

APPLICATION: 2015 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. When growing conditions allow, Cal Poly leases pasture at the Swanton Pacific Ranch to private ranches where they can let recently weaned calves (“stockers”) grow. 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 generally occurs from late May to mid-July. Cal Poly is paid on the basis of gain while the cattle are on the ranch (recently ~\$0.30-\$0.40/lb). Maximizing the gain of these cattle on pasture is our main objective. The stocker enterprise also assists with the production and marketing of Swanton Pacific Ranch’s grass-fed beef if there is time and opportunity.

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 four** weekends (or equivalent) a quarter at the ranch (Friday evening-Sunday afternoon/evening). While there, enterprise members 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, sometimes, get wet, cold, and 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 2016.
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”; often the first or second weekend of February), first processing (usually two weeks after receiving), and second processing (usually first or second weekend of spring quarter). Enterprise members can pick and choose their other weekends, so long as all weekends can be fully crewed.
4. Be available to participate in a full day horse/riding safety workshop (TBA, but likely a Saturday in January)

Please be aware that dates and timelines given here are approximate. We may not know more than a week in advance when cattle will be received or processed. If other commitments you have will require more notice, we may not be able to give it.

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 by at least 5pm 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

FALL QUARTER APPLICATION DEADLINE: Nov 13th, 2015.
PLEASE INCLUDE A CURRENT RESUME WITH YOUR APPLICATION.

Name _____ Major _____

Class Standing 2015–2016: Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior

When do you plan to graduate (qtr/year)? _____

Faculty 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, 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).

NOTE: The present drought has greatly reduced the grass production at Swanton Pacific Ranch. It is possible that we will not have sufficient grass to continue the stocker cattle lease through the end of spring quarter, 2016. In that event, stocker enterprise members may be given alternative assignments to complete their requirements.