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**For questions or comments, please contact Maurice Pitesky  
at 530-752-3215 or [mepitesky@ucdavis.edu](mailto:mepitesky@ucdavis.edu)**

# New Cooperative Extension Specialists at the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine

Over the last 6 months the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM) has hired 3 new extension specialists to bring the total number of Cooperative Extension (CE) specialists to 8 faculty members in the SVM. These hires reflect recent efforts to replenish the SVMs extension faculty. The following is a list of current CE positions at the UC-SVM and their location (UC Davis or the Veterinary Medical Teaching and Research Center (VMTRC) in Tulare, CA.)

Position Title	Name of Specialist	Location
Herd Health & Management Economics	Fernanda C. Ferreira*	VMTRC
Beef Cattle Herd Health & Production	Gaby Maier*	UC Davis
Antimicrobial Stewardship	Emmanuel Okello*	VMTRC
Microbial Waste Treatment	Pramod Pandey	UC Davis
Urban Agriculture & Food Safety	Alda Pires	UC Davis
Poultry Health & Food Safety Epidemiology	Maurice Pitesky	UC Davis
Youth Literacy	Martin Smith	UC Davis
Dairy Production & Food Safety	Noelia Silva-del-Rio	VMTRC

\* New Hires

The following page contains a brief description of each of the new extension specialists. To learn more about UC Davis' cooperative extension, including contact information for each of the faculty members above, please visit: [vetext.vetmed.ucdavis.edu](http://vetext.vetmed.ucdavis.edu)

**Trivia:** How can a butterfly be an insect if it has more than 6 legs when it is a caterpillar?

**Answer** from last issue: The only three mammals that do not have 7 cervical vertebrae are manatees, sloths, and some pug dogs!

# New Cooperative Extension Specialists at the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine



**D**r. Fernanda C. Ferreira was recently hired as the Herd Health and Management Economics Cooperative Extension Specialist at the VMTRC in Tulare California. She got her DVM and MS degrees in Brazil, where she also worked for the private industry and the government for 8 years before coming to the US to obtain her PhD. Her PhD work at the University of Florida focused on the economic impact of management decisions such as heat abatement and embryo transfer technologies. At UC Davis, Dr. Ferreira uses analytics and quantitative methods to address current and future problems related to food animal production and the economic opportunities and impacts of herd health and management strategies, animal welfare, environmental stewardship, and precision technologies. She is passionate about extension and the opportunity to translate research outcomes to improve the livelihood of food animals and farmers.



**D**r. Emmanuel Okello's research and extension is focused on promoting antimicrobial stewardship in the livestock industry. Dr. Okello's goal is to develop antimicrobial stewardship guidelines and best management practices that reduce antimicrobial resistance while maintaining the health and welfare of the herds and flocks. His specific areas of research include the use of alternatives to antibiotics to control infectious diseases in livestock, development and evaluation of vaccines and rapid diagnostics techniques, and improved management practices for disease prevention. Current research areas include surveillance of antimicrobial drug use and resistance on California dairies, estimating the rate of acquisition and loss of antimicrobial resistance within the gut microbiota of pre-weaned dairy calves, and evaluation of the effect of dry cow treatment on fresh cow's milk microbial community.



**D**r. Gaby Maier's research and extension focuses on addressing the challenges for California's beef cattle industry. Her interests are in infectious disease, epidemiology, defining best practices for judicious use of antimicrobials and anthelmintics, and mitigating the difficulties of adequate mineral supplementation and the development of herd health programs tailored to the needs of California beef cattle herds.



## Teaming up on the *Effects of Fire and Food Safety*

**T**he USDA recently awarded the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine and UC Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR) a 2-year grant titled, “Developing In-Person and On-line Resources for Gardeners and Backyard Poultry Keepers in California Following Wildfires.”

Because urban and peri-urban wildfires and the ash produced from them can spread chemicals from household hazardous waste, building material, pesticides and fire suppressants into our environment, providing timely science-based information is essential follow-

ing fire events. This grant is designed to leverage our current research efforts related to the potential effects of fire on backyard poultry eggs and backyard gardening with respect to exposure to harmful chemicals including heavy metals, Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and Polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs).

Specifically, this grant will focus on outreach and training to fire affected communities in California. Potential attendees include home gardeners and backyard poultry owners in fire affected areas, environmental health, food safety and public health professionals, and veterinarians and garden supply stores.

In addition, web material will share best practices and diagnostic resources after fire events. Current wildfire resources for backyard poultry keepers and backyard gardeners can be found at [ucanr.edu/sites/poultry/Resources/WildfireResources/](http://ucanr.edu/sites/poultry/Resources/WildfireResources/). The first workshop will be held in Santa Rosa, Sonoma County, California on April 27th. For more information, please contact Julia Van Soelen Kim at [jvansoelen@ucanr.edu](mailto:jvansoelen@ucanr.edu) or Maurice Pitesky at [mepitesky@ucdavis.edu](mailto:mepitesky@ucdavis.edu).

SAVE THE DATE | SAVE THE DATE | SAVE THE DATE

### POST-FIRE FOOD SAFETY

Learn how wildfire impacts the safety of local produce and eggs

Saturday, April 27, 2019  
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

SRJC Shone Farm  
7450 Steve Olson Ln  
Forestville, CA 95436

UCCE

RSVP:  
[ucanr.edu/postfirefoodsafety1](http://ucanr.edu/postfirefoodsafety1)

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**Maurice Pitesky &  
Julia Van Soelen Kim**

# Virulent Newcastle Disease Update

**S**ince May 2018, an outbreak of virulent Newcastle disease (VND) has had a devastating impact on backyard bird populations in four Southern California counties: Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura. The virus has also been found in four commercial facilities in Riverside County and two in San Bernardino county. As a result, approximately 1,000,000 backyard and commercial birds have been euthanized.

VND is a highly contagious respiratory virus in poultry that is nearly always fatal. The only way to stop the spread of the virus and eradicate the disease is to euthanize infected birds and all birds within highly infected areas. The primary way in which the disease spreads is by seemingly healthy birds being moved.

Clinical signs of VND include: sudden death and increased death loss in the flock, sneezing, gasping for air, nasal discharge, coughing, greenish/watery diarrhea, decreased activity, tremors, drooping wings, twisting of the

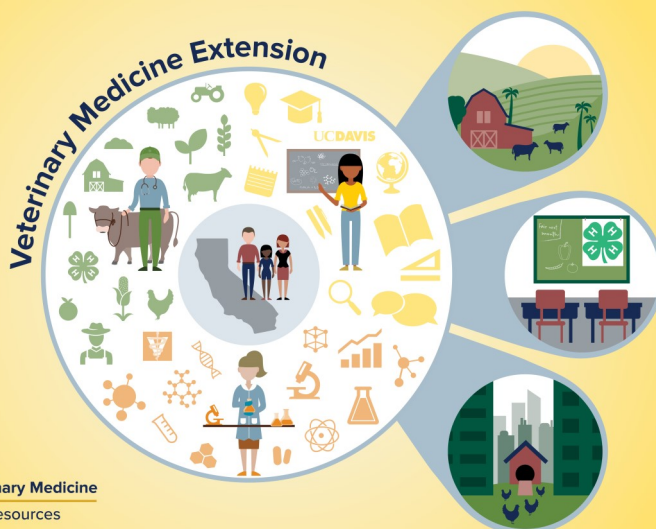
head and neck, circling, complete stiffness, and swelling around the eyes and neck. For more information, visit [bit.ly/cdfa-vnd](http://bit.ly/cdfa-vnd).

To support disease containment and eradication efforts, the CA State Veterinarian is requiring that all poultry exhibitions that include birds from high-risk counties (Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura) be cancelled.

An exhibition is an assembly of birds (including but not limited to poultry) brought to the assembly location for purposes that include public display for any duration. These can be auctions, shops, pet marts, cock fights, petting zoos, or more.

For more information about movement restrictions, biosecurity, and testing requirements, or to report an unusual number of sick/dead birds, call the Sick Bird Hotline 866-922-BIRD (2473).

**Dr. Annette Jones**



UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine  
UC Agriculture & Natural Resources

[www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/vetext/](http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/vetext/)

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Maurice Pitesky, editor in chief

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