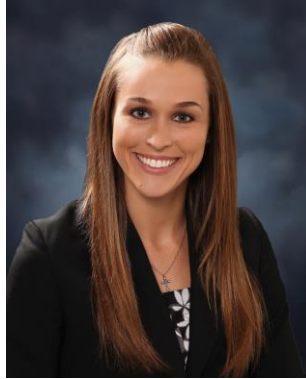


Katie Rodgers
Agriculture Education & Minors in
Mass Communication and Journalism and Communication
2009



By: Laura Donovan

Katie Rodgers graduated from Fresno State in December 2009. She started college majoring in agricultural education to become a high school agriculture teacher. About halfway through her college career she took some communication and mass communication and journalism classes. Then she realized that she really wanted to teach people about agriculture, but not necessarily in a classroom. She decided to keep her agricultural education degree, but added minors in communication and mass communication and journalism. Her intent was to get a career in public relations within the agriculture industry, teaching others about agriculture. She kept her degree in agriculture education because if she decided to go into the credential program, her prerequisites were already met, and down the road if she decided she wanted to become a teacher she still could.

“Not a lot of people get to say that they are doing exactly what they wanted to do,” Rodgers said. “But when I graduated I had the opportunity to get right into the field that I wanted to be in, and it was a perfect fit.”

Rodgers' first job out of college is the career she is working today. She started working at Fresno County Farm Bureau in February 2010. Today she has been working there a little over five years and loves it. Fresno County Farm Bureau is a non-profit organization that represents farmers and ranchers in Fresno County. Rodgers handles all of the publications for the bureau. They have printed newsletters that go out to their membership, as well as an e-newsletter that goes out to members, elected officials, and people in the community who are interested in agriculture or the Farm Bureau. Rodgers handles all of the media calls and tries to connect media with interviews. Usually, if you see something that's on the news related to agriculture there is a very good chance that the Farm Bureau played a part in connecting that reporter with the person they are interviewing.

What Rodgers loves about MCJ is that every day for her is a little bit different. Rodgers feels what she is doing is making a difference and to be able to reach out and teach people is what makes it worthwhile. Rodgers' advice for future MCJ majors is to complete internships; they really helped her with her career. She had two while she was attending college, both in public relations. Rodgers says they really helped her prepare for when she got into the industry.