



SRJC Shone Farm Update

Overview

Shone Farm continues to thrive serving approximately 300 students each semester where they engage in hands-on labs, training, and internships. Encompassing gardens, vineyards, forests, and pastures, Shone Farm remains a central hub for agricultural education in Sonoma County, hosting a variety of career education and transfer courses, along with multiple events with community partners.

Wildfire Resilience Certificate Program

A new Wildfire Resilience certificate was introduced in Fall 2025, which institutionalized the pilot Wildfire Resilience Program (WRP) into coursework. The certificate pathway provides paid internships for students to learn chainsaw usage, fire mitigation techniques, vegetation management, and forest stewardship. Funding for internships is made possible from a California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) Fire & Forestry grant (\$300K), with additional funding provided by the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors (\$150K). Many students from the pilot WRP have landed jobs with regional employers. This new iteration of the WRP will strengthen partnerships with community groups to leverage new funding possibilities and continue development of a thriving workforce pipeline.



Ag Ambassadors

The SRJC Ag Ambassadors is a group of students enrolled in AGBU 151 A/B/C/D. Through their studies and from the mentorship of ag professionals, they are preparing for leadership roles in a wide variety of agricultural organizations. The program offers compelling learning experiences outside the classroom, such as participation in statewide conferences. The Ag Ambassadors also play a critical role in outreach and community events, such as the Sonoma County Farm Bureau Crab Feed and FFA Golden State Field Day.



AgTech and Reservoir Farms

In December 2025, SRJC partnered with Sonoma County Winegrowers and AgTech startup incubator Reservoir Farms to provide students access to tech founders focused on solving current problems facing the agricultural industry utilizing new technological approaches. With SRJC President Dr. Garcia cutting the ribbon with Reservoir Farms CEO Danny Bernstein and Sonoma County Winegrowers CEO Karissa Kruse, SRJC students will soon be able to tour the incubator and see how cutting-edge technology is being integrated with current agricultural practices. The goal of this initiative is to prevent a tech "brain drain" in Sonoma County and allow students access to resources that were only previously available in Silicon Valley.





High School Connections: CCAP and FFA Golden State Field Day

The Agriculture & Natural Resources Department continues to successfully offer CCAP Dual Enrollment classes at Santa Rosa, Analy, and Cloverdale high schools. Despite classes being offered away from Shone Farm, instructors bring their students to the site for hands-on demonstrations and utilize facilities to illustrate principles taught in the high school classroom. Additionally, Shone Farm hosted FFA Golden State Field Day on February 28, with over 600 high school FFA students from Northern California attending and competing in a variety of competitions. Supported by SRJC staff and student Ag Ambassadors, this event showcases SRJC Shone Farm to potential high school students as a destination for agricultural sciences higher education.



Expansion of Student Support Resources

Resources for students taking classes at Shone Farm are expanding. The Shone Farm Uber pilot program, started in Fall 2025, was expanded this semester to provide access from three District sites -- Santa Rosa, Public Safety Training Center, and Roseland -- to Shone Farm. The new food pantry in partnership with the Basic Needs program continues to be extremely popular, helping to provide students with reliable, nutritious food options grown at Shone. The Financial Aid Fair at the end of February was successful, allowing students the chance to meet in-person with staff, fill out scholarship and federal and state financial aid applications with real-time support, and enjoy food and games with their peers. Monthly, in-person counseling appointments were provided in Spring and Fall 2025, where counselors met with dozens of students, helping to guide their academic journey.

The student support resources mentioned are examples of how multiple programs around the District are advancing the shared goals of SRJC's 2025–2030 Strategic Plan at Shone Farm. Students have the opportunity to succeed when given access to basic needs such as food and transportation (Strategic Initiative 2). Additionally, Shone Farm is responding to the community through educational programming around wildfire mitigation and connecting with local high school partners (Strategic Initiative 3). These initiatives – and many more – were outlined in the Shone Farm District Response Plan, which concluded in Fall 2025, to address concerns and issues around culture and climate that were raised during an analysis of the site in Summer 2024 (Strategic Initiative 4).

Upcoming Activities and Events

This spring, Shone Farm will introduce a public CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) farm share program where subscribers will get access to weekly Shone grown fruits and vegetables, and to special U-pick fields and farm events. Additionally, Shone Farm will be hosting the annual plant sale on May 2 and 3, selling plants grown by both students in the Environment Horticulture Program and Shone Farm. With over \$20k in sales last year, this year's event will be even bigger and provide a diversity of plants including summer veggies, houseplants, and California natives. This builds on previous community events where SRJC saw record attendance at the Shone Farm Fall Festival in October and the Holiday Sale in December.



Contact Information

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