

Board Member Profile: Navi Pooni

Navi Pooni, a third-generation farmer in the Fresno area, has deep roots in agriculture – his ancestors farmed in India for generations. In 1978, his parents immigrated to the United States and his father continued the tradition by farming Thompson seedless grapes for raisins.

In addition to farming, both of Pooni's parents worked for Spreckels Sugar Company for twenty-six years.

Pooni was born and raised in Fresno and grew up in the Fowler/Easton area. He was an avid basketball player at Washington Union High School until he graduated in 1998. In 2002, he graduated from California State University, Fresno with a bachelor's degree in agricultural economics.

After graduating, he worked in produce sales at Ballantine Produce until his father's untimely passing in 2004. In 2006, Navi took over the family farm full-time.

Today, Navi farms almonds and raisins, overseeing the day-to-day operations, while his mother manages the bookkeeping.

For as long as Navi can remember, the Pooni family has been a Fresno County Farm Bureau member. "I enjoy being a member of the Board because I have become more educated on the issues at hand," said Pooni.

Navi says he is outgoing and can make friends anywhere. He is also fluent in Punjabi.

Navi and his wife, Sunjit, have three children. They have two sons, Devan twelve, and Kian nine, and a daughter, Saniya, who is seven years old. Pooni is an avid sports fan and has attended the World Series. However, his favorite sport is basketball. They enjoy travelling to Europe to visit family as often as possible. When he is not travelling, you might find Pooni on the golf course with family and friends.