



San Gabriel Ranch

Organic Citrus, Avocado
and Tropical Fruit



Nick Stridsberg
nickstridsberg@gmail.com
760-521-7660



Farm Location: Valley Center

Farm Size: 100 acres

Main crop: Organic Citrus and Exotic Fruit

MY FARM STORY

San Gabriel Ranch has been in business for a little over 30 years. Per Stridsberg, started the farm on a few acres as a hobby. Per's son Nick, was born in the house on the property and grew up supporting the family's business. Nick explains, "My dad is pretty old school, he said I had to work on the farm for a number of years before anything else." On their 100 acres of land, the Stridsberg family grows 15 different varieties of certified organic tree fruit including: grapefruit, lemons, guavas, variety of oranges, mandarins, avocados, and some exotic fruit.

When of age, Nick was taking care of 40 acres of land by himself, including picking, pruning, irrigating, and fertilizing his designated trees. Growing up on the land, helping his father on the tractor, and riding dirt bikes on the farm got Nick accustomed to the farming lifestyle. Although, Nick wasn't always sure farming was what he was going to do for a living "I really had no intention of going into farming originally, but it was always in the back of my mind. I used to be more motivated by money, but then after coming back to working on the farm and working other jobs before this, it felt more rewarding."

After coming back from college, Nick started to take over farming operations at San Gabriel Ranch. He sells his produce to Southern California packing houses, catering companies, grocery stores, and to a couple of CSA programs. Whenever possible, Nick cherishes selling to local businesses, "[Selling local] is a huge blessing, our old business was selling everything to the packing houses, we had no idea where it was going to", Nick explains.

San Gabriel Ranch has eight employees who live and work on the farm, and they've been working on the farm for Nick's entire life. One of the farm employees often reminds Nick, "I remember when you were in diapers, growing up in that house." This type of reminder keeps Nick motivated, "I enjoy farming, and the lifestyle it allows me to live. I get to eat what I produce. Some days are long and tough, you might not make as much money as other professionals generally, but it's very rewarding."



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