Board Profile: Matthew Carrera

With deep roots in agriculture, Matthew Carrera's path into the industry began long before he started his professional career. Both of his parents worked in agriculture-related fields, giving him an early appreciation for the community. Growing up surrounded by agriculture, Carrera developed an interest in getting involved and began participating in agricultural leadership programs at a young age. That interest continued throughout high school, where he was active in Hanford FFA and had the opportunity to compete in dairy products judging as well as show hogs at the Kings County Fair.

Carrera continued pursuing his passion for agriculture through higher education, earning an associate degree from Reedley College before transferring to Chico State. In 2020, he graduated with a bachelor's degree in agricultural crop science. Beyond the classroom, he remained heavily involved in campus organizations and agricultural leadership. He served as president of the Plant Science Club, treasurer of the Horticulture Club and vice president of the Ag Council. These experiences helped strengthen his leadership skills while allowing him to connect with other students who shared his interest in agriculture.

After graduating, Carrera began building his professional career with a spice processor, where he spent three and a half years in grower relations working with growers from Washington to Arizona to acquire garlic and onions. The experience gave him valuable insight into the food and agriculture industries, as well as the importance of building relationships and understanding customer needs.

Since September 2023, Carrera has served as an ag business developer at Morning Star. In this position, he works closely with growers, developing relationships and helping them find solutions to meet their individual needs. His work can involve a wide range of areas, from custom harvesting to greenhouse sales. The role allows him to stay connected to the agricultural community while helping growers navigate the challenges and opportunities that come with producing crops.

Carrera's involvement with the Farm Bureau began in 2021, when he attended an Imperial County Young Farmers & Ranchers meeting and had the opportunity to meet other young agriculturalists. What started as an opportunity to connect with others in the industry quickly grew into a lasting commitment to the organization. He has remained actively involved with Young Farmers & Ranchers (YF&R) ever since and currently serves as the FCFB YF&R chair.

As FCFB YF&R Chair, Carrera also serves on the FCFB Board. He appreciates the organization's commitment to representing agriculture and advocating for the people

who work in the industry. He believes Farm Bureau plays an important role in ensuring agriculture has a voice, while also providing valuable opportunities for education, involvement and connection among its members.

For Carrera, being involved in Farm Bureau is about more than simply attending meetings. It is an opportunity to build relationships, learn from others and contribute to an organization that supports the future of agriculture. Through his work with YF&R and his new role on the board, he looks forward to continuing to be involved and helping support the agricultural community.

When he is not working or volunteering his time with Farm Bureau, Carrera enjoys spending time outdoors. Visiting national parks, hiking and fishing are among his favorite activities. He also has an interest in working on cars, giving him another opportunity to spend time learning, building and working with his hands.