



# Stan State Agricultural Studies Grow With Us Gazette

Volume: 6  
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2016 Issue



EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Finals Week	December 14th-20th	-	Stan State Campus

# Holiday Wishes!

Compliments of the season to you.

In this last edition of the year, I present to you, updates from our student as they share their experiences in the Ag program. A major highlight is the Ag Ambassadors' Thanksgiving food drive this year: They provided food baskets for over 50 families through the United Samaritans Foundation in Turlock. A true thanksgiving spirit! The students also share their experiences from a networking dinner sponsored by the Western Plant Health Association as a key professional development opportunity. We are thankful for these experiences and opportunities. There are many more!

As the students prepare for their final exams, we wish them the very best. Special holiday greetings also go to all of you for a safe, joyful and memorable Christmas and new year holiday with families and friends.

-Dr. Oluwarotimi Odeh

## Stan State Agriculture Apparel Sale!

### **GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFTS**

We have grey and black women's and men's sweatshirts (\$25), T-Shirts, and a selection of hats (\$15) currently in stock.

Get in contact with the officer team to make purchases.

Help us advertise our Agriculture Department on and off campus!

**AG FACT:** There are approximately 25-30 million Real Christmas Trees sold in the U.S. every year. There are close to 350 million Real Christmas Trees currently growing on Christmas Tree farms in the U.S. alone!

(<http://www.realchristmastrees.org/dnn/Education/Quick-Tree-Facts>)



*Come grow with us!*



# Thanksgiving Food Drive

**By Raquel Gomez**

The holiday season is a time for appreciating all we have and giving to those who are less fortunate than we are. Following our yearly tradition, we worked together with United Sa-



maritans to put together 50 thanksgiving food boxes for families who otherwise would not have had turkey dinner. Our organization, Agriculture



Ambassadors, worked for 2 weeks to ensure adequate amounts of food were donated for the boxes and we were successful! Each box included: turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, green beans, rolls, fruit cocktail, pie, butter and water.

The food boxes were put together on Monday November 21 by the students in Dr. Odeh's Professional Development class and on Tuesday November 22 by members of the Ag Ambassadors. Hopefully, next year we can make 65 food boxes for our community because after all feeding people is what agriculture is all about! Happy Holidays from me to you!

On behalf of the Agriculture Ambassador student body, faculty and staff, I want to extend a special thank you to Green Tree Nursery, California Poultry Federation, Del Monte Foods, The Bellino family, Safeway in Turlock, California Dairies, The Skiles family, Savemart on Lander, The Pulido Family and Yolanda Gomez for their generous donations! Also a special thanks to Darren Jones, Sheyenne Sousa, and Tammy McGladrey for volunteering their time on Tuesday morning to finish the food boxes!



## **For More Information and Suggestions**

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# Industry Of The Month: Poultry



**By Bill Mattos, President of California Poultry Federation**

2016 began just the way we like it in the poultry industry. Feed prices were either down from last year and/or manageable, demand for California chicken, turkey, ducks and squab was good and the price was right for consumers. Our poultry companies remained on high alert for Avian Influenza and their biosecurity measures were in place to hopefully prevent an outbreak in the west that could potentially devastate the industry. Feed prices have since spiked, but we are still hopeful that they remain at much lower levels than a few years ago.

Nationally, consumption of chicken surpassed all other meats the past year, so our California companies have developed a variety of products demanded by the people who live in the Golden State and the West.

Free range and organic chicken, and other poultry production, is up over a year ago and while it remains as a relatively small part of our industry, California can now brag that it raises more organic and free range poultry than any other state. The fact that the first organic chicken was produced here more than 15 years ago is something we can also say! However, California producers still face many challenges:

**Avian Influenza:** Since the West contains one of the largest flyways in North America and those ducks and geese bring with them lots of bird flu, biosecurity at farms and ranches is important. The winter months are the more challenging because the flu comes mostly during that time. Hot weather kills Avian Influenza (Bird Flu). So, the beginning of spring was a good sign that the summer lies ahead with some hot weather.

**Antibiotics Monitoring:** California passed a new antibiotics law last year that will require monitoring the use of antibiotics in livestock, including poultry. The fact that poultry companies have already started such work and in fact are reducing and/or eliminating many antibiotics today, fits well with California consumers. We are in meetings now with other livestock companies as the new law goes into place. One excellent provision says a veterinarian must prescribe medications and livestock owners cannot buy these health tools without a prescription.

**Food Safety:** The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) added new salmonella rules for poultry parts and nationally the industry struggles with the new standards that are coming up. These standards demand that the percentage of salmonella on birds in our processing plants be reduced. Once again, California is somewhat ahead of the game as most of our birds here are meeting and beating the new standards already. Our challenge with the salmonella issue is the fact that consumers still need to be educated about handling poultry. We are working hard to educate consumers in the west.

The Central Valley is still home to most of the chicken, turkey, ducks, squab and eggs produced in the state; and more than 140,000 employees are directly or indirectly supported by the California poultry industry. Directly, the industry employs more than 24,000 and more than 120,000 serve the industry as suppliers and/or indirectly (construction, transportation, wholesaling, retailing, travel, government and more).

# CSU Stanislaus AG Networking Dinner

**By Alec Schmitt**

The dinner provided a great networking environment that puts you in a room with people who are hiring for your specific AG degrees. You will meet people from a multitude of companies that are looking to hire new bright minds. This particular networking event allows you to connect with experts in your field and also provides an opportunity to meet others who simply admire you as a person for your values and skills. Thus, the CSU Stanislaus AG networking dinner offers an opportunity for students that should not be taken lightly. Instead, all students should attend and bring their best selves. You never know who you'll meet and perhaps employ you!



Students networking with representatives of many businesses

Personally, I was not sure what to expect from this dinner, but I quickly realized that it is an amazing opportunity to meet important people in the industry, from owners to VP's, to potential coworkers. It is always a benefit to be able to meet important people in the industry that may influence your future. I expected it to be like the Taste the Valley event where we, the AG students were too busy working, setting up, serving and attending to guests. I was surprisingly wrong. This networking dinner was a very personal experience that I got to share with important people. It was nice having an intimate environment that allowed you to really branch out and talk to all different kinds of employers.

My goal was to talk to fellow agriculturists, as well as to possibly shape my future career goals in the agriculture business. Another possibility was to see if my college education could transfer over to the real world. After partaking in the dinner, it is reassuring to know that my college education will make a difference in choosing my career. Many of the employers and employees had the degree I am pursuing. I felt like the best part of the night was the mingling aspect. That, along with good food, made me feel comfortable and willing to talk to the professionals. All of the above, created a very relaxed environment to interact. I was thoroughly impressed by the event. Overall, I felt as if it was very well thought out. It was an amazing effort from not only the CSU staff, but also the employers as well, who make the effort to offer job and career opportunities to students, get them interested, and get them ready for the next step in life.

One employer in particular that I interacted with was Michael Frantz. He is the co-owner of Frantz Nursery, with his brother. They have an expanding business that in the future will require more Ag students, especially for people with production Ag backgrounds, which happens to be my interests. Meeting him will definitely be useful in the future.

In conclusion, I learned multiple key takeaways from this experience. The first thing I learned is that the ag community is looking for people like me; students that are willing to go the extra mile to get educated and be productive in the ag community. Secondly, I gained a lot of networking opportunities that are going to help me in the future. The third key takeaway is that I gained a sense of what my life will be like after college as well as the type of people I will be around every day of my professional life. Talking to other students with different majors that do not have opportunities like the AG students do with this networking experience, proved that future AG students should take full advantage of the CSU Stanislaus AG networking dinner.

# Student-Industry Dinner Report

## By Roel Alfaro Gallardo

### A short introduction about the event

The Student/Ag Industry dinner was a dinner event sponsored by Western Plant Health Association to get students and people from corporations or businesses in the Ag industry to meet, ask questions, socialize, and connect for job or internship placements.

### What were your expectations before the event?

Before the event I thought that everyone there was going to be super formal. I thought that there was not going to be enough time to talk to everyone.

### What was (were) your goal(s)?

My goals were to talk to at least three people from the industry and get valuable information. I also wanted to land an opportunity for an internship or even a job. Before the end of the event, I got valuable information about an internship.

### Was your highlight of the night?

My highlight of the night was talking to Sean Sousa from South Valley Farms. He asked me, "What I want to do in agriculture", I told him "I want to be a ranch/farm administrator and start my own business one day". He smiled and said, "then you're talking to the right person". We spoke of how my grandparents do farming in Mexico and how I want to do some farming in the future. Then he gave me a business card smiled and said, "Make sure you get in touch with me, we can arrange an internship for you when you're a junior or a senior".

### Discuss some useful contacts you made and how you will follow up?

I made a great contact with Sean Sousa. He was the only one that I had time to talk to that really matched what I want to go into. I got his contact information and I will email him. I'm sure he will remember me since we talked about distinct things, different from what other students talked about.



Students and Representatives mingling

### What is your impression after the event?

I think this event was great. I had a good time meeting people in the industry, it really is a networking event strictly for the students. I was amazed about how much people are willing to help you and how much opportunity there is in the Ag Industry without too much competition.

### Any regrets?

I regret starting off the night pretty shy. I was shy when I walked in and took a while to get to talk to people. I also wish I could have asked people I spoke to more questions.

### What were 3 key things you learned/gained from the event?

I learned that (a) Everyone is around to help and they are just a phone call, or email away. (b) There are so many opportunities in Ag, rather than just being a farmer, and (c) About career opportunities as PCA and CCA.



President Junn speaking at the dinner

*Happy Holidays From The  
Stanislaus State Ag Department*

