

Yolo Ag & Food Alliance
UCD Stronger Connection Committee
Survey Data Results
October 2014

About the Survey: This survey is comprised of ten questions to gain information from farmers about their needs in relationship to Cooperative Extension and UC Davis with regards to topics of *Research, Facilities, and Continuing Education*. This survey was put forth by the UCD Stronger Connection Committee from the Yolo Ag & Food Alliance (Yolo AFA) as a result of concerns voiced to the group from multiple farmers in the region. *Sensing a groundswell of popular opinion regarding the need for a stronger connection between the University/Cooperative Extension, and regional farmers, the Yolo AFA has taken the initiative to ask for more detail from farmers about their needs via this survey.*

This survey is intended to be a starting place for conversation about the future of connectivity between the University, Cooperative Extension and its service to regional farmers.

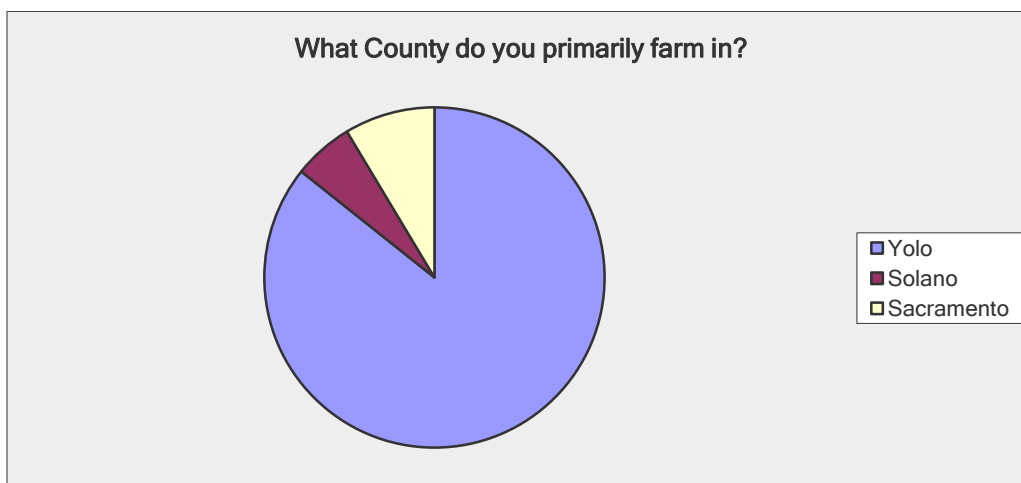
Survey Focus:

- **Research-** what research do farmers perceive would be most helpful to them right now in this region?
- **Facilities-** what facilities do farmers need right now for their crops or industry that the University might be able to supply?
- **Continuing Education-** What continuing education do farmers want for themselves

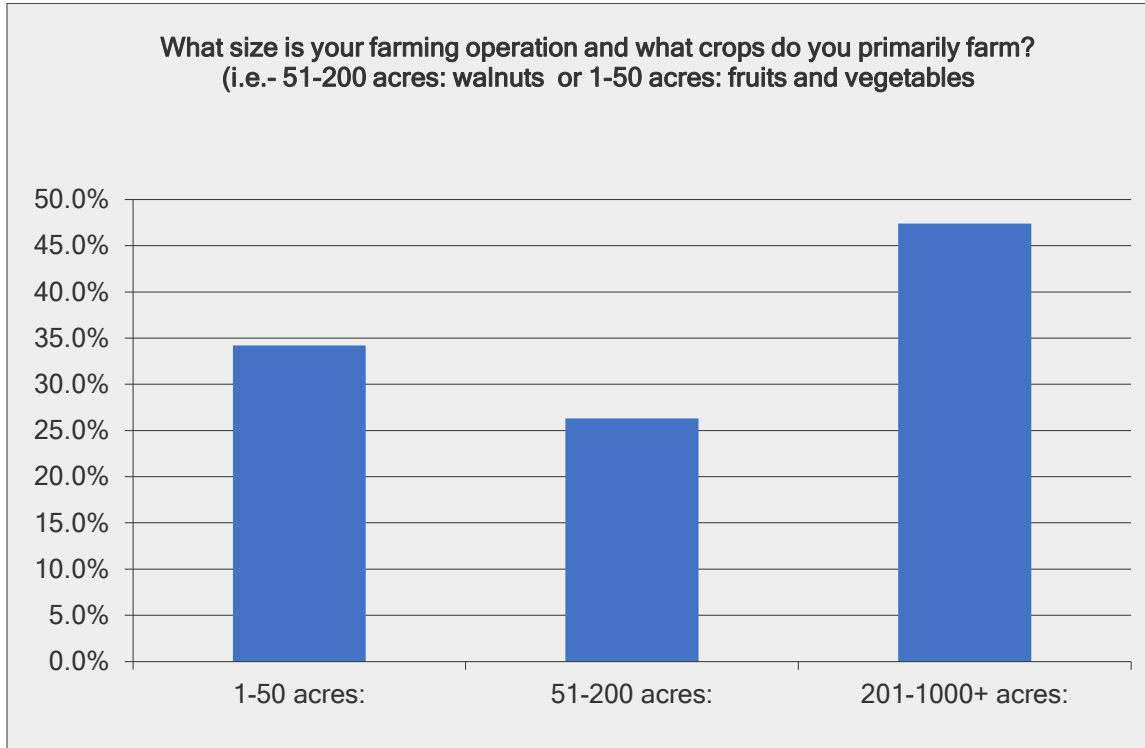
Survey Outreach: Using farmer listings from the Yolo County Department of Agriculture, the UC Cooperative Extension, and the Farm Bureau, this survey was sent out to approximately 400 potential respondents. Of those, we have 38 responses.

Survey ResultsFor some questions, we have coded the responses drawn from naturally occurring categories. For other questions, the raw data and qualitative answers are listed. For quantitative yes/no or self-select categories, the data is simply displayed as a graph.

Question 1: What county do you primarily farm in?



Question 2a: What size is your farming operation?



Question 2b: What crops do you primarily farm?

1-50 acres: olives, walnuts, melons, watermelons, processing tomatoes, mixed vegetables, fruit, pastured hens, sheep, almonds, fruits & vegetables, hops, barley, oat hay, livestock, row crops

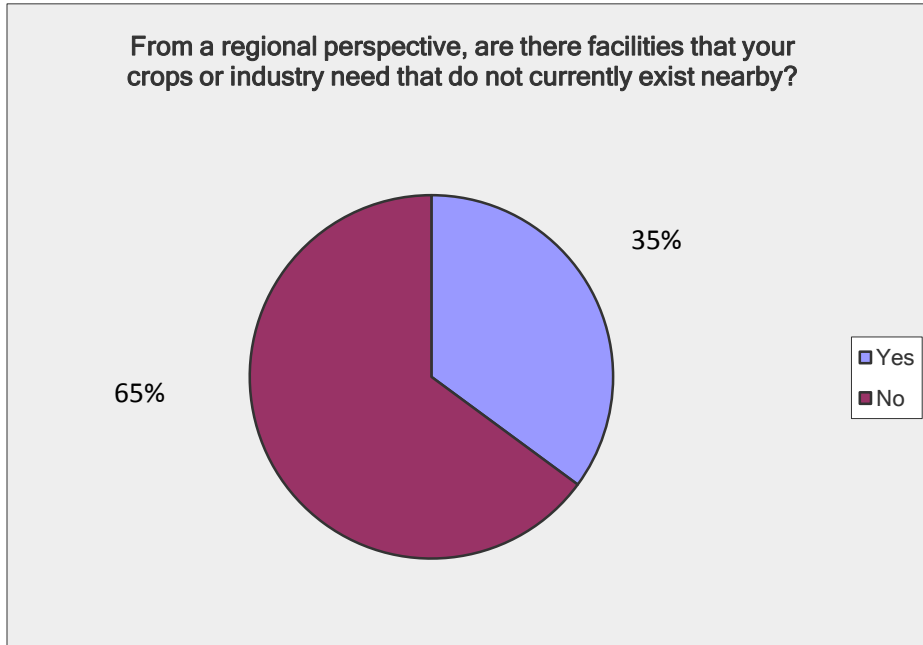
51-200 acres: wheat, organic vegetables, row crops, tomatoes, corn, alfalfa, sunflower, pasture, olives, walnuts, almonds, pork

201-1000+ acres: corn, rice, wheat, oats, hay, almonds, tomatoes, sunflowers, alfalfa, pasture, grapes, walnuts, cherries, dry beans, peppers, vineseed, walnuts, mandarins,

Question 3: If you would like to receive the results of this survey, we invite you to share your contact information in the box below:

Results withheld

Question 4: From a regional perspective, are there facilities that your crops or industry need that do not currently exist nearby?



Question 5: If yes, then can you please tell us about some facilities you wish were present?



Actual Responses-

Nuts Related: Pistachio Processor, when I harvest my 3 acres of almonds I still don't meet the minimum to take them to a shelling facility and must do them by hand, current land rents & lease provisions

Livestock Related: USDA slaughterhouses, USDA pork & poultry processing facilities, we raised ducks in 2012, but were unable to get them slaughtered and processed nearby. The nearest facility was south of Modesto and required a 400 bird minimum, Open the slaughterhouse to local farms, Invest in a larger local slaughterhouse!

Alcohol Related: large capacity wine grape crush facilities, tank storage, custom wine making/bulk wine capacity in the Clarksburg area, Hop kiln, hop processing facility, malt house, craft distilling facility

Co-Pack/Aggregation: co-pack/aggregation for small and medium sized farms

Miscellaneous:

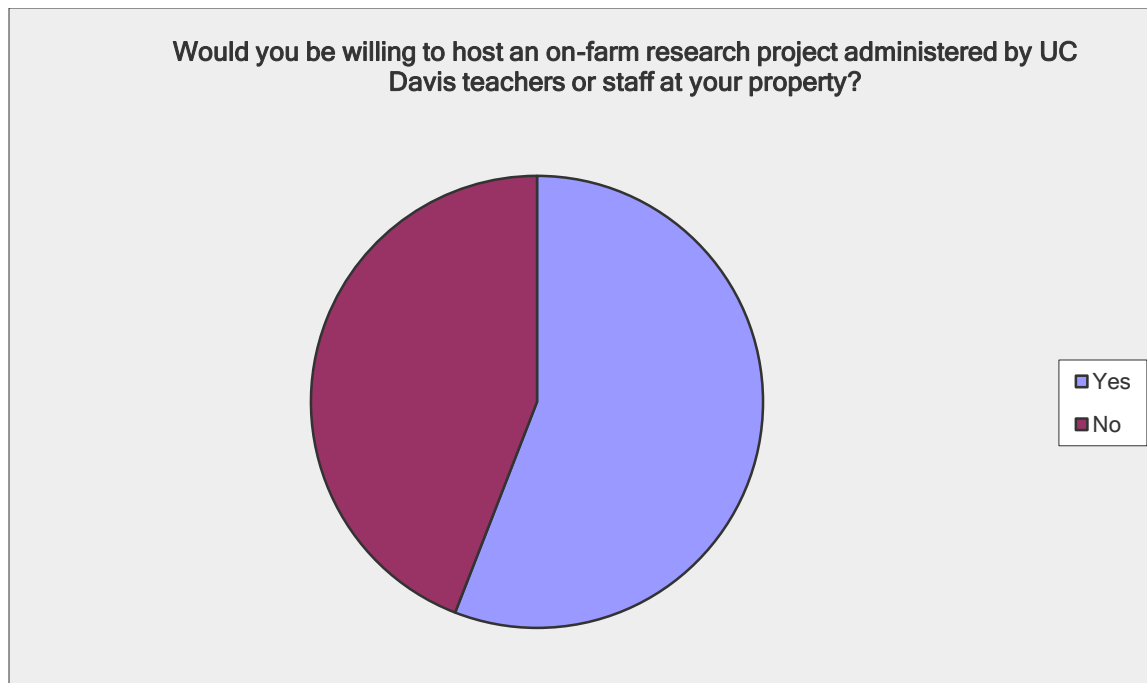
- Basic breeding activities to solve some of the fast appearance of soil born diseases
- Desalination plant
- Better freeway access to hwy 5, wider bridges in the delta
- Could I rent a combine that would be for my scale and still be profitable, efficient, etc.
- Grey water filtration systems manufacturer
- Electric fence supplier
- Solar energy harvesting manufacturing
- Greenhouse lath house for shade house aquaponics system
- Food processing facilities (maybe even co-packing) for small and medium sized farmers

Question 6: If you were to start a new food or agriculture business, what information and services from the University would you find helpful?

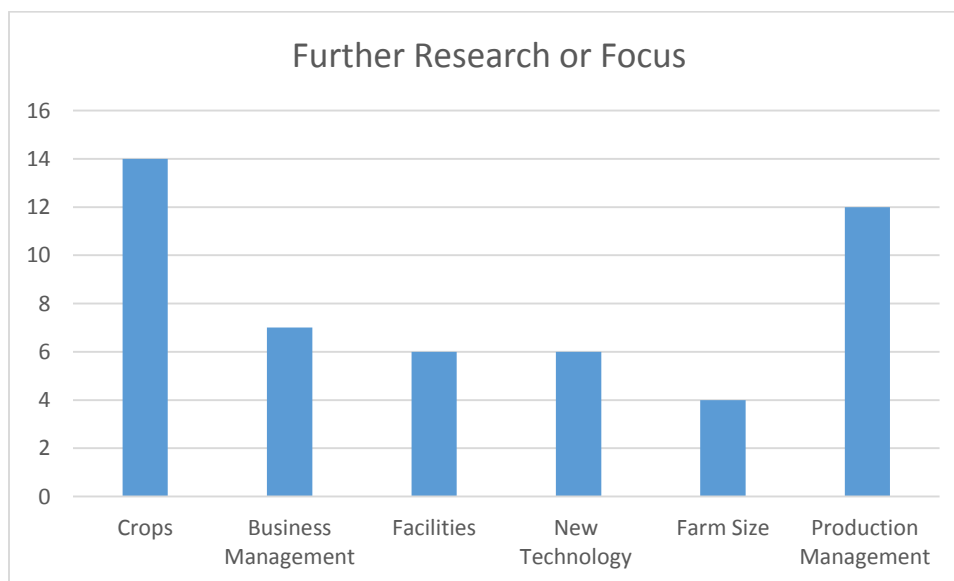
1. Marketing. Handling. Financing
2. Nutrient Management
3. Up to date and relevant cost studies. IPM services and info. Soil studies.
4. Justification for capital risk
5. basic research in identifying sources for controlling new damaging new tomato diseases
6. Cost of production, cultural practices, pest and control, potential marketing strategies, prerequisites
7. Cost studies
8. How to start up a value added food business, especially involving food handling and processing regulations, e.g. use of commercial kitchens
9. organic farming for 40-200 acre size practices
10. Vegetable Growing, packing, HACCP information, Pest Management info, and mainly be there to help us manage the outrageous regulatory environment.
11. n/a
12. Online guides, resources, charts graphs and most importantly economic analysis
13. Drip irrigation installation or setup classes
14. knowledge in extension agents
15. irrigation and nutrition(fertilizer) are paramount
16. - Pest management classes that apply to sustainable and small scale farms, if the ASI department shared their research, findings, or tips
 - Marketing and bookkeeping classes designed for agricultural businesses
 - How to lease and/or buy land
17. livestock processing
18. I already enjoy using the IPM site and the almond crop manual. I would love more support with rotational grazing....we're doing management intensive grazing and looking for good perennial (native where possible) forage plants (including trees/shrubs!) and have had a hard time finding information on that.
19. Research geared toward whole system, relatively closed loop agriculture
20. Plant nutrition, diseases, and insect pests. Food safety in the field.
21. soil analysis, water analysis. IPM, cover crops, plant pathology support
22. Cost and return studies for minority crops. An organic farm advisor
23. specialty foods business information

24. The process and economics of starting a craft distilling operation or coop.

Question 7: Would you be willing to host an on-farm research project administered by UC Davis teachers or staff at your property?



Question 8: in your industry or crop selection, what top 3 subjects or issues do you feel need further research or focus?



Crops:

almonds
tomatoes
wheat
walnuts
hops

winegrapes
livestock

Emerging crops

Business Management

HR
Biz &
marketing
Food Safety
Regulations

Facilities

Wine
Facilities
Distilling
Facilities
Livestock
Small Farm
Aggregation
Facilities

New Technology

Robotics/Mechanization
Chemigation/Fertigation

Research @ Farm Size

Organic
Small vs.
Large

Production Management

Pasture/Rangeland
Weeds
Virus
Pests
Boron

Question 9: What topics are of interest to you for Continuing Education?

1. Soil health. Increased organic matter and retention
2. Pest and disease management, Nutrient Management
3. Plant physiology, disease, ag mechanics
4. Regulations - EPA, Clean Water, Fire, Fire - rangeland control - Weed control medusa head, etc., Taxes, Inheritance
5. same as above
6. any production education is applicable to all crops, so anything on production side of things
7. Uses of new technology, new pest and weed control strategies and tools
8. Irrigation
9. Hands on practical education on water conservation practices and results
10. Pest management opportunities have been welcome. Increase diversity of topics. I really like Gene and Morgan's presentations. Also look forward to the Tomato Production meeting.
11. none, sorry too busy
12. Same as above
13. Soils class- how to read a soils test result and what and how much nutrients are needed for the upcoming crop.
14. insect/weed/disease identification water management
15. Is UCD doing extensive work on vineyard mechanization like Fresno State is doing? If UCD is the word is not getting out. Foundational research is great but we also have current needs that can be applied to today's production environment. Also need field/farm management apps that are easy to use in the field to replace paper.
16. growing organic on a larger scale
17. How to turn farming into a sustainable career
18. impossible at this time
19. Same as above: establishing "dry farmed" (rainfall only) perennial pasture/forage crops; silviculture; keyline plowing. More science on nutritional qualities of grassfed vs. grainfed meats.

- 20. Nitrogen fixation, pond building, specialty crops from arid regions with similar soil profiles, pastured understory that is beneficial to both ruminants and over story crops
- 21. The tree short courses that UC Cooperative Extension used to offer.
- 22. integrated pest management for nut crops
- 23. plant propagation, soil improvement, water quality and testing, IPM,
- 24. Crop production, Farm Equipment certification, Organic growing strategies, Pest identification
- 25. Micro distilling
- 26. emerging/unusual crop selection, small farm machinery/engineering, on farm certification processes, food safety, value added foods processing, farm accounting classes, on-farm veterinary practices, on farm renewable energy processes, biofuel growing

Question 10: What length of class time and price point(s) would best fit your budget?

