



LTSCV Newsletter

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Property Profile: Van Dyke Ranch

Along the valley edge in Gilroy lies Van Dyke Ranch, a 100 acre agricultural property. Van Dyke Ranch is a highly diverse operation, with a wide variety of specialized crops being grown, from flowers to nearly any fruit and vegetable you can think of. The property has been utilized for agriculture since the late 1800s, and is currently leased by Spade and Plow, an organic, family run business.

A Rich History

The Van Dyke Family has owned this piece of land since 1968. Facing the foothills, the Ranch was planted with its first 40 acres of Blenheim apricots and 20 acres of Bing cherries. The family shares decades of fond memories working from sunrise to sunset picking the sweetest apricots off the ground, sending them off to canneries or drying them on handmade wooden trays.



The property has nearly always been farmed organically. They made it official in 1986, when Van Dyke Ranch became one of the first California certified organic growers. Thanks to the conservation easement on the property, it will stay in agriculture forever!

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