

UCCE Nutrition Education Program in Jeopardy:

CRISIS ALERT:

Our County Administrator, David Twa, is proposing to eliminate funding for Cooperative Extension in Contra Costa. The Board of Supervisors will be presented with the budget Tuesday (3/17). If county funding is removed as recommended, the entire office closes. This will end all UCCE Nutrition Education Program Contra Costa County, and also means the loss of your farm, nutrition, sea grant and the youth advisors. We ask our supporters to email, fax, or call their local supervisors to let them know that this program is important by 5pm Monday evening. If you can't make contact by Monday, please do so as soon as possible. The budget will be finalized by the following Tuesday (3/24).

I have attached a sample letter (please modify as you see fit).

The Board of Supervisors meeting will be held Tuesday, March 17 (9:30 am) at:

County Administration Building
651 Pine St.
Room 107
Martinez, CA 94553

All meetings are open to the public, and you are encouraged to attend. Let me know if you plan on being there or would like to speak on behalf of our program during the public comment period beginning at 10:15am. We anticipate that speakers will be given about 2 minutes for their presentation.

Home Page for County Supervisors: <http://www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/index.asp?nid=193>

Because this is a budget issue, emails, faxes and phone messages should emphasize the following talking points:

#1) That You Vote in Contra Costa County. If you are not a resident of Contra Costa, but work in the County, you can still support our cause.

#2) The UCCE Nutrition Education Program addresses the high rates of overweight, obesity and chronic disease in Contra Costa County. Our educators help improve the lives of county residents through skill building education on healthy food and fitness choices, food safety, food preparation, food resource management, and the "farm to fork" food continuum.

#3) Highlights of our nutrition program activities and accomplishments:

- *Youth Food Stamp Education Program:* During the '06-'07 & '07-'08 school year 105 teachers delivered 4781 hours of nutrition and fitness education to 6454 low-income children and via our Youth Nutrition Education Program.
- *Adult Food Stamp Nutrition Education Program:* During the past two years, 1299 low-income adults participated in our nutrition classes. Of these, 91% improved their nutrition knowledge and 78% planned to adopt healthier eating and fitness habits.
- *Adult Expanded Food and Nutrition Program:* In 2007-2008, 112 low-income adults graduated from our eight week series. Of these, 82% improved at least one nutrition practice.
- *Agriculture and Garden Enhanced Nutrition Education Project:* Between February 2007 and September 2008, 1526 school children and their teachers learned about the "farm to fork" food continuum and the importance of local agriculture. Teacher evaluations consistently showed an excellent rating of the field trip experience and many return year after year.
- *4-H Healthy Rewards Project:* We piloted a new healthy living program with 4-H families, including children and adults. Through a journaling activity, participants indicated that the project positively influenced nutrition and physical activity knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors.

We appreciate your time and support. Thanks, Marisa