

APPLICATION: 2019 - 2020 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 (SPR) to private ranchers to let recently weaned calves (“stockers”) graze and 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 sometime between late May and late June. Cal Poly is paid on the basis of gain while the cattle are on the ranch (recently ~\$0.35-\$0.45/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 as there is time and opportunity.

Stocker Enterprise student members assist the Swanton Pacific Ranch livestock manager in managing the cattle and the ranch infrastructure that they use. Enterprise members are expected to spend at least three weekends (or equivalent) a quarter at the ranch (Friday evening-Sunday afternoon/evening). While there, enterprise members will assist the ranch livestock manager, enterprise instructors, student enterprise managers, and other ranch staff in performing 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.

Enterprise management: The enterprise management consists of two on-campus faculty, Raven Lukehart and Dr. Marc Horney, and two staff at Swanton Pacific Ranch, the SPR Livestock Manager Kara Porterfield and SPR Livestock & Rangeland Management Specialist (currently unfilled). The ranch normally hires two junior/senior students – usually former enterprise members - to serve as student managers for the enterprise. They are to be treated as staff.

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 if they satisfactorily complete both quarters. An “RP” (Report in Progress) grade will be given to everyone who completes the winter quarter enterprise. On completion of the spring quarter enterprise, the winter quarter grade will be converted to “Credit.” 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 for Enterprise membership:

1. Students must have and maintain a 2.0 GPA.
2. The applicant will be able to participate in the enterprise for both quarters.
3. Students accepted for this project are expected to:
 1. Attend **all** weekly meetings (TBD, usually 7am-8am Tuesday or Wednesday)
 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.

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 will give it if we can – but that may not always be possible.

Skills and equipment:

Most ranch work will be done as part of a crew of at least 2-3 people. Sometimes, particularly in winter quarter, conditions can be adverse (wet/cold/muddy, and sometimes windy). Safety of enterprise members is our first priority. Comfort is important, but that comes after getting the work done. We expect enterprise members with more experience to help those with less, and to receive credit for the course everyone must pitch in fully to the level they are capable of in order to complete tasks.

Students must provide their own 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 at the ranch-. 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 work, 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 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: Nov 15, 2019

LATE REGISTRATION: Jan 10, 2020 (w/ enterprise advisor approval)

PLEASE INCLUDE A CURRENT RESUME WITH YOUR APPLICATION.

Name _____ Major _____

Class Standing 2018–2019: Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior

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

Faculty Advisor: _____

Current phone: _____ Email: _____

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

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 enterprise managers 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)

OR Raven Lukehart, Animal Science (rm. 10-131, or e-mail resume and application as attachments to rlukehar@calpoly.edu).
