



Growing the next generation of leaders The University Agricultural Laboratory (UAL) or the “Farm” operates to provide students with hands-on learning experiences in all aspects of agriculture. The 1,000-acre farm located on the Fresno State campus is comprised of functional enterprises that serve as outdoor classrooms and laboratories for faculty and students. We explore the latest advancements in agriculture and conduct applied research relevant to the region’s agricultural issues and economy.



18 Enterprises serve as outdoor laboratories and classrooms. Eighty class sections are taught annually and more than 90 students are employed during the year working over 54,000 hours.

Students are our most valuable resource and Fresno State students learn all aspects of agriculture on our farm, including growing and managing crops and livestock, making wine, processing dairy, meats, fruits and the marketing of products.



Agricultural Operations maintains the Farm with expertise from personnel with diversified skills in close association with students, faculty and industry partners.

The Water, Energy and Technology supports water, energy and ag-tech entrepreneurs and innovators on the path to commercialization through programs and services including training, coaching and networking.

A division of the California Water Institute, the WET Center has provided an entryway since 2007 for startup and established businesses to launch and/or facilitate the development of practical applications of new technologies. Industry partners have access to office, meeting and working space and services tied to technology evaluation, incubation plans, cohort-based acceleration programs, advisory services and investing assistance.



Ongoing research is actively underway through the Jordan College that averages approximately 15% of the total grants and contracts at Fresno State. The California Agricultural Technology Institute (CATI) serves as the umbrella for our college-wide research

and grant opportunities. CATI is coalesced around the following institutes and centers:

- Institute for Food and Agriculture
- Viticulture and Enology Research Center
- California Water Institute / Center for Irrigation Technology



Approximately 20 researchers and 40 student assistants are active in water-related research efforts that include increasing water use efficiency and improving soil management and natural resource practices.

Grants are also devoted to developing new food production, processing, and safety practices related to area nut, citrus, and stone fruit industries.

Fresno State is one of four CSU campuses that receive legislative funding from the state of California to support the Agricultural Research Institute (ARI). The \$4 million in ARI funds are distributed annually for campus-based projects on a competitive basis. These programs, which focus exclusively on issues affecting California, build upon a successful record of applied research accomplishments. They enhance, augment and extend the basic research conducted by the nation’s land grant universities.



Enterprises managed through the college include:



- **Wine and Table Grape Vineyards**
120 acres of table, raisin, and wine grape vineyards provides the training ground for numerous award-winning viticulturists and winemakers



- **Animal Units and Food Processing** Beef, dairy, horse, poultry, sheep, and swine units, plus meat/food processing labs and creamery maintained by our faculty and students support education



- **Horticulture Units**
Facilities for plant propagation, greenhouses and a tissue culture laboratory allow students to study plant health, soil/water, agronomy, and horticulture



- **Foster Farms Poultry Education and Research Facility**
Flocks of 20,000 day-old chicks are raised in the 16,320-sf state-of-the-art, temperature-controlled environment for 45 days until market weight



- **Tree Fruit and Nuts**
325 acres of orchard include almonds, grapefruit, mandarins, nectarines, olives, oranges, peaches, pistachios, walnuts, and more



- **Vegetable & Field Crops**
80 acres of vegetable crops and 120 acres of field crops grow seasonal fruits and vegetables including our popular sweet corn



- **Rue & Gwen Gibson Farm Market**
Retail showcase for Fresno State, student-produced wine, dairy, fresh fruits and vegetables, candy, nuts, jams, jellies, sauces, meats, flowers, and plants



- **Licensed Winery**
First commercially-bonded winery on a university campus (and still the largest); 25,000 gallon capacity; 5,000 cases produced annually (thanks to 2,000+ student hours)

Ag Matters

Outreach and Community

FFA Field Day, host to +2,500 FFA Students – Ag Boosters BBQ – Ag Discovery Camp – Big Fresno Fair – Campus Ag Fest Athletic Events – Career Fairs – Dairy Industry Training Workshops – Meat Science Industry Appreciation Dinner and Seminars – CIT Ag Tech Demo Day – Common Threads Luncheon – Community Garden & Student Cupboard Vegetable Project – Fresno Chafee Zoo outreach events and areas – FIRA International Ag Robotics Conference – Family, Food & Farm Month – Gibson Farm Market Farm Fall Festival – Grape Day – Irrigation Workshops – Kern County, North Bay, West Side, and Stanislaus Alumni Events – Livestock Judging Camp – National Agriculture Day – Portuguese Beyond Borders Lecture Series – Red Wave Classic – Trap Shoot – Turf Day Golf Tournament – USDA Cochran International Seminars – Water Management and Sustainability Seminars/Conferences – Wine Tasting Events – Farm Tours for K-12 students and thousands of domestic and international visitors

Continued Success

The Gibson Farm Market garners strong community support and sales revenues with its farm-fresh products and special events and new student-designed products constantly added.

Dairy processing produces its highly popular and delicious products, including milk, cheese, and 30 ice cream flavors. Students from the food processing laboratory and culinology classes create candy, jams, jellies, sauces, syrups and baked products that are sold at the Gibson Farm Market.

Financial Support

Despite budget limitations, the University Agricultural Laboratory maintains the delicate balance between academic, community outreach, research, and production interests. In 2021-22, the farm generated nearly \$6.72 million in revenue that was aided by a state budget allocation of \$1.65 million. Additional support is always needed to update technology, equipment, and facilities to prepare students to become future employees and leaders in the nation's leading agricultural area.

Jordan Agricultural Research Center

Made possible by a generous gift from the Bud and Dee Jordan family, the Jordan Agricultural Research Center is a first-of-its-kind research center on a CSU campus. Designed to change and grow with the latest scientific needs, the center links Agriculture, Science, Mathematics and Engineering students and faculty with industry leaders to nurture a cohesive research environment through interdisciplinary collaboration.

