

# ALUMNUS, FARM BUREAU CEO **JACOBSEN** LEADS AG ONE

by Lanny Larson

Paying it forward to the Valley farm community in which he grew up and also to Fresno State, **Ryan Jacobsen** (2002, '04) **LIFE** honed his business acumen, agricultural skills and leadership talents. And in recognition of those talents, the Fresno County Farm Bureau CEO has been named president of the Ag One Foundation.

*“It’s a tremendous privilege to lead an organization that has contributed to so many students’ lives, including mine as a past scholarship recipient,” says Jacobsen. “Ag One has a rich history with many of the region’s agricultural leaders and innovators.”*

Established in 1979, the Ag One Foundation has raised more than \$16 million in endowed funds and provided scholarships and grants to more than 3,250 students of the Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology.

Jacobsen, one of those beneficiaries, is deeply rooted in Fresno County agriculture in the Easton area, which has been farmed since the 1870s. He’s a fourth-generation farmer on both parents’ sides, and he is following in their footsteps of active involvement in agricultural events and issues.

Already an accomplished student at Washington Union High School (founded in 1892 and Fresno County’s oldest high school) and planning a career in agribusiness, Jacobsen enrolled at Fresno State. He earned a bachelor’s degree in animal science in 2002 and a master’s in business administration (entrepreneurship emphasis) in 2004, winning Dean’s Medalist recognition at both commencements.

Jacobsen served two terms as Associated Students, Inc. president at Fresno State. He was president and secretary on the Council of President’s Scholars, an officer in the Pre-Veterinary Association and active on the student executive council and as the student member of the curriculum committee.

At Fresno State, he was active in the Golden Key National Honor Society, California Young Farmers and Ranchers Club and Fresno County Farm Bureau, and was assistant ranch manager of his family’s J&L Vineyards.

After leaving campus, Jacobsen continued to farm and became the Farm Bureau’s issues and membership coordinator. He was promoted in 2006 to executive director/CEO. The Farm Bureau represents 4,700 members on a range of environmental, labor, water supply, land-use, crime and other issues in the nation’s richest agricultural county.

He is a director of the Fresno Irrigation District and active on the Business Advisory Council of the Craig School of Business and Easton Lions Club. He served on the community group updating new Fresno State President Joseph Castro about the region.

Jacobsen married **Ashley DeBenedetto** (2003) **LIFE** in 2005, and they are the parents of Maverick Laub Jacobsen, born in 2011.

“My experiences as a student at Fresno State were life-changing and set me on the path to where I am today,” Jacobsen says. “Supporting the university is an important part of my life to ensure that today’s students can continue to reap the many benefits that were once offered to me.”



Cary Edmondson

**OTHER ALUMNI  
SERVE AG ONE**



Fresno State alumni also joining Ag One’s executive board are **Jason Karr** (1998, '05) of Derco Foods, as vice president, and **John Migliazzo** (2007), a lawyer, as secretary. New to the board are alumni **Aaron Attebery** (2001) of Green Leaf Farms and **Don Parreira** (1980) of Ultra Gro.