

## **APPLICATION: 2014 STOCKER CATTLE ENTERPRISE AT SWANTON RANCH**

The Stocker Cattle Enterprise is a project designed to expose students to the care of stocker cattle and management of a ranching operation. Each year, Cal Poly receives approximately 500 steers and heifers from the Kahua ranch in Hawaii that leases pasture for them from Cal Poly at Swanton Pacific. The cattle arrive in late January/early February, and graze at the Swanton Pacific Ranch until forage or water on the ranch run short, which can be from late May to mid-July. At that time the owner moves them on to feedlots for finishing. Cal Poly is paid on the basis of gain while the cattle are on the ranch (recently ~\$0.30-\$0.40/lb), and maximizing this gain is our main objective.

Stocker Enterprise student members assist the Swanton Pacific Ranch livestock manager (Gordon Claassen) in managing the cattle and the ranch infrastructure that they use while they are at SPR. Students are expected to spend at least three weekends a quarter at the ranch (Friday evening-Sunday afternoon). While there, students will assist Gordon, enterprise managers, and other staff in performing basic ranch tasks. These may include feeding and moving the cattle, fixing fence, performing basic veterinary procedures (vaccinations, worming, implanting, etc.), checking and maintaining water sources, etc.

### **Eligibility:**

Applicants with histories of good work habits (dependability, willingness to learn, and willingness to handle difficult or arduous tasks) and who work well as team members are desired. This is one reason for requesting a resume and references with your application.

This enterprise is open to students of any major, and any year in school. You do NOT need to have prior experience with livestock or horses, but you must be willing to learn and get a little (or sometimes a lot) dirty in the process. You will find the Swanton/Cal Poly staff and faculty are very ready and able to teach “newbies.”

When there are more applicants than space in the enterprise, first preference will be given to students who have completed ASCI 221 or (secondarily) will be enrolled in it for Winter Quarter.

Enterprise members must enroll in the ASCI 290 course for winter AND spring quarters, for which they will receive 2 units of credit each quarter. Students will enroll each quarter using permission numbers that will be provided by the first week of class (you do not enroll before the quarter begins, as you do for other classes).

### **Requirements:**

1. Students must have and maintain a 2.0 GPA.
2. The applicant will not graduate before June 2014.
3. Students accepted for this project are expected to:
  1. Attend all weekly meetings (Wednesdays, 7–8am)
  2. Fully cooperate with all staff and student enterprise managers

3. Be available for the two or three major enterprise work weekends: when cattle arrive (“receiving”), first processing (usually two weeks after receiving), and second processing (usually first or second weekend of spring quarter). Enterprise members can select their other weekends, so long as all weekends can be fully crewed. Be aware that the first processing weekend often overlaps Western Bonanza.
4. Be available to participate in a one day horse/riding safety workshop (TBA, but likely a Saturday in January)

### **Skills and equipment:**

Most work will be done as part of a team, and sometimes under adverse conditions (wet, cold, and muddy, and sometimes windy). We expect enterprise members with more experience to help those with less, and we expect everyone to fully pitch in to complete tasks.

A limited number of horses (~6) are available at the ranch, and Enterprise members will have a *few* limited opportunities to ride. Horses are not used before the middle of February, and after that not every weekend. Arrangements can be made to provide a Cal Poly truck/trailer to haul a limited number of horses owned by Enterprise members to/from Swanton and back to campus (or near campus) on work days when extra people in the saddle would be useful.

Students must have a sleeping bag/pillow, and are *strongly* encouraged to have rain gear, warm clothing, gloves, and boots (waterproof boots recommended). Food and transportation are supplied by the enterprise, except for meals eaten while traveling between SLO and Swanton (we often stop to eat en-route, if travel times take us through lunch or dinner). Enterprise members must prepare meals together. Enterprise managers will organize weekend meal preparation and cleaning details with groups that have signed up for those dates.

Most weekends, students will depart Friday afternoon, as early as everyone going can be ready, so keeping Friday afternoons open on your schedule is recommended. Usually, work groups return mid-late Sunday afternoons, sometimes early Sunday evening.

### **Participation in other enterprises or jobs:**

Students will not be considered for, or may be dropped from this enterprise, if outside commitments (including jobs, sports, or heavy course loads) interfere with their ability to consistently meet their enterprise work obligations.

This is a **6-month** (two quarter) commitment, so be sure you can follow through. If you work on weekends, talk this over with your employer first. The date of the rider safety workshop should be scheduled by the first week of classes. The two mandatory ranch work days in winter quarter may not be determined until late January.

APPLICATION FOR THE SWANTON PACIFIC RANCH STOCKER CATTLE ENTERPRISE

APPLICATION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 8, 2013.

PLEASE INCLUDE A CURRENT RESUME WITH YOUR APPLICATION.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Major \_\_\_\_\_

Class Standing 2013–2014: Freshman  Sophomore  Junior  Senior

When do you plan to graduate? \_\_\_\_\_

Dept. Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Current phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Commercial animal experience:

Other livestock experience: Yes  No

Cattle experience:

Cow/Calf Yes  No

Show stock Yes  No

Feeder/Stocker Yes  No

Feedlot Yes  No

Only ASCI beef courses Yes  No

Other animal experience (list primary species): \_\_\_\_\_

Previous enterprise or other activities at Cal Poly:

Enterprise or Activity

Supervisor or Advisor

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Outside work/enterprises/activities that you will or might be involved in during this enterprise:

\_\_\_\_\_

Course work completed or in-progress:

ASCI 102/112

ASCI 220

ASCI 221

ASCI 311

ASCI 329

If you have **not** already completed ASCI 221, will you be enrolled in it for winter quarter?

Yes  No

Is your present GPA above 2.0? (This will be verified at the start of winter quarter): Yes  No

## SWANTON PACIFIC RANCH STOCKER ENTERPRISE

1. What are your current academic and professional goals?
2. What skills or experiences are you hoping to gain from this enterprise?
3. What are two things you think you could contribute to this enterprise?
4. List two people (at least one must be a Cal Poly faculty member – like your advisor) who could be used as a reference in regards to your work habits and ability to participate collaboratively in team/group projects.
5. Have you ever had had strong reactions to insect stings or poison oak, or have other medical issues that the faculty advisor should be aware of? (this is not used in the selection process)

**Submit application and your current resume to Dr. Marc Horney, Animal Science (rm. 10-101, or e-mail resume and application as attachments to [mhorney@calpoly.edu](mailto:mhorney@calpoly.edu)).**

Names of applicants accepted for this enterprise will be e-mailed out by  
**December 10, 2013**