

Impactful Families in Castro Valley

Castro Valley in the early 1900s was a small, tight-knit community with a strong agricultural focus. Many families contributed to its development, particularly through ranching and farming. Here are some notable families and their contributions:

1. **The Jensen Family:** They established a 1,000-acre ranch and orchard, playing a significant role in the area's agricultural economy. Their legacy lives on through landmarks like Jensen Road and Jensen Ranch Elementary School.
2. **The Lundgren Family:** Known for their chicken ranch on Stanton Avenue, they were part of the thriving poultry farming industry that defined Castro Valley during the 1920s.
3. **The Alcorn Family:** They managed a ranch with 3,000 chickens and a cow, contributing to the local economy. George Alcorn, a member of the family, was also a professor at UC Berkeley and made significant contributions to national agricultural policy.
4. **The Rowell Family:** Harry Rowell, known as the "Rodeo King of the West," established the Rowell Ranch, which became a hub for rodeo culture and community gatherings.

These families, among others, helped shape Castro Valley's identity as a farming and ranching community. Over time, as suburbanization took hold, the area transitioned from its agricultural roots to a more residential and commercial landscape.