

# 2026 AGRISKILLS DESCRIPTIONS

## Sunday, June 21 ~ 8am – 12pm

### COOL S\*\*T 101 – PROJECT CONSTRUCTION: INTERMEDIATE AND ADVANCED

- 3 Sessions (Sunday AM & PM, Thursday PM)
- Attending all three sessions is recommended!
- Class size may be limited, so sign up early.

The team is offering a three-session workshop (Sunday morning & afternoon, and Thursday afternoon) designed for Ag Mechanics teachers of all skill levels and seeks to add to the growing arsenal of projects we can select from to teach the skills and concepts our students need to master.

This year, we are focusing on intermediate and advanced Metal Project Fabrication construction, as well as combination wood/metal project construction. Our goal is to give the participants hands-on experience in project planning and construction on projects such as: Aluminum stall dividers, Aluminum TIG welding projects, Steel firepits, benches, Hands on TIG & MIG welding will be featured as well. All skill levels are welcome.

Discussion topics include: Teaching methods, project organization/planning, project funding, design changes based on tooling and/or materials, construction and finishing techniques and tricks/tips. The presenters combined have a wealth of knowledge they would love to share. A great way for new teachers to make connections.

Please bring welding or work gloves and safety glasses if you can. PPE is required.

Cost is \$40 and covers all three sessions; projects will be available to take home.

***Presenters: Jake Dunn, Tim Deniz, Jeff Kirby, Trey Johnston, Ryan Patterson, Brian Donovan, & Chris Decker!***

### MEASURE TWICE, CAD ONCE: ONSHAPE FOR AG MECHANICS

Many Agriculture Mechanics teachers want to integrate CAD into their programs but aren't sure where to start. This hands-on workshop will introduce Onshape, a powerful cloud-based CAD platform that works on any device and is completely free for education. Participants will learn how CAD can support Welding, Fabrication, Woodworking, and general Ag Mechanics projects while improving student planning, accuracy, and communication of ideas

- For Beginners – Build a solid understanding of sketching, constraints, parametric design, and efficient modeling techniques to gain confidence in OnShape.
- For Advanced Users – Refresh your skills from last summer, dive into time-saving shortcuts, master complex assemblies, and explore custom features to optimize your design process.

What You'll Learn:

- ◊ Fundamentals of navigating Onshape

- ◇ See how CAD connects directly to fabrication projects
- ◇ Explore classroom-ready CAD practice assignments
- ◇ Create simple 2D sketches and 3D models
- ◇ Ready-to-use curriculum and resources to take back to your classroom
- ◇ Discuss strategies for implementing CAD with beginning students

Teachers will leave with ready-to-use classroom materials, practice drawings, and resources that can immediately be implemented in an Ag Mechanics program. No prior CAD experience is required.

Whether you're starting fresh or brushing up on old skills, this course will help you work smarter, design faster, and create confidence in OnShape — so you can take these skills back to the classroom and the shop!

- A laptop and external mouse are required (some will be available).
- 3 weeks of curriculum will be provided for participants.
- Attending all three sessions is recommended.

***Presenter: Corey Mesa, Le Grand High School***

### **POULTRY PROCESSING 101: BEST PRACTICES FOR SAFETY & COMPLIANCE**

This workshop is focused on providing essential knowledge and educational tools to support student career readiness in the poultry industry. The workshop will provide you with curriculum to teach basic Poultry 101. This information will prepare you to complete the industry-backed Broiler Processing Key Welfare Indicators Certification online course, which aims to introduce practical and critical knowledge skillsets for learners in the broiler processing industry. Learning topics include welfare assessment, measurement, and improvement for critical areas of practical welfare evaluation. The credential developed by the Center for the Optimization of Poultry (COOP) is backed by the International Poultry Welfare Alliance and was developed based on advisory personnel from organizations such as Foster Farms, Cargill, and McDonalds. By the end of the workshop, you will improve your teaching capabilities in these subject areas to prepare your students with the prerequisite knowledge needed to complete and be certified in the Broiler Processing Key Welfare Indicator modules.

- Limited to 30 participants
- \$25 per certification (up to \$100 for all 4 certifications)
- Proper PPE and laptop are required
- Materials provided include curriculum for high school students & 1-4 certification opportunities for teachers.

***Presenter: Dr. Jesse Bower, COOP Center for the Optimization of Poultry, Institute for Food and Agriculture, Fresno State***

## **INTRODUCTION TO MECHATRONICS**

This session empowers agricultural teachers with hands-on experience bringing mechatronics—the powerful intersection of mechanics, electronics, and automation—into their classrooms. Participants will explore the Festo Didactic MecLab training platform and FluidSIM software while learning how to teach electro-pneumatic circuits, electrical controls, sensors, programming logic, and automated systems in an agriculture-focused context.

*Presenter: Richard Chapman, Hartnell College*

## **PREPARING THE YOUTH FOR THE WORKFORCE: TRACTOR AND MACHINERY SAFETY CERTIFICATION FOR INSTRUCTORS**

Designed for instructors who would like to offer tractor safety courses for a variety of audiences of young workers, new & beginning farmers, and career preparedness programs. Providing this credential to your students is a great resume builder for young workers of any age. During this session you will ...

- Learn the federal regulations for hiring youth.
- Identify the training curriculum available to teach.
- Understand the testing process and how to issue Department of Labor training certificates for students wanting to work (for hire) on farms before age 16.
- How to set up skills and driving courses.

A portion of the session will be held outdoors. Participants will receive a clipboard and flash drive with curriculum, skills and driving course materials, and testing resources.

*Presenters: Dr. Dee Jepsen, Professor & State Leader, OSU Agricultural Safety & Health Program  
Amy Rademaker, Continuing Education Specialist & Dr. Justin Pulley, Assistant Professor Ag  
Mechanics & Education, Tarleton State University*

## **DUAL ENROLLING YOUR AG ECONOMICS COURSE**

Ready to elevate your courses? Join us as we dive into the world of dual enrollment. Although we will focus on Ag Economics, most of the material will apply to any subject you might want to dual enroll. We will start with a crash course on dual enrollment. Who is it for? How can it help your students, and what do you need to do to make this happen at your school for virtually any course you teach? From there, we will dive into the transition to the new CalGETC and how different courses "measure up" in terms of student value as they transition to post-secondary education. We'll also discuss the "how-to" of establishing college partnerships and meeting credentialing requirements so you can bring this high-value opportunity back to your home district.

Next, we will get into the nitty-gritty of what your Ag Economics course should look like. Participants will walk through a proven, comprehensive curriculum encompassing everything from supply and demand to global trade. Teachers will receive digital access to sample assignments and assessments used at Nipomo High School/Cuesta College, as well as the pacing guide I use for this course. We will discuss logistics for a 16 or 18-week college semester on the high school calendar and have work time for you to ask questions and start to build out your own course.

Materials provided: Full semester curriculum map and pacing guide, sample assessments and assignments, access to Canvas Commons resources, a "Dual Enrollment Checklist" for navigating college/high school MOUs and CalGETC alignment.

Materials required: Laptop – to access digital curriculum files.

***Presenter: Christine Ready, Nipomo High School / Cuesta College***

## **FROM “WHY?” TO “AHA!”: PHENOMENA-BASED LEARNING IN THE AG CLASSROOM**

Let’s explore how Agricultural Phenomena can spark curiosity and drive student learning. In this hands-on workshop, participants will experience how to start lessons with real agricultural questions such as why animals grow differently on the same feed, why plants grow differently in certain soils, or why eggshells vary in strength. Teachers will participate in quick agricultural investigations, collect data, and use the Claim–Evidence–Reasoning (CER) framework to develop scientific explanations. We will discuss strategies for turning everyday agricultural observations into engaging classroom labs that encourage inquiry and critical thinking.

Participants will leave with ready-to-use lesson ideas, CER scaffolds, and a variety of phenomena examples they can immediately implement in their agriculture classrooms.

Materials provided: Lab Outlines, CER templates, and a take-home packet for lab organization and activities in your classrooms.

Materials required: Laptop

***Presenter: Gissel Neri Corcoles, Soledad High School***

## **LANDSCAPE IRRIGATION**

Lecture and lab on how to design and test a sprinkler system for landscape irrigation. The lecture will include basics on designing a system, including valve and sprinkler selection, calculating head loss, and laying out a system. Lab will include assembling and testing a sprinkler system with two different types of sprinklers and a catch can test so teachers can see how to illustrate the water distribution of a single sprinkler.

- Limited to 24 participants
- Hunter Irrigation Production Manual provided

***Presenter: Dr. Peter Livingston, BioResource and Agricultural Engineering, Cal Poly SLO***

## **DISORDERLY DIAGNOSIS – NAATA LESSON**

Does your person have glasses? No! Does your person have long hair? Yes! How does the game “Guess Who” relate to plant disorders? Join us as we explore strategies for engaging students in scientific classification, guiding them through the process of building their own dichotomous keys, and challenging their critical thinking, all while keeping learning active and exciting. In this activity, we will build our own dichotomous keys in order to identify common plant diseases and disorders (taken from the National FFA Floriculture CDE). The specific diseases and disorders can be changed to any list – veterinary parasites, etc. We will test out how effective our keys were by playing an old favorite – Guess Who!

***Presenters: Robin Olsen, National Agriscience Ambassador Teacher, Littlerock High School***

# Sunday, June 21 ~ 1pm – 5pm

## FIRST YEAR TEACHER MEETING

It is highly encouraged and recommended that all first-year teachers attend this meeting.

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## **SAY IT LIKE YOU MEAN IT: HELPING STUDENTS SPEAK WITH CONFIDENCE**

Strong communication skills are essential for student success in agricultural education. Whether students are presenting SAE projects, competing in FFA speaking events, or sharing ideas in the classroom, the ability to speak clearly and confidently makes a lasting difference.

In this interactive AgriSkills workshop, participants will explore practical exercises from the workbook *Step Into Your Voice: A Practical Guide to Speaking with Clarity and Confidence*. Teachers will experience a structured process that helps students organize their thoughts, speak with clarity, and build confidence through small, repeatable actions.

During the session, participants will work through guided prompts, reflection exercises, and short speaking activities that can be used directly in agricultural classrooms. We will discuss how these tools can support FFA leadership development, classroom presentations, and student engagement. These strategies are especially relevant for teachers preparing students for FFA speaking and presentation-based Career and Leadership Development Events, where clarity, confidence, and presence matter.

By the end of the workshop, teachers will leave with simple, ready-to-use strategies that help students strengthen their voice, communicate ideas effectively, and participate more confidently in both academic and leadership settings. The session is led by TEDx speaker, professor, and author Dr.

Christiane Schroeter, whose work focuses on practical communication tools that build confidence through consistent practice.

*Presenter: Dr. Christiane Schroeter, Agribusiness Department California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo*

## **LIVESTOCK TRAILER OPERATIONS AND SAFETY**

There is no need to be intimidated with the thought of pulling a trailer! Within this session, we will look at all the things you will need to know about trailering; you will be able to partake in behind the wheel practice.

Key topics:

- Trailer knowledge
- Safety
- Hitching
- Operating bumper pull and gooseneck trailers

*Presenter: Steve Parker, Taft Union High School*

## **A GUIDE TO SUCCESS IN AG CHEMISTRY**

Join us for a collaborative, hands-on workshop designed for both new and experienced teachers who want structured time and support to strengthen their curriculum. Participants will have dedicated work time and access to ready-to-use templates to reorganize units, identify and fill gaps, streamline student notebooks, and establish consistent planning frameworks—whether for one unit, a semester, or the full year.

We will focus on practical strategies for integrating newly adopted resources, curriculum programs, or textbooks in a way that aligns with your district's expectations while still honoring your unique classroom needs. Because no two programs or districts are the same, this workshop emphasizes adaptable systems and flexible planning tools.

Participants will also explore CAST benchmark alignment, assessment design strategies, and methods for creating meaningful formative and summative assessments.

All attendees will gain access to a shared digital workspace for ongoing collaboration—swap resources, post live questions, share templates, and receive feedback and ideas from colleagues beyond the workshop day. Please bring a laptop or electronic device.

Come ready to build, refine, and leave with tangible progress!

*Presenters: Hannah Bianchi, Livingston FFA & Danielle Budde, Riverdale FFA*

## **ADDING INDUSTRY INTO YOUR CLASSROOM**

Industry partnerships should be more than occasional guest speakers; they should be embedded into your program's culture.

In this workshop, learn how to intentionally build and organize meaningful industry connections that result in job shadows, mentoring, purposeful field trips, work-based learning, and authentic classroom collaboration. We'll share systems for tracking partnerships, structuring communication, maximizing meeting time, and collecting the data your district needs to support and sustain the work. Whether you're building new relationships or strengthening existing ones, you'll leave with practical strategies to bring industry to your students — and your students to industry — in ways that are organized, sustainable, and impactful.

Please bring a laptop or electronic device.

*Presenters: Ms. Jessica Sweet and Dr. Savannah Rhine, Everett Alvarez High School*

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*Presenter: Corey Mesa, Le Grand High School*

### **POULTRY PROCESSING 101 CONTINUED: BROILER PROCESSING LAB**

This hands-on workshop introduces participants to the essential steps of commercial poultry processing, focusing on both animal welfare and food safety. Participants will follow the journey of a broiler chicken from live bird to a final product. This interactive session will introduce participants to the key steps of commercial poultry processing, from live bird handling to chilling. Participants will explore humane stunning, bleeding, scalding, feather removal, evisceration, washing, and chilling. Emphasis is placed on animal welfare, food safety, and industry standards. By the end of the session, students will gain a clear understanding of how poultry is processed in commercial settings and how these steps connect to career pathways in the poultry industry. Together, these sessions offered a comprehensive, experiential learning opportunity to enhance participants' instructional capacity in poultry processing and prepare students for career-ready skill development in alignment with industry expectations.

- Limited to 30 participants
- You must participate in the Sunday workshop as well.
- Proper PPE and laptop are required

*Presenters: Dr. Jesse Bower, COOP Center for the Optimization of Poultry, Institute for Food and Agriculture, Fresno State*

*Dr. Ike Kang, Professor of Animal Science, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo*

## **EXCEL AT DATA MANAGEMENT: HOW MICROSOFT SUITE AND GOOGLE APPS CAN DO THE WORK FOR YOU!**

In this workshop, we will work through different ways to utilize Microsoft Suite and Google Apps. Learning and mastering these technologies can make your life easier as an advisor.

Topics will include (and are not limited to)

- Organizing and creating certificates for your banquet (127 Greenhand Degrees? no problem!)
- Managing student accounts for SAE's
- Printables for CDE and LDE contests (Nametags, reasons cards, packet labels)
- Automating scoring for LDES (think Section contests)

The tools, tips and tricks demonstrated and discussed in this workshop can all be done with the programs you have on your teacher computer! Participants, have something in mind? Submit your requests ahead of time and they can be part of the workshop as well!

*Presenter: Dr. Katy Teixeira, UC Davis*

## **STUDENT SAE SIMULATION - HOW STUDENTS TRACK THEIR EXPERIENCES IN AET!**

In this workshop, you will be the student and simulate completing a student profile and career exploration (foundational SAE) SAE project and move into Immersion SAEs using our updated SAE Case Studies. As you do the work like students, we can simulate both the teacher and student roles - all the tools that teachers use to track progress and keep students motivated!

These SAE cases will include unique entrepreneurship SAEs such as dog breeding and selling SAE, Bee-Hive SAE, and a lawnmowing business. We will have a placement (job) SAE case as well, to cover how to track this type of experience.

Topics we are covering include beginning inventory, SAE budgets, entering cash income and expenses, non-cash records, ending inventory, SAE annual summary, and SAE Efficiency factors.

Our final step is to develop FFA awards and see how these records flow into key components of State and National FFA awards. Each attendee will be provided with an SAE simulation packet to show entries and use as examples for your program.

*Presenter: Dr. Roger Hanagriff, AET Management System*

## **THE SCIENCE BEHIND SALT – FOR CHEMISTRY TEACHERS**

Looking for opportunities for all students to connect science to their everyday lives and interests and engage in authentic science practices? Bitesized's vision is for students to appreciate and be curious about how food and science profoundly shape their personal lives, their communities, and the world around them and to inspire them to create meaningful impact through food and science.

The Science Behind Salt unit is a part of a series of lessons offered through Bitesized education. Participants will explore the foundational unit that covers the following concepts: Classification of Matter, Separation of Methods (Filtration), Phase Changes & Energy, Physical Properties, Density and Flame test.

*Presenter: Beatriz Rodriguez-Rivera, Sunnyside High School*

## **EXPANDING YOUR HORTICULTURE PROGRAM – CLASSROOM, GREENHOUSE, NURSERY, AND NEW TURF & FIELD COURSE**

This workshop is designed to provide attendees with practical information, ideas, and resources to help create, strengthen, and expand their school's horticulture program. Participants will explore key areas such as curriculum development, greenhouse operation and maintenance, nursery operation and maintenance, horticulture supplies and equipment, plant sales, and effective marketing and promotion strategies.

The workshop will also introduce the opportunity to expand program offerings through the addition of a new horticulture-related course, Turfgrass and Sports Field Management.

Throughout the session, attendees will be encouraged to actively explore and research online resources that align with their individual program needs and interests.

- Computer/ Laptop is HIGHLY encouraged to bring
- File templates and resources will be provided and shared

*Presenter: Dave Gossman, Atwater High School*

## **RANCH VISION – BRINGING RANCH MANAGEMENT INTO THE CLASSROOM**

RanchVision is an interactive workshop designed for agricultural educators interested in bringing real-world ranch management into the classroom. This session will explore the foundations of ranch management and holistic grazing management while demonstrating how [RanchVision](#), a ranching profitability software program, can be used as a hands-on teaching tool to develop practical ranch management plans. Participants will learn strategies to engage students in forage and livestock planning, grazing decision-making, resource stewardship, and enterprise management through applied, scenario-based learning. Ideal for secondary and postsecondary agriculture instructors looking to connect animal science, natural resources, and agricultural business concepts through experiential education.

Participants will use the software for a case study and also go out to the Cal Poly ranch to discuss incorporating rangeland monitoring into decision-making.

*Presenters: Dr. Zachary McFarlane, Cal Poly SLO*

## **PROPAGATION? NO TEARS HERE – JUST TISSUE**

Hands-on. Classroom ready. Budget-friendly.

Get your hands dirty (and maybe a little sterile) in this fast-paced workshop exploring sexual and asexual plant propagation. From seeds and cuttings to grafting, air layering, and introductory tissue culture, you'll learn techniques that actually work in the classroom.

No lab? No problem. Discover real-world, cost-effective strategies that use simple materials to create engaging, high-impact learning experiences for students.

Covers essentials like sterilization, media prep, and explant handling, plus practical tips for teaching both traditional and lab-based propagation methods.

Walk away with ready-to-use ideas, adaptable protocols, and the confidence to propagate—no matter your setup.

***Presenter: Michael Leishman, Porterville College & Steve Gambriel, MRC of Santa Maria Joint Union***