



OUR Promise FEATURES

Integrity - Perseverance - Inclusivity - Innovation - Excellence



Rising Sun Farm Manager Displays Excellence

If you take the back roads adjacent to our Central Valley's Highway 33, and make a few turns between some Sycamores and Almond Blossoms, you may start to hear the faint bleats of goats and the gasoline engine of a commercial mower in the distance. If so, you may have made it to Alejandro "Alex" Peres Molina, Rising Sun's Farm Manager. In this month's feature we'll take a look at how Alex Peres' Excellence and Innovation have garnered applause throughout the district.



Born and raised in Michoacán

From turning a green pond clear, to weeding fields and replacing irrigation systems. Alex Peres Molina started to make an impact as soon as he arrived at Rising Sun a year-and-a-half ago. News of his work ethic and agricultural innovation in working with different types of farming and irrigation systems has him visiting other sites in the future, such as PHS where he plans to assist the Agricultural department with greenhouse planter beds and sprinkler systems.

Born in the state of Michoacán, Mexico, Alex moved to the United States when he was 17 and started working as a landscaper, a position that would stick with him for the next 14 years before starting his own handyman and landscaping business in the Bay Area. After relocating to the Central Valley, Alex found himself on the substitute list for PJUSD Custodial and Grounds where he worked for just under a year, performing tasks such as plumbing, electrical, general landscaping, and custodial. "He proved to be an indispensable member of the maintenance department," said Maintenance, Operations & Transportation Manager, Arturo Simental.



At the farm, one of his most recent projects has been working with Operations Coordinator Amy Thorpe in preparing plans for an arboretum style botanical garden comprised of various roses. The project is currently being prepared behind the scenes for next school year, and will feature benches, fountains and walking paths for community members and families to enjoy. With Alex' experience in landscaping, these types of projects are easier to materialize from an idea to reality.

"He's what we've needed here," said Thorpe. "He's excellent when it comes to landscaping and irrigation because of his background and he also brings an ownership to this place in wanting to make it great."

"I like the Chivos, they're friendly."

One of his many daily tasks includes caring for the animals, something he hasn't ever done in the past, and one species in particular has seemed to win him over. Alex has found an affinity for the goats, or the chivos as he calls them, finding tranquility in their fun-loving personalities. In fact, Alex has plans to utilize extra materials around the farm to build them a playhouse. "Just for fun," said Alex. "I like the Chivos, they're friendly."

Working in a school district is new for Alex, but he enjoys spending time with the students of Rising Sun.

"[They] always want to learn something new, and they want to be [taught] how [to perform tasks]," said Alex, who has now gotten used to showing students how to care for the farm.

Alex also appreciates the working environment and having time to make sure projects are done correctly, as opposed to meeting the difficult deadlines he was accustomed to while working as a contractor.

"Over here there's no rushing, if you can do it, do it, but do it right."