



S3 Food Symposium, May 25-27, 2011
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Speaker Biographies/Contact Information

[Mr. A. Charles Crabb, Ph.D.](#), Program Advisor, The California
Agricultural Leadership Foundation

Phone: 831-585-1030
Fax: 831-424-4107
Email: ccrabb@agleaders.org

Charlie Crabb has roots with the dairy industry in Hilmar, California. Although his family had moved off the dairy into the East Bay, his interest in agriculture was rekindled when he was a student at UC Davis. He received his Bachelor of Science degree at UC Davis, in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology in 1973. He went on to complete a Masters of Science in Biology at Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio the next year. Charlie later earned his Ph.D. in Ecology back at UC Davis in 1991.

For most of his professional career Charlie has worked in higher education. He started out as a Staff Research Associate at UC Davis. In 1978 Charlie took a position as an Assistant Professor in Crop Science at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. He remained at Cal Poly for 17 years eventually becoming a full professor, serving as the interim associate dean for agriculture and finally as the associate vice president for Academic Affairs.

Charlie left Cal Poly in 1995 to return to the UC system. He assumed the role of director of the UC Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources South Central Region and the Kearney Agricultural Research Center. In his role with UC, Charlie was responsible for the Cooperative Extension programs in 12 counties and for the research priorities at 4 research and extension centers.

In 1999 Charlie assumed the position of dean of the CSU, Chico College of Agriculture. He helped to guide the process of enhancing the agricultural program offerings at Chico State

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In the summer of 2006, Charlie left higher education to begin serving agricultural in different ways. For a year he served the California Farm Bureau Foundation as manager of the Governmental Affairs Division. Governmental Affairs coordinates the activities that are necessary to help ensure that members of the legislature, state agencies and the Governor's office hear the voice of agriculture. He is currently the Program Advisor for the California Agricultural Leadership Foundation and is the assistant to the Provost at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.

Over the years Charlie has served on a number of boards and associations. Until 2006, Charlie served on the California State Board of Food and Agriculture. His service to agriculture and education has earned him the Honorary American FFA Degree, the California Farm Bureau Distinguished Service Award, emeritus professor of Agriculture from CSU, Chico, and California Agricultural Leadership Program Honorary Member Award.