resource base
- Provide opportunity for study, discussion and debate on agricultural/urban issues for better policy decisions and achieving balance among competing interests.

Through the HAREC Research Grants program, the Thelma Hansen Fund will invest in research, education and outreach projects that meet one or more of the three goals above and align with ANR's strategic initiatives.

## **II. Criteria**

The following criteria will be considered in reviewing proposals for funding include, although not limited to:

- a. Alignment with one or more of the five strategic initiatives.
- b. Address one or more of the three Hansen Fund goals.
- c. Address a demonstrated, documented need.
- d. Level of direct impact and benefit to agriculture in Ventura County.

- e. Completeness and clarity of proposal. For research proposals, include a thorough description of research and procedures to be used, indicating sound and valid experimental design appropriate to the proposed project.
- f. Capabilities, experience, and integrity of the persons/organizations responsible for conducting proposed project.
- g. Cost-sharing with other sources of funding for the proposed project.
- h. Collaborative projects or synergistic activities involving multiple investigators or entities.
- i. Amount of funds expended in relation to expected benefits of the project. Please provide cost-benefit estimates, if applicable.
- j. Location of research conducted (in order of preference):
  - a. at/on the HAREC facility located in Santa Paula, CA;
  - b. within the borders of Ventura County; or
  - c. at a non-Ventura county facility if (a) and (b) are unavailable or inadequate.

### **III. Who May Apply/Eligibility**

- Proposals may be submitted by UC and non-UC researchers, educators, federal, state, and local public agencies, nonprofit organizations (501 (c) 3 status will be required), consultants, resource conservation districts, commodity research boards, growers and other interested parties.
- Hansen Advisory Board members and the HAREC Center Director may not apply as a Project Leader (PL) or Co-PI of a proposal but are eligible to contribute to projects as collaborators.
- Please review the UC ANR Research Advisory Committees Conflict of Interest Policy (Section IV.A.; <http://recs.ucanr.edu/files/198641.pdf>)

### **IV. Award Types**

The UC Thelma Hansen Endowment Fund typically makes available over \$100,000 annually to support activities requested in this solicitation. Projects may encompass education, outreach, research or any combination of the three provided they have an extension component. This program is accepting two types of proposals: **1) Short –term projects and 2) long-term multi-year projects**. These projects may include funding, whole or in-part, from the UC Thelma Hansen Fund, with/without requests for HAREC land, labor and facilities, and with/without additional funding (e.g., matching support) from other extramural resources.

**Short-term projects** are small in scale and short-term (1-2 years). Short-term projects are not eligible for funding beyond the two-year term.

**Long-term multi-year projects** (3-5 years). Continuous multi-year funding of an award is contingent upon the successful completion and submission of yearly progress reports; which are subject to review and approval prior to distribution of subsequent year funding allocations.

### **HAREC On-Site Resources**

The HAREC presently has up to 8 acres available for research projects. On-site projects are typically limited to three years, although longer projects will be considered. For UC Researchers conducting research on or directly relevant to Ventura county agriculture (as described in the “Criteria” section above), the Hansen Fund will subsidize the use of the land, labor and facilities at HAREC. For all others the current full-cost rate of:

Senior Ag Technician:   \$36.82 per hour (7/15/15 – 9/30/15)  
                                  \$37.93 per hour (10/1/15 – 11/30/15)  
                                  \$38.32 per hour (12/1/15 – 6/30/16)

Farm Labor:               \$29.03 per hour (7/1/15 – 9/30/15)  
                                  \$29.90 per hour (10/1/15 – 6/30/16)

Non-UC affiliated researchers or organizations will be charged the Full Cost Rate plus the 32.8% Non-University Differential (NUD).

For a facility description see Hansen website at:

<http://harec.ucanr.edu/Research/Facilities>

***Continuous multi-year subsidizing of land, labor, and facilities at the Hansen Agricultural Research and Extension Center is contingent upon the submission of yearly progress reports; which are subject to review and approval prior to the release of subsequent year funding allocations.***

### **V. Timeline and Process**

Beginning August 1, 2015, the Hansen Grant program will accept proposals throughout the year. Proposals will be evaluated in the early Spring of each year, and at other times during the year depending on funding availability and the number of proposals received in any quarter.

- a. Typically, all complete applications received by Monday, **February 17**, will be reviewed as part of the Spring review cycle. Submit proposals through the UCANR RECMange system at:

[http://harec.ucanr.edu/Research/Submitting\\_a\\_Proposal/](http://harec.ucanr.edu/Research/Submitting_a_Proposal/)

- b. Hansen Research Advisory Committee (RAC) will review and forward recommendations to the UCCE/Hansen Director (**March**).
- c. Final approval and notification of awards will be made by **April 1**, of the year in which the proposal was submitted.
- d. Funding will be effective on **July 1**, of the year the award was made.

## **VI. Solicited Targeted Areas**

Proposals must clearly apply to at least one of the three Hansen goals and align with at least one of the ANR strategic initiatives as described in Section I. Priority will be given to the proposals that address the following current local agricultural issues and the areas of research and extension described below (presented in no particular order):

### **1. Water Quality or Quantity**

- a. Develop and encourage the adoption of management practices that demonstrably (through monitoring or other methods) prevent degradation of watersheds and surface and groundwater resources caused by pesticides, salinity, animal waste, nutrients, sediment, pathogens and emerging contaminants.
- b. Research, development and delivery of innovative scientific techniques, products, and processes to conserve water through increased water use efficiency.

### **2. Pests and Diseases**

- a. Emerging and Re-emerging Problems
  - i. Biology/genetics/management of pests and diseases to improve control programs
  - ii. Epidemiology and control programs for vectored diseases
  - iii. Prediction – Modeling and analytical tools for outbreak analysis
  - iv. Development of active surveillance plans and risk assessments for pest and diseases
  - v. Operational plans for intervention and rapid response
  - vi. First detector training and new technologies to enhance outreach to stake holders
- b. Integrated Management
  - i. Integrated management of pests/diseases (cultural control, chemical control, chemical therapy, mechanical control, biological control and others)
  - ii. Effective, sustainable pest management programs that minimize environmental impacts
  - iii. Resistance management
  - iv. Modeling and/or field studies to determine benefit of various mitigation strategies
- c. Exclusion of Pests and Pathogens
  - i. Risk Assessment
  - ii. Best practices that reduce risk of invasion
  - iii. Development of early detection tools
  - iv. Improved diagnostic methodology including sampling strategies
  - v. Response plans for invasive organisms

### **3. Agricultural Work Force Enhancement**

- a. Development of a product – such as a policy brief or paper – that leads to recommendations that have relevance to Ventura County decision makers in the near-term.
- b. Development of outreach programs to help connect farm workers with health care, insurance, and housing.

4. Education for Teens and Young Adults
  - a. Development of outreach programs that provide an opportunity for teens and young adults to learn about careers in agriculture and cultivate the next generation of farmers and others critical to the agricultural industry.
5. Crop Studies
  - a. Development of new crops that will thrive in Ventura County (this could involve new production systems; soil, water and nutrient management; etc.)
  - b. Develop crop management systems or production techniques to improve nitrogen and other fertilizer-use efficiency and minimize contamination of groundwater while sustaining profitable crop yields.
6. Economic Viability/Maintaining and Enhancing Market Share
  - a. Science-based information and marketing strategies to enhance the competitiveness of Ventura County's agricultural producers and products, and that support Ventura County's role as an agricultural producer in local, national and global markets.
  - b. Improvements in the quality and value of food products, development of value-added agricultural products, technologies to improve production efficiency and resource use efficiency while addressing pest and disease management and ecological concerns.

### **Other Information**

1. In the following order, preference will be given to projects that can be conducted at:
  - a. at/on the HAREC facility located in Santa Paula, CA
  - b. within the borders of Ventura County
  - c. at a non-Ventura county facilities if (1) and (2) are unavailable or inadequate for the proposed study.
2. Activities might include fostering collaborations with key stakeholders, developing and publishing whitepapers and research articles, and holding policy conferences as part of the collaborative education and outreach efforts.
3. Proposals must outline how the project will incorporate extension outreach education and stakeholder partners, describe the potential outcomes of the project, provide a structure, coordination, and implementation plan; and should achieve specific research, education, and extension milestones.
4. Research project results must be presented as part of the UCCE-VC/HAREC annual Research Symposium or other agriculture research symposium hosted within Ventura County.
5. An annual research reports must be submitted:
  - a. For one-year short-term awards, within *30 days of the end of the supported-research project*. Final payments on any award will not be processed until a final report has been submitted. Failure to submit a final report will constitute a failure to fulfill contractual obligations of the award and no outstanding payments will be made against the award.

- b. For multi-year awards, subsequent year funding WILL NOT be awarded until an annual research report has been submitted and progress has been found acceptable. Multi-year award recipients must submit their annual progress reports by May 1, to ensure adequate time for review and approval. The annual report must include any publication (peer-/non-peer reviewed, abstracts, etc.) that cites any results/findings, and any public exposure (news articles, presentations made by supported staff or the project PI's) from research funded by this award.
- 6. All published reports, presentations, public exposure for any results or activities that are the result of THF-supported activities must include the following acknowledgement, "Supported in whole or in part by the UC Thelma Hansen Endowment Research Fund, Ventura, CA".
- 7. Although not a requirement, projects that include cost-sharing with other sources of funding, or include multiple research entities, working synergistically on the proposed research project are highly encouraged.
- 8. PI/Co-PI salary support is highly discouraged.