



Tulare Joint Union High School District Farm

Agriculture Education

Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources Career Cluster

Overview

The Agriculture Education program of study at Tulare Joint Union High School District (TJUHSD) Farm in Tulare, California prepares all of its students for postsecondary and career success through emphasis on participation in classroom laboratories, FFA, and hands-on, real-world skill preparation through Supervised Agriculture Experience Projects. All students are enrolled in Career Technical Education (CTE) courses that specialize in one of five self-selected agricultural cluster areas: agricultural business management, agriculture science, agriculture mechanics, animal science, or ornamental horticulture.

Beginning in 1928, the Agriculture Education program of study has long provided students with the opportunities to grow into the agriculture field, a vital industry to California’s economy.

Secondary Students (730)	Percentage
Male	58%
Female	42%
Low-income	51%
Minority	52%
English language learners	30%
Postsecondary Students (26)	Percentage
Male	46%
Female	53%
Low-income	32%
Minority	34%

Expansive Work-based Learning Opportunities

Although the agriculture education program boasts an almost 90 year tenure, staff and partners work hard to keep the program of study’s curriculum and offerings aligned with advancements in the agriculture industry. The TJUHSD Farm works with a local Agriculture Advisory Board that meets three to four times each year to assist the teachers with the needs and demands of the community. Sixteen business professionals representing the five agriculture areas help design and revamp curriculum, develop new courses, and volunteer additional time to serve as guest speakers in the classroom. During advisory meetings, members discuss the needs of the current market place and brainstorm new ideas to incorporate into the program so that it reflects the changing dynamics of the workplace and industry.

In addition to engaging in relevant coursework, students can work on the farm’s school dairy, which partners with Land O’Lakes to produce butter and cheese, as well as the school’s 98 acre learning laboratory with 75 acres of farm land. Cropland, Forage Genetics, and DuPont Pioneer have donated thousands of pounds of corn, wheat, and alfalfa seed to plant, and after harvest, all feed is used for the



dairy herd, dramatically reducing the feed cost of production for the farm’s dairy enterprise. By working with these companies, the farm is sustained at a lower cost and students are exposed to careers in the crop science industry, which yield hundreds of jobs in the region.

While the farm work-based learning projects are impressive, students are also required to participate in a Supervised Agriculture Experience Program at local businesses. Students must complete at least 40 hours of work outside the classroom per semester at jobs across all sectors of agriculture including

dairies, milk processing and sales plants, agriculture engineering firms, and veterinary clinics with a number of business partners such as Gist Farms, Macedo and Sons Dairy, and Cross Street Veterinary. The program of study also offers an Agriculture Work Experience Course through which students work two hours each day, with employers contributing to the students’ grade by assessing their work ethic.

Pathways to Postsecondary Education

In conjunction with an array of work-based requirements, TJUHSD Farm offers six courses articulated with the local community college, College of the Sequoias (COS). Articulation agreements are currently being revamped to provide dual enrollment credit to better serve students, though currently many graduating seniors continue their postsecondary education at the COS facility with the intent of transferring to the university system to major in agriculture. College of the Sequoias also frequently allows students to use the facility and equipment, as well as provides instructors to help students prepare for upcoming competitions.

“The Tulare Joint Union District High School Farm program is without question one of the premiere secondary agriculture programs in California! It features a tremendous instructional program and one of the best student leadership programs in the state” – Dr. Lloyd L. McCabe, State AgEd Supervisor, California Department of Education

Success by the Numbers

TJUHSD Farm’s exemplary work-based learning opportunities, dynamic business partners and focus on setting the bar high for student achievement results in an incredible, high-quality program of study.



100%

Participated in Work-based Learning



100%

Graduated High School



94%

Enrolled in Postsecondary Education



5%

Entered the workplace and/or military

Data based on 2014-2015 school year