



FFA Report

CFF Treats Students to Mentoring Tour to Learn About Fertilizers

STOCKTON, Calif., March 30 – Three students from Hughson High School in Hughson, who are participating in the California Fertilizer Foundation’s agricultural mentoring program, went on a special tour on March 30 to learn about

fertilizers.

Their first stop was CALAMCO near the Port of Stockton, where Lee Gardiner took charge of the tour and taught the students – freshmen Kayla Westestyn, Brad Borges and Adam Lundell – about the importance of anhydrous ammonia in agriculture.

The next stop was at a site owned by Yara North America on Rough and Ready Island in Stockton. Carol Martinelli of Yara was the tour guide, as the students learned about dry bulk fertilizers. The students seemed enthralled by the large facility and its important role in the overall process of crop production.

After a short recess for lunch, the students were given a tour of the retail facility of Stanislaus Farm Supply. The company’s Martin Bianchi introduced the students to how large quantities of fertilizer products are broken up and distributed in smaller sizes for sales.

Next in line, Ron Macedo, a local grower, took the students on a visit to Central Valley farms in which they learned about the different types of soil and irrigation practices.

At the end of the day, the students were tired but were glad to have learned so much about fertilizers and farming. The information that they learned will come in handy as the students work with students in the garden and classroom at Samuel Vaughn Elementary School in Hughson and mentor them in agricultural practices.

“This is really a wonderful experience,” says Kayla Westestyn, who is very involved in the mentoring program. “We get to do lesson plans in the class, as well as in the garden.”



LEARNING THE ROPES: Lee Gardiner of CALAMCO discusses the importance of ammonia in agriculture during the students’ tour of the facility in Stockton.



MENTORING THE YOUTH – Above, from left, Brad Borges, Kayla Westestyn and Adam Lundell tour a farm field in the Central Valley in March. The freshmen, from Hughson High School, are participating in the CFF school garden mentoring program. Below left, the students tour Yara’s facility on Rough and Ready Island. Below right, Martin Bianchi of Stanislaus Farm Supply poses with the students during a tour of the retail facility. *(Photos by Pam Emery)*

The tour and interaction with mentoring participants is just another great example of the outreach that CFF continues to provide in making students and California communities aware of the benefits of fertilizers and the important role they play in agriculture.

