



THE ADAM FAMILY

Pioneer William Laird Adam left Cork County Ireland about 1850 at the age of 14 and arrived in Santa Maria in 1869 after living and farming in San Jose, Pajaro and Salinas the previous 13 years. W.L. Adam was instrumental in the organization of the Santa Maria Union High School with L.E. Blochman and he served as the first president of that organization. He was a pioneer in the development of water supplies in the Santa Maria Valley through his founding of the Santa Maria Water Company.

The legacy of water development continued with John F. Adam Senior (farming as the Adam Brothers) through his relentless work with Capp Twitchell in the development of the Santa Maria Valley Water Conservation District. This entity ultimately solved the water supply issues of the day through the construction of the Twitchell Reservoir. John F. Adam was also a partner in Bonita Packing.

The next generation, including John F. Adam, Jr. and Richard E. Adam (farming as Adam Farms) contributed in its own right to developing water supplies. "Jack" initiated the purchase of State Water by the City of Santa Maria as City Councilman at the time of the vote. Richard spent 20 years on the Santa Maria Valley Water Conservation District managing operations at Twitchell Reservoir. Family members were also partners in Gold Coast Packing.

Seed beans, broccoli and cauliflower were historically the Adam family agricultural products, but a year of severe rains in the 70s that destroyed

the family's bean crop pushed the family more strongly into growing produce.

The present generation of the Adam family still in farming (not counting the numerous other related farming entities) include the Adam Brothers, Adam Brothers Produce Sales, and Innovative Produce organizations. The family also partnered in Fresh Kist Produce and Beachside Produce. This generation pioneered drip tape retrieval systems, which greatly improved the conservation of water in the Santa Maria Valley. These businesses continue to be at the forefront of irrigation and transplant technologies which are instrumental in modern day water conservation.

The Adam family has a history of public service and collaboration and attributes its success to several factors. The family is solution oriented, faithfully perseverant, entitlement adverse, focused on what really matters and has a long term community commitment.