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, plus 4,500 acres of Sierra foothill rangeland located 20 minutes from campus at the San Joaquin Experimental Range near O’Neals are 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.

Over 20 Enterprises
serve as outdoor laboratories and classrooms. Eighty class sections are taught annually and more than 150 students are employed during the year working over 80,000 hours.

Students are our most valuable resource and on the Farm, Fresno State students learn all aspects of agriculture 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 (WET) Center, home to the Claude Laval Water and Energy Technology Incubator and the testing facilities of the International Center for Water Technology (ICW'T), provides an entryway for entrepreneurs and innovators to accelerate commercialization, product and business launch and the development of practical application of new technologies. Its blueprint has been expanded as part of a $5 million California Energy Commission grant to establish the Central Valley Regional Energy Center. The five-year agreement will encourage business and technology innovation for agricultural, water, energy and allied companies for two-thirds of the state.

Ongoing research
is actively underway through the Jordan College that annually generates over 20% 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 via air injection, CO2 enrichment, ‘smart’ irrigation units, converting ethanol from crops and dairy waste, and improving irrigation and soil management 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 to support the Agricultural Research Institute (ARI). The $4 million in ARI funds are distributed for campus-based projects on a competitive basis. These projects and programs 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.
Ag Matters

Outreach and Community

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 2017-18, the farm generated nearly $6.71 million in revenue that was aided by a state budget allocation of $1.47 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.

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 wine-makers

• 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
  190 acres of orchard include grapefruit, oranges, mandarins, peaches, nectarines, olives, almonds, pistachios, walnuts, and more

• Vegetable & Field Crops
  80 acres of vegetable crops and 220 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 any university campus (and still the largest); 50,000 gallon capacity; 10,000 cases; 2,000+ student hours