

# Discover California Agriculture

## -Spring Break 2009-

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### AGEC 300-01

#### Seminar: Food Processing Cooperatives (Spring 2009)

**Instructor:** Dr. Gary Brester  
**Time:** Thursdays, 3:10-4:00pm (may be changed later)  
**Location:** Linfield 109A  
**Credits:** 2 credits  
**Grading:** Letter Grading

**Description:** The class will meet the first one-half of the 2009 spring semester. The organization/operation of cooperatives will be the focus of initial lectures. Students will make presentation related specifically to food processing cooperatives in California. All students are required to **travel during spring break to California's Central Valley**. Tentative dates are **March 17-21**. Students are responsible for their travel costs. We expect airfare, bus transportation, some meals (breakfast and lunch) and hotels to total about \$1,200/student. The instructor has applied for travel grant resources to offset some of these costs. The outcome of that proposal will not be known until after Spring Semester begins. Travel will occur jointly with students from Kansas State University.

California agriculture is the most diverse in the United States. Farmers regularly deal with water, immigration issues, stringent environmental laws, and other issues. California has not historically benefited from government subsidies and programs like Midwestern U.S. agriculture. Much of their products are exported and marketed through cooperatives. The sheer diversity and value-added agriculture production coupled with the unique management challenges will make this a fascinating state to study.

Possible visits include a grape vineyard that sells grapes for raisins and Sun-Maid Raisin's factory; an almond farm and Blue Diamond's almond processing plant; a large dairy and a Land O'Lakes cheese factory; a cattle feedlot operation; a cling peach farm and canning factory; a prune/fig farm and facility; an orange farm; and a rice farm/processing facility. We may finish with a visit to the University of California, Davis and listen to faculty members talk about California agriculture.

Following the trip, students will present a summary of their experiences during an evening presentation to the Department's undergraduate Agricultural Business students.

## Informational Meeting 4:00 p.m. Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup> Linfield Hall Room #206

For Further Information Contact:

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