Meet California Nectarine Grower Kristina Unruh
Clarence Unruh Farms, Selma, California

Grower:
Kristina Unruh

Industry:
Nectarines
Selma, California

"Buying California Grown produce not only supports our family business but it supports the families associated with our business -- the box companies, sticker companies, compost companies, and many more."

-Kristina Unruh

Kristina is the first in her family to farm. It wasn't until she married a third generation farmer that she began her growing career in her husband's family business, Clarence Unruh Farms – an 850 acre operation in Selma, California that grows peaches, plums, nectarines, apricots, table grapes, almonds and Thompson seedless grapes for raisins. Having studied horticulture with a tree fruit production emphasis at Washington State University, Kristina was up for the job.

Since joining the operation in 2003, Kristina has learned how farming can become a life-long passion. While she works alongside her mother and father-in-law, they also have a year-round team of about 60 people – many of whom have been working for the farm for more than 20 years. "I think that having the same people for this long of a period is wonderful," says Kristina. "Not only do they become experts in your operation, but you also get to learn about them and their families as well."

For Kristina, instilling that passion in her children is important. She says, "The best thing about being a grower is that my kids can grow up learning and playing outside in an environment that not many people get the opportunity to have. They can learn about all aspects of working and producing something along with being able to spend time with the family."

In the end, it's a family's ties to the land that makes California products so special. "If you want a wonderful piece of fruit grown by families who care about farming and producing a product that will give back to the California economy and way of life, buy California Grown!"

To learn more about California's nectarine industry, visit
www.eatcaliforniafruit.com.