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Vann Bros., Williams, CA

Vann Bros is a vertically integrated grower, buyer, and processor of almonds. In addition to almonds, the company farms walnuts and rice. Vann Bros also own and operate Vann Family Orchards; and Yolo Hulling and Shelling, an almond processor/handler.

Director of Plant Operations – Yolo Hulling and Shelling and Vann Family Orchards 2019 – Present

- Direct the day to day operations of two processing facilities under the same ownership.
- Fiscal responsibilities over both facilities in regard to budgets and capital improvements.
- Maintain our brand name of quality to our owners, customers, and growers.
- Responsible for coordinating the incoming product from growers all the way through the production system and finally shipped domestic and international.
- Working collaboratively with the QA, Food Safety, Plant, and Shipping managers to ensure timely delivery of products that meet or exceed industry standards
- Analytical and process improvement with a focus on production line and employee efficiencies.

General Manager – Yolo Hulling & Shelling 2016 – 2019

- Position reports to the Owners of Vann Bros, and supports the established vision to provide superior quality and service to the global customer base. Direct reports include the Plant Manager, Quality Assurance Manager of Yolo Hulling & Shelling, and a year-round staff of seven. During harvest, the plant, a 24/7 operation has a full-time staff of 40 which processes approximately 25 million pounds of almonds.
- Manage and oversee all day to day activities of Yolo Hulling & Shelling including operations, personnel, safety, administration, and process improvement.
- Ensure company goals are met in all areas of production, quality, and cost control.
- Responsible for hiring, developing, and directing a high functioning, bilingual, team to complete hulling and shelling of all products delivered to the facility during harvest.
- Partner with other members of company leadership team, to maintain or exceed quality specifications for customers and clients.
- Develop and maintain relationships with growers, state regulators, and association leaders.
- Position requires Spanish/English fluency to lead managers and processing team members.

Project Manager - Yolo Hulling & Shelling 2016 - 2017

- Recruited by owners to lead construction of new 50,000 square foot hulling/shelling plant and attached office from start to completion; and to manage the plant after construction.
- Direct responsibility for facility to be built and operational in less than one year from ground breaking; and in time to process 2017 harvest. Project completed within budget.
- Managed vendor relationships, including contractors, design professionals and consultants to plan and coordinate all aspects of the construction process, often making decisions quickly and effectively to resolve problems such as delays due to inclement weather that had potential to impact project timeline.
- Secured building permits, licenses, and delivery of materials and equipment. Coordinated with public utilities to construct and provide new services to place of business.
- Hired employees for startup, harvest, and permanent team.
- Provide leadership regarding systems and documentation structure for operating new business on a 24/7 schedule.

ChicoNut Co., Chico, CA

ChicoNut Co is a privately owned company, established in 1988. The company is vertically integrated by growing, processing, and marketing almonds. Approximately 17 million pounds of almonds were processed annually.

Plant Manager: 2010 - 2016

Grower Representative: 2013 - 2016

Reporting to the President, direct reports include the Quality Manager, and three shift supervisors for the main processing plant in Arbuckle, CA.

- Responsible for all aspects of huller/sheller operations. Coordinate production, manage receiving, processing, fumigating, and shipping product inventory. Ensure quality assurance levels are met or exceeded.
- Maintain, develop, and promote relationships with new and existing growers. Including payment scheduling, and timely reporting of delivered product. Visit growers every four to six weeks to understand conditions and build relationships.
- Work with leadership on buying, strategic planning, and tenant relationships. Requires understanding of ChicoNut commodity options, and status of current market opportunities.
- Communicate to sales management current inventory conditions, quality, yield, and plant efficiencies.
- Manage employee and food safety standards to ensure compliance with company HAACP and GMP protocols.
- Lead and manage team of 60 during processing season (24/7 operation). Communicate in Spanish as required.
- Ensure and supervise maintenance and repair of huller/sheller machines with overall goal to decrease down time.

Paint Rock Canyon Enterprises, Hyattville, WY

Paint Rock Canyon Enterprises is a cow/calf breeding operation located in North Central Wyoming. The ranch runs approximately 1200 head of cattle raised and weaned as Natural. With 2000 irrigated acres, the ranch produces alfalfa and grass for hay and grazing.

Livestock Manager: June 2009 – October 2010

- Care of more than 1200 commercial Black Angus cows, calves, and bulls. This included nutrition, feeding, calving, vaccinating, branding, and maintaining overall health to keep breeding “Natural.”
- Responsible for management of over 100 horses including weanlings, yearlings, colts, riding horses, broodmares, and stallions.
- Managed “cow camp” on leased, public land in the Big Horn Mountains. Monitored and rotated pastures.
- Managed eight college summer interns.
- Other responsibilities included working with pivot irrigation, gated pipe, and flood style systems.

Various Part-time Positions: 2007 - 2009_

Held part time positions while completing undergraduate degree: including Assistant Manager for Chico Nut Co; and Hay Production Crew Member at Prather Ranch (producers of all-natural dry-aged certified organic and natural beef).

EDUCATION

Master of Business Administration: 2016

Saint Mary’s College, Moraga, CA

Bachelor of Science, Agricultural Business: 2009

California State University, Chico

Associate of Science, Horse Training & Rodeo Production: 2006

Feather River College, Quincy, CA

Additional Information

- Fellow, California Ag Leadership Program – Class 50
- Member, Board of Directors – Colusa County Resource Conservation District
- Member, Board of Directors – Western Agricultural Processors Association
- Bilingual English/Spanish
- 2014 Almond Board of California - Almond Leadership Program
- HAACP and GMP, AIB International Certified, and Qualified Applicator License
- Vice President, CSU Chico Young Cattlemen's Association 2008-09
- Agricultural Business Star Student – Spring 2008
- Completed two years of undergraduate work at Colorado State University (2002-04)
- Enjoy international travel; family lived in Tokyo, Japan for two years.