



CAL POLY

Agricultural Education
& Communication

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD
& ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

2022-2023 Agricultural Education Teacher Candidates



Camille Alamo

B.S. in Agricultural Science and a minor in Agricultural Business from Cal Poly. Master of Agricultural Education in progress.

Passionate about teaching Ornamental Horticulture, Agricultural Business, Food Science and Technology as well as Agricultural Leadership. Eager to bring hands-on learning and instruction to an inclusive learning environment. Excited to incorporate FFA and SAE into the classroom and educate the next generation of passionate agriculturalists. Organized, hard working person with practical experience in Swine and Sheep animal projects, Food Science, and Floral Design.



Kiara Benavides

B.S. in Agricultural Science and a minor in Agricultural Business from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. Master of Agricultural Education in progress.

Strong interest in Ornamental Horticulture, Plant Sciences, Agricultural Business, and Environmental Sciences. Extensive experience in floral design, sustainable agriculture practices, and leadership. Eager to adopt an inclusive and safe learning environment for future generations of agriculturalists, regardless of background. Excited to share passion of all facets of the industry via hands-on, learn by doing educational practices.



Olivia Ferraiuolo

B.S. in Agricultural Science from Cal Poly. Master of Agricultural Education in progress.

Passionate about teaching animal science, agricultural biology, agricultural sciences, and leadership. Practical experience in animal production, equine practices, and agricultural sales. Excited to bring hands-on learning to the classroom to provide real-life knowledge and experience. Eager to make all students feel welcome in the classroom and mentor the next generation of students with a love for agriculture.



Madison Galvez

B.S. in Agricultural Education-Teacher Preparation from California State University, Fresno. Master of Agricultural Education in progress.

Passionate about Agricultural Sciences, Animal Science and Leadership. Vast experience in raising and handling livestock. Devoted to creating a compassionate environment, and a love for agriculture. Passionate about creating a hands-on learning environment. Eager to help students learn about leadership and teamwork through SAE and FFA.



Hannah Hanko

B.S. in Agriculture Science with a focus in Crops and Soil Sciences, minor in Spanish. Master in Agricultural Education, Spanish Bilingual Authorization in progress.

Looking forward to guiding students' learning through the subjects of Soil Science, Biology, Leadership, Animal Science, Crops Science, Natural Resources and Forestry, Organic Practices, Agriculture Mechanics, and Floriculture. Values the leadership, responsibility, and sense of community that students gain from their involvement in FFA and SAE projects. Spanish speaking ELL and Emergent Bilingual students will have equal access to learning in the classroom and Chapter.



Mackenzie Hearne

B.S. in Agricultural Science from Cal Poly. Master of Agricultural Education in progress.

Excited to share love of agriculture with future generations of students. Practical experience in agribusiness, animal science and agricultural leadership. Passionate about hands-on learning and student development beyond the classroom. Prepared and eager to teach all facets of the agriculture industry and create an inclusive and exciting learning environment.



Paige Henry

B.S. in Agricultural Science and minor in Dairy Science from Cal Poly. Master of Agricultural Education in Progress.

Well versed in Animal Science, Agricultural Science, Dairy Science, and Veterinary Science. Extensive experience with handling livestock, especially swine and dairy. Experienced in floral design as well as an interest in crop production. Excited to help students gain new experiences and foster personal growth through classroom activities and SAE projects. Believer in hands-on learning to deepen students understanding of the importance of agriculture. Excited to provide multiple opportunities for students.



Lillian Kies

B.S in Agricultural Science with a concentration in Forestry and Natural Resources from Cal Poly. Master of Agricultural Education in progress.

Enthusiastic about forest management, the importance of the California Agriculture Industry, the history of agriculture, animal science, biology, and the use of natural resources in agriculture. Passionate about introducing students to the opportunities and career paths that agriculture has to offer. Believes in the "Learn by Doing" motto and emphasizes it in teaching strategies. Excited to share knowledge and love for learning with all students.



Elizabeth Merenda

A.S. degree in Agricultural Animal Sciences from Modesto Junior College. B.S. degree in Agricultural Communications from California State University, Fresno. Master of Agricultural Education in progress.

Strong interest in Animal Science, Agricultural Leadership, Communications, Agribusiness, and Floriculture. Practical experience in sheep production, dairy production, journalism, and floral design. Excited to prepare students for their future careers through leadership opportunities within both their SAE projects and the FFA organization. Passionate to share with students how they can advocate for the agriculture industry.



Deanna Payan

B.S. in Liberal Studies with a concentration and minor in Agricultural Education. Master of Agricultural Education in progress.

Strong interest in animal sciences, sustainable agriculture, agricultural mechanics, and biology. Emphasis in hands-on student engagement in the classroom and getting a variety of students with different backgrounds into agriculture. Applied experience in animal production, marketing livestock, and farm machinery. Excited to coach a variety of CDE teams, oversee a multitude of SAE's, and build respect with students.



Brionna Serpa

B.S in Agricultural Science with an emphasis in Ornamental Horticulture from Cal Poly. Master of Agricultural Education in progress.

Passionate about Ornamental Horticulture, Plant Science, Animal Science, and Leadership. Practical experience in fruit production and research, floral design, ornamental horticulture, and managing livestock projects.

Enthusiastic about student involvement and development through creating an inclusive and engaging learning environment. Excited to promote agricultural literacy and hands-on learning through FFA, SAEs, and CDEs.



Shelby Watts

B.S. in Agricultural Science from Cal Poly. Master of Agricultural Education in progress.

Enthusiastic about teaching Agricultural Mechanics, Agriculture Sciences, Leadership, Animal Science, and Sustainable Agriculture. Practical experience in welding, woodwork, meat production, food safety, and livestock management. Striving to create an environment that engages all students, regardless of background, to flourish in the agriculture industry and as leaders in their community. Excited to utilize hands-on learning to introduce a wide array of topics pertaining to the agriculture industry.



Alison Weiss

B.S. in Agricultural Science from Cal Poly. Master of Agricultural Education in progress.

Passionate about agriculture biology, agriculture chemistry, plant science, soil science, and horticulture with practical experience in production agriculture and an interest in animal science. Motivated to engage students with FFA involvement and hands-on SAE projects. Enthusiastic about being a life-long learner and sharing that with students. Determined to create a welcoming and inclusive classroom environment that promotes students to find individual passions. Eager to propagate the next generation of agriculturists.

2022-2023 Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo Agricultural Education Cohort

