Tulare County
Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

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<u>For Immediate Release</u>

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Tulare County Office of Education (TCOE) announces:
TCOE's SEE & Co. to Partner with College of the Sequoias in Milker Program

Visalia— Tulare County Office of Education's Services for Education and Employment (SEE) and

Company has formed a partnership with the College of the Sequoias Dairy Program to provide cow milkers

for Tulare County's expanding dairy industry.

Tulare County Office of Education's role in the partnership will be to provide two days of classroom

instruction and to coordinate two-week internships for participants. Additionally, TCOE will provide job

placement assistance to participants.

"Tulare County has approximately 400,000 cows to milk every day and with the new Lindsay dairy being

approved by the Board of Supervisors, that will add another 9,000 cows," says Dr. Lorene Valentino,

Administrator for SEE and Co. "A lot of milkers will be needed to take care of the herds," adds Valentino.

"According to our survey, dairy farms pay more than the minimum wage and most of the larger operations

offer an employee health package," says Valentino. "This is a good opportunity for a seasonal farm worker

to move into a year-round job at better wages. In fact, it's a good opportunity for anyone who is looking for stable employment."

The Milker Training Program is open to individuals eighteen years and older, in good physical condition, who are available to work flexible hours and weekends. All participants must be legally able to work in the United States. The training fee is $150 and provisions will be made for non-English (Spanish) speakers.

For information on the Milker Program, call SEE and Co. in Visalia at 733-6963 and in Porterville at 782-4748.

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