



PROGRAM INFORMATION & PARTICIPANT COMMITMENTS

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Fellow of the AgKnowledge Program. This document outlines the program's goals, schedule, tuition, and participant commitments. You will be asked to sign off that you agree.

The AgKnowledge Program is offered by Grower-Shipper Foundation, in partnership with the Monterey County Agricultural Commissioner's Office.

PROGRAM GOALS

AgKnowledge provides policy makers and community leaders the opportunity to experience Monterey County agriculture through the perspective of those directly engaged in the industry.

Fellows will:

- Participate in full-day monthly sessions from March through November
- Engage in tours, presentations, hands-on activities, and panel discussions
- Complete one "Boots on the Ground" half-day experience with a grower, shipper, or rancher

PROGRAM SCHEDULE & TOPICS

Sessions typically run from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Topics may adjust as needed.

2026 Session Dates:

- March 20 – Opening Day: Agricultural Overview
- April 24 – Heritage
- May 15 – Agricultural Workforce
- June 26 – North Monterey County
- July 24 – Water
- August 21 – Food Safety, Pesticides & Plant Protection
- September 25 – Science & Technology
- October 23 – South Monterey County
- November 13 – Graduation & Reception

Boots on the Ground (Half-Day) - Scheduled by the Fellow, a partner class member, and a grower, shipper, or rancher.

TUITION

Tuition for AgKnowledge 2026 is \$2,100, payable to the Grower-Shipper Association Foundation prior to the first session which is Friday, March 20, 2026.

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

By accepting a spot in the program, Fellows agree to:

- Attend all nine full-day sessions and the Boots on the Ground half-day
- Complete at least 7 of 9 sessions to graduate
- Participate in a pre-acceptance interview
- Review all materials provided following acceptance

EMPLOYER COMMITMENT

If applicable, provide your employer with the Employer's Statement of Commitment link located on the AgKnowledge webpage to authorize your attendance. Attendance updates will be sent to employers.

SESSION SURVEYS

Fellows must complete a confidential survey for each session within 48 working hours.

CLASS GUIDELINES

Attendance

Punctuality is expected. Missing more than two sessions may result in dismissal. Notify staff of planned absences in advance.

Cell Phones

Silence devices. If a call or text is necessary, step away from the speaker. Breaks are provided.

Photo & Video Policy

Photos may be taken only when speakers permit. Video recording requires explicit approval.

Conditions to Expect

Outdoor activities may include uneven terrain, mud, or variable weather. Boots, layers, and a hat are recommended.

Travel to locations

Participants travel to a primary location then travel by bus to various locations throughout the session.

Agendas

Participants will receive session agenda and meeting location at least one week prior to the session.

Refreshments

You will be provided with breakfast, lunch and snacks. We do our best to honor dietary requests.

PHOTO RELEASE

You authorize the Grower-Shipper Foundation to photograph and publish images of you for reports, publicity, and web content.

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

To maintain a safe learning environment:

- Do not post comments made by Fellows or speakers
- You are encouraged to follow and share official Grower-Shipper Foundation posts
- Send approved photos to the Executive Director for coordinated posting

BOOTS ON THE GROUND EXPERIENCE

This half-day provides firsthand exposure to agricultural operations such as planting, harvesting, water projects, or shipping logistics. Two Fellows will be matched up with a grower, shipper or rancher. You will be responsible for setting the date for your experience.

Requirements:

- Bring questions, notebook, and appropriate clothing
- Submit a written summary within 30 days of completion

CONTACT:

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