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For Immediate Release:
October 4, 2011

9TH ANNUAL TASTES OF THE VALLEY EVENT

HELD AT THE STANISLAUS COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS THIS THURSDAY

Turlock, CA (October 4, 2011) — “Come Grow with Us” as CSU Stanislaus Agricultural Studies Department and Friends of the Fair Foundation present the 9th annual Tastes of the Valley Wine and Cheese event at The Stanislaus County Fairgrounds.

The Tastes of the Valley event sponsored by Rabobank is this **Thursday, October 6, 2011** from **6 p.m.-9 p.m.** with food provided by Hilmar Cheese. Tickets to the event are going fast but still available for \$35 each and proceeds from the event will benefit the agricultural studies program at CSU Stanislaus and the Stanislaus County Friends of the Fair Foundation.

“This is a great collaboration between CSU Stanislaus Ag department and the Fairgrounds,” said Chris Borovansky, Chief Executive Officer for the Stanislaus County Fair. “We help bring agriculture and educational programs that are beneficial to the Fair and the community.”

The evening will include wine, cheese, hors d’oeuvres and silent and live auctions in order to help raise funds for the programs. Those interested in donating product for the auctions or would like to purchase tickets, please contact CSU Stanislaus Ag studies department at 209-664-6648.

“CSU Stanislaus Agricultural Studies is excited to partner with the Stanislaus County Friends of the Fair Foundation,” said Dr. Mark Bender, Professor and Endowed Chair at the CSU Stanislaus Agricultural Studies Department. “We see this opportunity as one that will, not only solidify future funding for our Stanislaus agriculture students, but will begin a long relationship that will support youth and agriculture activities at the Stanislaus County Fair. What a bright future, filled with good will and support for our agriculture programs.”

The mission of the Agricultural Studies Program is to provide students with an understanding of basic economic principles governing the production and distribution of

agricultural resources; agricultural and environmental resource management; pre- and post-production business and marketing practices; physical, chemical, and biological principles of agro ecosystems; global perspectives on food issues; restorative and sustainable agricultural practices; spatial and quantitative techniques; the social context of agricultural production; and public policy, regulatory, and land use issues.

In pursuing this mission, the program encourages students to critically assess agricultural issues and trends; provides students with opportunities to systematically develop the communicative, analytical, quantitative, and critical thinking skills; exposes students to diverse teaching and learning strategies in a number of academic disciplines; and delivers a high quality academic program that prepares students for emerging professional opportunities.

The mission of the Stanislaus County Fair is to provide a family and community oriented experience promoting agriculture, entertainment and technology. For more information about the Stanislaus County Fair log onto its website at www.stancofair.com.

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