

# FARM SMART News

University of California  
Agriculture and Natural Resources

MARCH 2014

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## 100,000<sup>th</sup> Visitor!



FARM SMART welcomed its 100,000th visitor on February 13, and hopes to hit 200,000 in the next 10 years. Larry Mallory of Burley, Idaho was the 100,000th visitor. He and his wife are “snowbirds” or winter visitors to the southwest. They were surprised with confetti, balloons, a commemorative bag, and a refund of their admission fee. FARM SMART recognized the many contributions of staff and volunteers and celebrated the milestone with a special cake. Special recognition goes to Nancy Caywood-Robertson and her husband Al Robertson for their role in developing the program.

Here is the Imperial Valley Press

Article: [http://www.ivpressonline.com/news/local/farm-smart-program-celebrates-th-visitor/article\\_efa26a8a-9544-11e3-95c4-001a4bcf6878.html](http://www.ivpressonline.com/news/local/farm-smart-program-celebrates-th-visitor/article_efa26a8a-9544-11e3-95c4-001a4bcf6878.html)

FARM SMART is an educational outreach program of the Desert Research and Extension Center in Holtville, CA. It began in 2001 and continues to grow and educate through the Winter Visitor and K-12 programs. Contact FARM SMART at 760-356-3067, [surie@ucdavis.edu](mailto:surie@ucdavis.edu), or 1004 E Holton Rd Holtville, CA.

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## Winter Visitor Photo Gallery

### Winter Visitor Program Recap

The winter visitor program wrapped up February 27, 2014 and was a resounding success! FARM SMART saw **2206** visitors!

A big thank you to all of our volunteers, farm staff and administration, and of course all of the attendees! Make sure to put us on your calendar for next year's January – February season. We'll have new recipes, research, and knowledge to share!



1. Cabbage!



2. Romaine Lettuce!

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3. FARM SMART staff and volunteers. From left: Stephanie Collins, Nancy Caywood-Robertson, Al Robertson, Mary Bezemek, Bill Bezemek, Jackie Early, Sam Urie, Ken Early, Shirley Durrans, Alan Sweet, Kathy Sweet, Clarian Jump, George Jump, Larry Durrans.



5. Ice Cream!



4. Siphon Hoses

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## TEACHER'S CORNER: EARTH AS AN APPLE DEMONSTRATION

Concept: A visual demonstration of the limited sources of food available from land and water.

Materials: An apple, a knife, and a paper towel.

Procedure: Slice the apple according to the instructions below, narrating as you go.

Apple	Planet Earth	Narrative
Whole Apple	<b>Planet Earth</b>	1. Hold the apple so all can see. <i>"This apple represents our planet."</i>
3/4	<b>Water</b>	2. Cut the apple into quarters. Hold out 3/4 in one hand. Ask <i>"What do these 3/4 represent?" (water)</i>
1/4	<b>Land</b>	3. Set the three water sections aside and hold out the remaining quarter. <i>1/4 remaining represents the total land surface.</i>
1/8	<b>Uninhabitable &amp; Non-Arable Land</b>	4. Slice the land (the remaining 1/4) in half, lengthwise. Hold out one of the pieces. Ask the class: <i>"What fraction of the apple is this? (1/8). This 1/8 represents the half of the Earth's surface that is inhospitable to people and to crops: the polar regions, deserts, swamps, and high or rocky mountains."</i>
1/8	<b>Habitable Land</b>	5. Set that 1/8 aside and hold out the other. <i>"This 1/8 represents the other half of the Earth's surface. These are the areas on which people can live, but cannot necessarily grow food."</i>
3/32	<b>Habitable but Non-Arable Land</b>	6. Slice this 1/8 crosswise into four equal pieces. Hold out 3/32 in one hand. <i>"These 3/32 represent land on which people can live, but cannot grow food. Some of it was never arable because it's too rocky, wet, cold, steep or has soil too poor to produce food. Some of it used to be arable but isn't any longer because it's been developed—turned into cities, suburbs, highways, etc., so it can no longer be farmed. Governments have earmarked other areas, such as parks, nature preserves and other public lands to remain undeveloped forever."</i>
1/32	<b>Arable Land</b>	7. Set 3/32 aside and hold out 1/32. <i>"So, only 1/32 of the Earth's surface has the potential to grow the food needed to feed all of the people on Earth".</i>
1/32 Peel	<b>Topsoil</b>	8. Carefully peel the 1/32 slice of Earth. 9. Hold up the peel: <i>"This tiny bit of peel represents the topsoil, the dark nutrient-rich soil that holds moisture and feeds us. Currently, 90% of US croplands lose soil above the sustainable rate."</i>

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## FARM SMART congratulates Kay Hamilton on 40 years!



6. Kay Hamilton, Principal Agricultural Technician

FARM SMART staff and volunteers along with Desert Research and Extension Center staff congratulate Kay Hamilton on his 40 years of service to the farm. Kay is the man in the Caterpillar disking, leveling, and preparing the soil perfectly for research crops and the FARM SMART garden. Kay's service was celebrated with cake and ice cream. When asked to tell a story from his years of service, Kay told of rushing back to work one day after eating lunch. Not wanting to be late, he was going down the highway at a good clip (we won't say how fast ☺) when one of his tires blew out. Thankfully no one was hurt, but Kay was as worried about getting to work on time as he was about what had happened to his car. Kay also indicated he drives a lot slower these days. Thanks Kay!

THANK  
YOU



7. An aerial shot of Kay's handiwork.

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## UC Riverside chancellor tours DREC

Newly appointed University of California Riverside chancellor Kim Wilcox visited the Imperial Valley and the Desert Research and Extension Center (DREC) Feb 28. He spoke with the agricultural community and Center staff about funding challenges and how to grow their

relationship together. Local farmer Ronnie Leimgruber told Wilcox, "This center is so critical to our productivity in the Valley". Center staff took Wilcox on a tour of the farm and FARM SMART staff and volunteers served a steak fry for all in attendance. After lunch, Wilcox toured Vessey Farms, a local produce grower. See the Imperial Valley press article here:

[http://www.ivpressonline.com/news/local/uc-riverside-chancellor-tours-imperial-valley/article\\_0805c16a-a10e-11e3-9f78-0017a43b2370.html](http://www.ivpressonline.com/news/local/uc-riverside-chancellor-tours-imperial-valley/article_0805c16a-a10e-11e3-9f78-0017a43b2370.html)



8. UC Riverside Chancellor Kim Wilcox meets with local farmers.




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"This center is so critical to our productivity  
in the Valley"

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Ronnie Leimgruber, farmer

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## UCCE Day of Science and Service

Participate with us in the University of California's "Day of Science and Service" May 8, 2014! This is a great opportunity for all ages. Teachers could do this as a class.

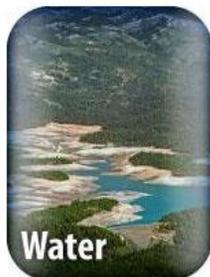
Sign up at [www.ucanr.edu/sites/100years/Day\\_of\\_Science\\_and\\_Service/](http://www.ucanr.edu/sites/100years/Day_of_Science_and_Service/) or search "UCCE Day of Science".

Everyone is a Scientist!



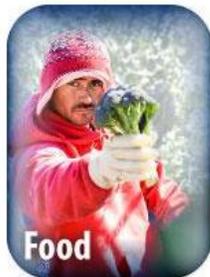
### Pollinators

How many pollinators do you see? Bees, butterflies, beetles, bats—they are all important! Our food depends on them. Spend three minutes outside counting how many pollinators you see, and let us know by adding your count to our pollinator map.



### Water

Why is conserving water important? Conserving water isn't just important, it's essential. Water is critical to all life. People, animals and plants all need water to survive. With an increasing population, there's more demand on our water supplies and it's more important to conserve than ever before.



### Food

Why is it important to know where our food is grown? By knowing where our food is grown, we become healthier eaters and more aware of the resources that go into growing and producing our food. With the demand on our food supplies growing, it's becoming more important to understand where our food comes from and to make sure everyone can access it.

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