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October 2008

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## Southern Region News

By William Nachreiner

Hello members of the California agriculture family, I send you greetings from the Southern Command Center in sunny Riverside. We have made our preparations over the summer to have another great year in our respective schools and institutions.

This year was a bit unusual in that we had many staff changes in several schools. At the post secondary level, *Don Schultz* joined the Cuyamaca College staff and Mt. San Antonio College added two new faces, *Jamie Sakugawa* and *Dawn Waters*. On the secondary side *Aaron Nering* moved to Heritage HS. *Gabino Mendoza* returns to the Southern Region tackling the Calipatria Program. *Casey Penfold* joins his dad at Apple Valley High. *Mary Kerr* moved to Sunny Hills-Fullerton from Poway. And *Kelsey Finnicum* moved to Norte Vista from West Valley-Hemet. The Indio agriculture program added *Kami Johnston* to it's staff. *Adeline Fernandes-Quintana* takes on the Sonora HS

agriculture program this year. *Richard Montgomery* joins the Bloomington program. *Mary Masch* goes to Poway and continues the good work there. *Amy Tomlinson* moved to the great state of Nebraska and *Maria Rangel-Cozens* will be replacing her down at Holtville with Luke Larson. *K.C. Brown* will be at Fullerton HS this year. The Covina agriculture program will start the year with *Virginia Dwyer* at the helm. And *Megan Adams* will be at West Valley-Hemet. A lot of new faces and some old ones too, the Southern Region just keeps growing and growing. We are all excited with a new school year and new groups of students to train, coach and teach. May all of you north of us have a great year too.

## South Coast Region News

By John Avila

### Los Angeles Section

*Canoga Park* is breaking ground in October on new greenhouses, garden beds, a show ring, a

BBQ and picnic area, and an outdoor amphitheatre. All of this is a result of a \$500,000 grant they received from Lowe's last year. They lost Anna Demaree to Coalinga HS; however, they were able to hire two new teachers, Danielle Bauer and Carina Ramirez.

Congratulations to *Arnie Vosburgh* at Narboone on his retirement. Best of luck sailing the Panama Canal and then on to New York, and returning just in time to harvest your 100-acre apple orchard.

*Gardena FFA* members continue service to others by helping handicapped students transition to high school life. Also, the floral design classes presented their flower arrangements to the local hospital and then donated their projects to the patients.

*Sylmar HS* has Steve List teaching landscape design after school. They are also still looking for a ROP teacher for an ag welding/mechanics position - contact Herb Sampang if you are interested in the position.

### Ventura Section:

*Camarillo FFA* members worked with the Ventura County Sheriff's Mounted Posse on a search and rescue training session. They had 60 students in summer school classes involved with horticulture projects.

*Carpinteria FFA* members were hard at work installing a fruit orchard, pasture, and row crops on one acre at the school. The field was going to be an athletics field; however the administration helped save the land for the Agriculture Science Technology Academy. Their superintendent arranged fieldtrips to tour local sustainable farms to provide a model for their students to grow and sell the food that is used by the school district - "Students Growing Food for

### 2008 Spring CATA Scholarship Winners

- ◆ Jennifer Caputo (UC Davis) will be a long term sub at Yuba City High School beginning the winter quarter.
- ◆ Tara Meade (UC Davis) at Woodland Sr. High School
- ◆ Megan Schmitt (Cal Poly, SLO) at Merced Union High School.
- ◆ Robin Schroeder (Cal Poly, SLO)
- ◆ Erin Thompson (Cal Poly, SLO) at San Luis Obispo High School.

### 2008 Fall CATA Scholarship Winners

- ◆ Rebecca Anderson (Cal Poly, SLO)
  - ◆ Meghan Davis (CSU, Chico)
  - ◆ Amanda Galan (Cal Poly, SLO)
  - ◆ Salvador Hurtado (Cal Poly, SLO)
  - ◆ Valerie Romeri (CSU, Fresno)
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Students.” They are also growing over 500 poinsettias in their upgraded greenhouse for the winter holidays.

*Fillmore FFA* just finished a very successful Ventura Fair. On the school farm they are replanting avocados, rebuilding the horse unit, bringing top soil to improve one of their fields, reroofing the tractor barn, and completing the renovations on the shop. They also put on their annual FFA/4-H field day which was a success, along with their annual buyers’ banquet. One of the students is growing banana squash for the local insectory and he has made about \$4,500 so far on a little over a quarter acre.

The *Santa Paula HS* Agriculture Program ended another successful year with many accomplishments to be proud of: 52 students attended the Ventura County Fair. The chapter participated in several summer fundraisers with the Santa Paula Citrus Festival and Santa Paula Chevrolet. The program will also be starting their job-shadow and internship program which will include an antique tractor restoration project in partnership with a local antique tractor club which will be entered in the Chevron Tractor Restoration Competition next year.

*Ventura HS* received first place in Landscape at Ventura County Fair, winning \$550, a plaque for Best Use of water (only five plaques are given out each year and there were 76 gardens entered), and a plaque for Best of Division - Youth and Civic Organizations.

#### **Santa Barbara Section:**

*Arroyo Grande FFA’s* new officer team have planned an eventful year starting with drive thru BBQ fundraisers, a fall Greenhand and chapter degree banquet, and many more activities such as FFA Fridays.

*Cuyama HS* would like everyone to welcome Kevin Lebsack to the South Coast Region.

*Lompoc HS* is excited to an-

nounce they have hired a fourth teacher in the department to cover the ag mechanics area of their program. His name is Frank Shaw and he comes to us from the Modesto area. Lompoc is still working on renovating the greenhouse and trying to build up the new ROP OH classes that were instituted last year. Katie Gradoville is back from maternity leave.

*Nipomo HS FFA* is off to a great start! They had a wonderful and successful Santa Barbara County Fair. Their FFA members painstakingly put in many hours to ensure a successful fair, and it sure paid off!

Nipomo FFA exhibitors showed their hearts out and brought home a champion in almost every barn. With their fantastic start to a brand new year, they hope to continue their winning tradition, because this year Nipomo FFA is “Making a Statement.”

Melissa Flory-Guerra has joined the staff at *Santa Maria HS*. A foreign exchange student from Moldova will participate in their program this year. They are excited to get to know her and share the American culture with her and to hear about the changes that have occurred in her country. Speaking of changes, this year their school wants to be positive as it looks ahead. Thus they spent two days learning about "appreciative inquiry;" where they discussed their past successes at Santa Maria HS. This has allowed them all to be more positive as they start the school year and look at making changes for the better. They would like to send best wishes to Kellie Hargett on her move to Etna HS.

*Santa Ynez FFA* is working on new farm construction and looking forward to another successful year!

*Coast Union HS* has animals back on campus this year for the first time in about 20 years. Hearst Corporation donated a fabulous beef

facility and they raised two heifers. They also refurbished a corral for swine and raised three hogs. All were shown at the Mid-State Fair. They had a great time and did well at the livestock auction. Cyndie Wilson just completed her first ten years teaching at Coast Union.

*Paso Robles HS* welcomes Gabe Ponce as a replacement teacher in the ag department.

*San Luis Obispo HS* welcomes Erin Thompson as a new teacher in the ag department. Ann Bates had a baby boy on July 12th, Steven Wallace Bates weighed in at 8lbs. 6oz. They have Ag Issues and the Prepared Public Speaking State Champions that will be competing at National.

*Shandon FFA* did very well at the CMSF. They are gearing up for a big trip to National Convention which includes a trip to New York with Broadway tickets to see Phantom of the Opera. They will then drive to Baltimore and Washington DC and do the sites there for two days and then off to Indianapolis to support one of Shandon's finest FFA members as well as South Coast's Ms. Nessie Early as she represents California FFA and pursues a spot on the National Officer Team. This obviously is already a great accomplishment and they are all excited to see what happens. Shandon's chapter is holding strong with about 98 percent of the student body enrolled in the agriculture department.

*Templeton FFA* is excited to start the year! In June they had a three day, two night officer retreat in Santa Cruz where they made big plans for the school year and had a blast at the Beach Board Walk. Mid-State Fair was a success with a breed champion or reserve champion in each of the livestock species and FFA Champion Goat. State Fair was also a success with Reserve Champion FFA Steer. They look forward to a fantastic year and welcome Scott Stebner to Templeton!

**Monterey Bay Section:**

*Everett Alvarez* FFA's officer team enjoyed a trip to the Santa Cruz Mountains where they worked together to plan their upcoming year. Soon after, they were honored to perform the Patriotic Observance and hosted the WASD dinner. In August they attended the Monterey County Fair with a variety of animals. They also had two students enter a display garden where they received best of show and viewers choice. They were very excited with their achievements and plan on doing more with the addition of their third teacher Felicia Rush. In February, they will be breaking ground on their new agriculture center on campus.

*Gonzales HS* is looking forward to another successful year while utilizing a 70k grant to acquire new equipment for facility improvements. Yes, they are a very happy department.

*Greenfield HS* would like to congratulate Bill Bernstein on his retirement - best of luck.

*King City FFA* Advisors had a relaxing summer vacation. Lindsay Buckner visited Argentina for two weeks. Debbie Benson and her husband Richard proudly attended their sons' college graduations in Florida and Hawaii last spring. They also celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on a cruise to Mexico with their family. Jessica Wright married Adam Souza in August, and they managed to take some time off to vacation on a houseboat at Trinity Lake with Jessica's family. The staff is pleased to have a fall student teacher, Natalia Bahena, from Cal Poly, SLO. King City FFA members are busy getting ready for the Hall of States display for National FFA Convention. They will be sending a national proficiency finalist in Wildlife Management to the Convention.

*North Salinas HS* welcomes Stephanie Pfarr as a new teacher in

the ag department.

*Salinas FFA* is proud to welcome their new teacher, Joey Martin. He will be taking over the metal shop and supervising the hog and dairy projects. Heather Nursement is still teaching at Salinas and is happy to be back in the classroom. They have lots of fun activities and fundraisers planned for the upcoming fall semester and are looking forward to the growth that comes with adding five new agriculture classes.

*Soledad* is very happy to welcome Marcos Ruiz to the program. School has hardly started and he already has the greenhouse up and running and full of plants. We are also excited to announce that Mandi Ramirez had a healthy baby girl in May. She will be taking the year off to be a full-time Mom.

*Soquel HS* has run a dog grooming shop for many years as a student run enterprise. Now Soquel High has (as far as we know) the only dog training program in the state.

In the summer of 2006, Dog trainer Sandi Pensinger of Living With Dogs made a list of her and Grace's wish list to make a successful facility and program. In the spring of 2007, they received a grant and installed a nearly competition size agility field.

Up and running now for a year, it has been a great success. Their new Field of Dreams - Zemny Field was named after a 30 plus year recently retired ag teacher, Matt Zemny who designed the field for the veterinary science teacher Grace Clark. Grace and a local professional dog trainer teamed up to create a place where the public could bring dogs for obedience and agility training, and provide an internship program for students, as well a help fund the veterinary science program with the funds from renting the field.

Parts of the facility have yet to be finished, such as lighting for night classes and other improvements for expanding the curriculum to encompass more career training for students. One new thing this year will be the surrogate dog trainer, where the public can drop off a dog for "dog school" at Soquel High and a student will work with them under the professional trainer's guidance. Also an expanded customer service unit of study will incorporate students doing the "office" work and earning certificates of accomplishment for successfully completed areas of study and proof of competency.

No longer knee deep in mud and with a few market animals for the fair, our Outdoor Animal Science Learning Lab is a training field for students to learn business skills and practical animal handling skills. It is a reflection of the community we live in and an attractive asset to the school and class curriculum.

*Watsonville* acquired a new 17' aluminum gooseneck livestock trailer over the summer and the program was awarded the California Partnership Academy Grant. Show me the money, money, money.....

Do not worry,  
Do not fear,  
Do not fret here or there,  
What the heck,  
Bite the bullet,  
Kick the tires,  
And light the fires.

By Ryan N. Kuntz

**Santa Clara Section:**

*Ann Sobrato HS* welcomes Tanya Salo to the program and the South Coast Region!

*Westmont High School/ Campbell FFA* is just winding down from a successful county fair. They are preparing for renovations to their swine unit and they are also building two 600 square foot raised planting beds to be used for horticulture projects. Their commercial hog project starts in October, during the past four years they've raised over 100 hogs.

**Agriculture Teachers and Coaches Code of Conduct for CDEs**

School Name \_\_\_\_\_

As an educator and role model, agriculture teachers and coaches shall maintain a high level of professionalism at the Career Development Events (CDEs).

**Before** a contest, every coach of each career development team shall:

- 1.1 Inform students of contest rules;
- 1.2 Be aware of schedules;
- 1.3 Make sure their chapter is in good standing with the FFA;
- 1.4 Prepare students for contest content and safety guidelines;
- 1.5 Be a good adult role model.

**During** a contest every coach of a career development team shall:

- 2.1 Assist contest officials when needed;
- 2.2 Abide by rules and expectations for that particular event including but not limited to rules regarding physical location;
- 2.3 Ensure student cell phones are not in use;
- 2.4 Act in a professional and ethical manner.

**After** the contest every coach of a career development team shall:

- 3.1 Conduct themselves in a professional manner during critique and awards;
- 3.2 Treat contest officials and other field days committee members with respect;
- 3.3 Be a good role model for their team;
- 3.4 Model good sportsmanship;
- 3.5 Present any protests or inquiries in written form;
- 3.6 The coach shall attend curricular code revisions if possible.

**At any time** in relation to CDEs, coaches shall:

- 4.1 Behave in a professional manner;
- 4.2 Refrain from knowingly providing misleading or incorrect information
- 4.3 Avoid creating or taking part in confrontational situations involving contest officials or field day committee members;
- 4.4 Follow contest rules or guidelines;
- 4.5 Avoid encouraging or allowing any student to break contest rules;
- 4.6 Avoid communicating with students during the contest;
- 4.7 Avoid intentionally putting a student or another person in harms way.

If a contest supervisor finds a coach to be in violation of the Code of Conduct, the said contest supervisor will submit an official letter to the CATA Governing Board. If in agreement of this code violation then the CATA Governing Board will send a letter to that coach’s administration. The said coach could also be banned from all State Finals the following calendar year.

This document must be signed and submitted with state finals registration.

			<b>Contest(s)</b>
<b>Ag. Instructor</b>	<b>Principal</b>	<b>Coach</b>	