



ALL ABOUT RODGERS RANCH



WELCOME!

This document was designed to give community members and interested individuals a chance to learn more about the CUHSD Rodgers Ranch. It is divided by sections of the facility. Check it out to learn more!

GENERAL HISTORY

Rodgers Ranch was donated to CUHSD in 2001 by the late Daniel Rodgers. Along with the physical land, an endowment was also left to help fund a variety of student scholarships, including some for those involved at the ranch. The ranch is a 177 acre facility where students are able to learn about agriculture in a hands-on setting. There are various areas of the ranch which students and the community utilize for projects, activities, events, and more.



ARCHWAY GATE

The large archway over our gate was a project completed by the 2022-2023 Ag Welding class. Our advisor Nolan Kee helped his students execute practical skills to create this archway that welcomes those coming to the ranch.

PASTURE

The ranch has various pastures which are utilized for many things, making up 17 acres of the facility. The ranch cattle are rotated through these pastures. We also occasionally plant hay in them. The pastures contain mixed orchard grass, rye grass, trefoil, and clover. Irrigation systems are utilized in these, where students can learn more about how to operate waterers. The fencing was completed by students in the ag program. There are also opportunities for student grown projects in these pasture areas.





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PEACH ORCHARD

The peach orchard was planted in the fall 2007 by the ag production class. Each year our freshmen students start their ag classes off by coming out to the ranch and picking peaches. The students then process them into peach cobbler, which our FFA program sells as a fundraiser. The fifty trees are a variety called dwarf faye alberta, which were selected because they ripen at the perfect time as students come back to school. The work life prep students also utilize the peaches, helping pick them for sale or for our school cafeteria. Other than picking, students learn how to prune and maintain trees in this orchard, too.



CATTLE

The ranch has an angus cattle herd, which currently has 11 cattle. Our original cattle were purchased from Byrd Cattle Co. We have been using a bull from Dave Lester to breed our cattle and increase our herd. The cows calve out, after which our animal science classes help process them and ship them to Orland for auction. The FFA program hosts an annual branding where community members and students can watch the calves get roped and processed, and learn about how branding is completed. In 2023 an Animal Sciences class was started. These students utilize the cattle to learn more hands-on skills in the course.



BBQ AREA

The BBQ Area is utilized for many events at the ranch. Our FFA program hosts a variety of activities for students and community members. The area is also used for community events and functions that occur at the ranch. It provides a great opportunity for more fun and casual activities out here.



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PUMPKIN PATCH

The ranch pumpkin patch first started in the Fall of 2020. The pumpkins are planted by our farm employee in early July. Once they grow they are used primarily for three large events. Each year FFA hosts a 3rd Grade Ag Day, where local elementary school students participate in a variety of agricultural activities, and get to take a pumpkin home at the end of the day. FFA also hosts an annual pumpkin patch and haunted barn, where any members of the community may come to participate in fall activities and purchase a pumpkin! The R Farm holds a separate pumpkin patch day for preschoolers and kindergarteners to get pumpkins, go on a fun hayride, and pet many animals. During the off season, the pumpkin patch area is also available for student grown projects and activities in classes.



GREENHOUSE

The new greenhouse was completed in August of 2022. Our ag science and floral classes utilize it to grow plants for our plant sale, conduct research projects, and more. McCoy's hardware in town often donates starter seeds and plants to the program. The classes are interested in starting to grow poinsettias, house plants, mums, and other new plants as well. The greenhouse is climate controlled and complete with an automatic watering system.

CLASSROOM

Rodgers Ranch has a full sized and functional classroom on the grounds. The classroom is primarily used for a base for our students that complete activities at the ranch. It serves as a location for preparation for many of the events hosted out here. It is also the meeting spot for the Rodgers Ranch Oversight Committee, allowing the committee to review on sight the goals and functions of the ranch.





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BERRY BUSHES

The berry bushes are a new and hopefully growing addition to the farm. The freshman ag classes of 2022-2023 planted blackberries, raspberries, golden berries, and boysenberries as a class project. The bushes were purchased from Rock Garden Nursery in Gerber. The nursery also provided students with valuable advice and direction on how to plant and grow the bushes. The goal of the berry patch is to harvest the berries with the peaches and use them for cobblers as well as other products. The foliage can also be used by our floral classes and program. In the future, another goal would be to use these berry products in CSAB boxes, community supported agriculture boxes, and sell them along with other local items from the ranch.

LIVESTOCK BARN

This livestock barn is a 12,000 square foot building which serves multiple purposes. The main function of it is to house student's FFA fair animals during the season. From January to May this barn holds numerous pigs and lambs for students. Those FFA members come out daily to care for the animals and practice for the fair with them. The barn also houses our cattle during inclement weather or when we need to use them at specific times. The barn was built in 2001, and had sides added to enclose it for the animals in 2010. The eight large steer pens and six hog pens were built by students in 2015. Along with housing animals, the barn is also used to store students' fair supplies, and for ranch maintenance. FFA also uses it for their annual haunted barn. Every year around Thanksgiving the large barn is transformed into a spooky maze for community members to come enjoy the festivities.





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SHOW ARENA

This 2400 square foot show arena provides great opportunities for our FFA members that show at the fair. Species advisors host showmanship practices in the arena to help members better their skills. The FFA also hosts an annual show clinic in the arena, where local 4 H members are invited to learn alongside FFA students, before competing in a mini livestock show. The arena is also used as a location for various events that happen in the ranch. Before these functions, Sierra Pacific Industries donates wood shavings from their production for use in the arena, allowing for a real livestock show environment.

JEWETT CREEK

Jewett Creek, named after a civil war soldier, is a seasonal creek that runs only after heavy rains near Corning. It was once called "The First Creek". This creek runs about seven to twelve miles until connecting with the Sacramento river. There is a lot of wildlife in the creek such as turkeys, red and gray foxes, coyotes, and many types of birds. Our Natural Resource students are able to use this wide variety of animals to conduct wildlife surveys and set up trail cameras. They also complete creek restoration projects. It is a goal in the near future to build a bridge over the creek to create a community walking trail connecting all parts of the ranch.



HAYBARN

This large barn is used as our hay barn. Some years the ranch will grow and cut hay for our cattle. Once it is baled we store it in this area to feed them over the winter. This barn is also used to store one of Corning's homecoming float trailers, which is used each year in the town parade.



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WETLAND AREA

This large wetland area is an undeveloped part of the ranch dedicated to native plant and animal research. Our Natural Resources students are able to use this area, planting native grasses, brush, and trees. The large trees leading to the area are around three hundred years old. The ultimate goal is for it to become an Oak Savanna with a public walking trail throughout it. The high school cross country team also uses these areas for their meets.



OLIVE ORCHARD

In April 2023, Musco Olives helped the ranch plant 35 acres of Manzanilla olives. With Corning being the Olive City, this was an exciting development for students and the facility. After the trees grow, students will be able to learn and experience the harvesting process.



WALNUT ORCHARD

Our Walnut orchard is a fifty two acre plot containing Chandler variety walnut trees that were planted in 2020. The Walnut Orchard gives students a great opportunity to experience production management. Durham Pump, Duarte Trees, and Andersen and Sons helped to make this orchard a reality. Walnuts are one of Tehama county's largest agricultural products, which makes it an exemplary thing for high school students to be involved in.



R FARM

The R Farm area of the ranch is a 9 acre plot devoted to many different items. It includes a fruit and vegetable garden, a pumpkin patch, a retail store, a large food cooler, a classroom, and small animals. It was established in 2004 and has been used for rop courses, retail sales, special education, and more recently the life and work prep classes. Students are able to use the area to learn technical, social, and workforce skills.

