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Hayward Area Recreation and Park District **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

EDEN AREA AG DAY SEEKS TO EDUCATE STUDENTS

Third annual event held at Rowell Ranch

CASTRO VALLEY, Calif., May 2, 2019 -- In a region known for its sprawling metropolis and thriving tech industry, there's another job sector that has withstood the test of time: the agriculture industry.

Students across mid-Alameda County had a chance to learn about a number of agricultural jobs and experience it firsthand on May 2nd at the third annual Eden Area Ag Day.

More than 1200 third grade students, parents and teachers, from San Lorenzo, Castro Valley and Hayward schools attended the one-day event, which was hosted by the Hayward Area Recreation and Park District at Rowell Ranch.

The Eden Area Ag Day event included hands-on, interactive demonstrations. The event also showcased local urban and rural farmers, ranchers and agriculture-related groups.

Eden Area Ag Day sought to teach students about the rich, agricultural history of their urban environment and current agriculture trends, including agriculture-related jobs held by working professionals in Alameda County communities.

Students learned about Alameda County's agricultural history, as well as shown a variety of career pathways in agriculture and how it relates to science, technology, engineering and math fields. Teachers, meanwhile, were provided with sample curriculum packets to further agriculture education in their classrooms after the event.

More than 30 exhibitors participated in this year's event, including the Alameda County 4-H Program; Joe's Honey; Mike's Feed & Pets; Sulphur Creek Nature Center; Green Thumb Works; Bay Cities Produce, Inc.; Alameda County Vector Control Services; East Bay Regional Park District; Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District; Alameda County Fish & Game Commission; Rowell Ranch Rodeo; Alameda County CattleWomen; California Dairy Council; Mount Diablo Beekeepers Association; Agricultural Institute of Marin; Alameda County Vector Control; Alameda County Department of Agriculture; Houndstooth Fiber Arts; Waste Management Northern California Nevada; Common Compost; Redwood 4-H; Ximenez Waterfalls; Alameda County Resource Conservation District; and the UC Master Gardener Program. The first Eden Area Ag Day was held three years ago at Rowell Ranch, and was inspired by similar events held throughout the United States. This year's Eden Area Ag Day was created by a 12-member committee, which included the Alameda County Community Development Agency, Hayward Area Recreation and Park District staff, Castro Valley/Eden Area Chamber of Commerce, and community members.

Bay Cities Produce, Inc. and Mike's Feed & Pets sponsored this year's Eden Area Ag Day event. Other sponsors included Frank Mellon, and East Bay Regional Park District.



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