

For Immediate Release – August 10, 2023

## **FARMS Advanced career day at Fresno Madera Farm Credit was a big hit**

If the FARMS Advanced group that participated in a career day at Fresno Madera Farm Credit is indicative of the quality of high school students in the program, the future of California agriculture is in good hands.

That's the view of Katie Burchfield, Fresno Madera's marketing manager, who helped put the event together last fall with Mindy Clisso, the Central Valley FARMS Leadership coordinator.

"The students were really engaged and had a ton of questions about working in lending and what kind of degrees they would need to get to that level," Burchfield said. "Because of all their questions, the career day presentations went longer than expected. It was great to see the next generation of aggies interested in learning about all the facets of agriculture."



*Fresno/Visalia FARMS program students proudly displaying their Fresno Madera Farm Credit swag bags.*

Nine students from the greater Fresno/Visalia area attended the day-long event, arranged to give the students a chance to interact with an organization important to agriculture – and to hold it indoors instead of in the field on a wet, cold day.

Burchfield said the visit clearly had an impact on at least one of the students. She said FARMS Alumni and Internship Manager Leticia Hernandez recently sent her an email that said student Lisa Chareunsouk applied for a \$500 My Job Depends on Ag scholarship to attend UC Berkeley in the fall and said Farm Credit was her new career goal.

"My future academic goal is to pursue higher education by attending a 4-year university to obtain a bachelor's degree in economics," Chareunsouk wrote. "As for my career goal, I want to become a credit loan officer at a farm credit union to provide loans to farmers in need of funds because I believe supporting farmers financially is an important component in agriculture."

Hernandez added that the FARMS program was thankful for its partnership with Farm Credit and its continued support.

Donations to the My Job Depends on Ag Scholarship Fund can be made at <https://landbasedlearning.org/donate>

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**About Fresno Madera Farm Credit:**

*Fresno Madera Farm Credit is a member-owned agricultural lending institution serving the farmers, ranchers, and rural communities in the Central Valley of California. As a part of the nationwide Farm Credit System, Fresno Madera Farm Credit provides a wide range of financial services tailored to the unique needs of the agricultural industry. These services include operating loans, real estate mortgages, equipment financing, crop insurance, and rural home loans. With a deep understanding of the local agricultural landscape and a commitment to supporting the success of its members, Fresno Madera Farm Credit plays a vital role in fostering the growth and sustainability of agriculture in the region.*

**About the Center for Land-Based Learning:**

*For the past 30 years, the FARMS Program has served diverse communities throughout California, from Red Bluff to Bakersfield, Vacaville to Monterey. Tens of thousands of high school youth, most with no previous access to these opportunities, have been introduced to careers in agriculture and environmental sciences. FARMS participants are provided with a multi-year, progressive approach to entering these industries. The experience begins with Tier 1, the FARMS Leadership Program, in which students engage in career exploration. In Tier 2, FARMS Advanced, students focus on workforce development and hands-on skills training in the field, and in Tier 3, students engage in job shadows and paid internships with partner organizations and companies throughout California.*