

AGGIE ANNEX

OCTOBER 2011

CENTRAL REGION NEWS

BY JESSALEE GOEHRING

Greetings CATA from the Central Region! Another busy and eventful summer has come and gone and we are ready to embark on the 2011-2012 school year! We hope that you have had an eventful summer filled with county fairs, officer retreats and the CATA conference. The Central Region is looking forward to an eventful and successful school year and seeing you all soon!

Yolo Section

Pioneer HS in Woodland would like to welcome Megan Tefertiller and Tiffany Trexler to their agriculture program, and also *Woodland HS* has a new addition to their program, Brianna Perry. Congratulations and good luck! Also, congratulations are in order to *Winters HS* for receiving the 2 star National Chapter Award.

Sacramento Section

Cordova HS is proud to be starting a new Ag. Science Academy on campus under the direction of Bret Harnden and moving into the new state-of-the-art science buildings on campus. Their program is also partnering with neighbor, Soil Born Farms, where students will soon be planting a fall garden. In addition to the ag biology curriculum, students are currently busy establishing the Cordova FFA Chapter. They are looking forward to a great first year!

Liberty Ranch HS in Galt would like to welcome Haley Clement to their expanding agriculture program and *Sheldon HS* would like to welcome Abby Flaherty to their agriculture program. Also, congratulations to Sheldon HS on

being named a 3 star National Chapter Award Winner and to *Florin HS* on being named a 2 star National Chapter Award Winner.

Congratulations to Alyssa Mangan of *Elk Grove HS*, on her marriage this summer! Elk Grove HS student, Jake Carlson has been named a National Agriscience Student Finalist and National Proficiency Finalist. Elk Grove was also recognized as a 3 star National Chapter! Good luck at Nationals!

Delta-Cal Section

Lodi HS has added to their agriculture program and would like to welcome Ben Garrett. He will be teaching agriculture mechanics and ornamental horticulture. Also, Lodi HS will be recognized at National Convention as a 3 Star National Chapter and is a Model of Innovation Finalist this year. Good luck and congratulations!

Tokay HS would like to welcome their new teacher and addition to their program, Rachelle Yates and *Calaveras HS* would like to welcome Abigail Ferrell to their agriculture program. *Argonaut HS* welcomes Dave Salzer to their department and *Linden HS* welcomes ag mechanics teacher Chris Lemos. Good luck to you all!

Tracy HS would like to congratulate their student, Damon Pombo on being recognized as a National Proficiency Finalist and *Escalon HS* would like to congratulate Mary Steves on her National Agriscience Student Finalist recognition, good luck at Nationals to you both!

Congratulations to *Weston Ranch HS* on their recent marriages. Amanda Koslow was married on May 29th and Gregg Bridges was married on July 2nd. Gregg and his wife also welcomed their baby girl, Hayden on May 4th. Congratulations on your growing families!

Sierra Manteca HS would like to welcome new teacher Rex Mendonza to their program. Congratulations to the Montadale Sheep students who competed at Nationals in Missouri and won! Very exciting times for Sierra Manteca HS.

Stanislaus Section

Gregori HS has added a third teacher to their growing agriculture department. Welcome to the Central Region, Kyle Beeman, who is teaching ag mechanics 1-2, 3-4, and small engines. *Grace Davis HS* would like to welcome Emmalee Casillas to their agriculture program. Finally, *Riverbank HS* has added Travis Cardoso to their agriculture program and *Summerville HS* would like to welcome Rachel Castongia to their agriculture program. Best of luck to you all!

Modesto HS is very proud of their student, Jason Mendes, on being named the National Agri Entrepreneurship Award Winner.

Tri Rivers Section

Lauren Stroud, of *Newman HS*, and her husband, Wes, are expecting their first child in December. Lauren will be looking for a long term sub to cover her classes during her maternity leave so please contact her if you

CENTRAL REGION (CON'T)

know anyone who would be interested. Karling Skoglund and Jaime Rico would greatly appreciate a quality sub that can be a part of the ag-team while Lauren is on maternity leave.

Congratulations to Krista Van- nest, *Pitman HS* on her Teacher of Excellence Award and Dominic Argesti-Assali of *Turlock HS* a National Proficiency Award Finalist.

Ceres and *Central Valley HS* students recently competed at the ten day Stanislaus County Fair in Turlock. Students participated in a wide range of projects including dairy and beef cattle, sheep, meat goats, pigs, rabbits, poultry, ag mechanics, vegetable and plant projects. By the last day of fair, each student had unique and lasting memories of the process of raising, preparing, and showing a market or breeding animal. Many students also entered ag mechanics projects and plant projects completed over the school year or summer.

Some *Central Valley HS* highlights from fair included Daniel Soares placing 8th in dairy showmanship, Katy Gaede being awarded reserve champion commercial beef female, William Bailey receiving the reserve champion FFA Hampshire award, and CVHS Sheep earning 1st place for the Clean Barn award. In the small animal arena CVHS was very successful. Cherise Azevedo was awarded reserve champion single fryer and placed 3rd in FFA rabbit showmanship, Wynter Bratenas was 4th in rabbit showmanship, Katy Gaede was 5th in rabbit showmanship, Cheyanne Borges placed 7th with her senior Californian buck. Christina Crum, a program completer, took home the champion and reserve champion meat pens. Central Valley also earned the FFA Ag Mechanics Sweepstakes award, FFA Ag Horticulture Sweepstakes award, and the FFA Ornamental Horticulture

Sweepstakes award.

Ceres HS had five poultry showmen for the first time in many years. They also had two swine showman, one of which was a program completer. CHS students also exhibited many successful ag mechanics projects.

Merced/Mariposa Section

Gustine HS ag department just built a new 20x40 greenhouse on the school farm, and added an environmental horticulture course which will be taught by Kelly Sanches. Also, congratulations are in order to Cameron Wyman. He and his wife, Chrissy welcomed their first child, Chael, he weighed 14 lbs. 3 oz and 27 1/4 inches long. That is a big baby boy!

Hilmar HS would like to congratulate Monique Reid on the arrival of her son, Jack Chester Reid, who was born on May 19th. Monique and baby are doing well and she is already back to work!

LeGrand HS has been working hard this past year and summer by securing over \$400,000 in diverse grants to help their expanding program! One huge change at LeGrand is their students are now using iPads instead of textbooks. All freshman and sophomore students have been issued an iPad that will be theirs until they graduate. Additionally, Danny Silva is the lead teacher in starting their Gateway Virtual Academy for their 9-12 grade students. This is California state approved curriculum, taught by state certified teachers that give students one to one attention. All of their lessons and interactions are done through email, online discussion, telephone, and face to face meetings. Also, on a bit of the less technological side,

the horticulture program, led by Monica Bianchi, has added a two acre community garden to their program and also host a Tuesday Night Farmer's Market and Crafts fair. This has been going on since May and will end in October. The garden and market were made possible by two grants, one from *Building Healthy Communities Association* and *The Nutrients for Life Foundation*.

LeGrand HS has also added to their program, part time teacher Rebecca Bigelow and would like to welcome fall student teacher Amanda Hendrickson. Congratulations to LeGrand HS on securing the funds to better your programs and meet the needs of all of our agriculture students! Please congratulate Richard Jacobson on being named an Honorary American Degree Recipient. He will be recognized at the National FFA Convention

Los Banos HS would like to welcome Katie Niederfrank and *Pacheco HS* would like to welcome Caitlin Lawrence.

Atwater HS has a lot to be proud of, as Beth Knapp was named a National Agriscience Teacher Finalist. Good luck to you!

Congratulations to *La Grange-Golden Lakes HS* on opening a new agriculture program that is being led by Britany Stoffan and also congratulations to Jeremy Monn at *Don Pedro HS* on starting the agriculture program there. It is great to see all of the program growth happening in our region!

In closing, we would like to recognize the Central Region Volleyball team on their back to back championship at the CATA Conference! "We are the Champions, my friends!"



SOUTHERN REGION NEWS

BY RAFAEL MOSQUEDA

Greetings from the Southern Region! Many changes have undertaken our departments, some good and some bad. First off, the Southern Region Family would like to give out their prayers and thoughts to the Sehnert Family. Doug Sehnert, *Fallbrook FFA*, underwent a critical surgery to remove a benign brain tumor that was discovered over the summer. He is recovering slowly and doctors project for Doug to recuperate by February.

San Diego Section

The San Diego Section is off to a good start with programs not being cut and student enrollment increasing. The remodeling of new agriculture facilities at *El Capitan HS* is getting closer and closer to being finished and they can't wait. Best of luck to Doug Moss, *San Pasqual FFA*, in his retirement after 35 years of teaching. His new adventure now begins with a list of 35 years

worth of "honey do's", his wife has been waiting for this moment!

Imperial Section

In the Imperial Section, *Blythe FFA* has earned the Outstanding Chapter Recognition and was showcased in the August/September edition of the *New Horizons*. They held strong and discovered great support from their communities after their farm was partially destroyed when a small tornado passed through. Yes, even in Southern California we get tornadoes! *Holtville*, *Winterhaven*, and *Calexico* are all keeping their membership strong with increased students and success in their SAE's.

Orange Section

Buena Park Ag would like to welcome Mary Ann (Mullion) Maxfield to the team and congratulate Jessica Fernandes who was named Western Region Agriculture Teacher of the Year for NAAE.

Riverside Section

The Riverside Section would like to welcome Howard Wilson, *San Jacinto HS* and Jody Baker, *Hemet HS* on their return to the teaching profession. We would like to also welcome Shannon Kelley to *San Jacinto HS* and Doug Cousins, *Perris HS* to the section family. Congratulations to Perris FFA for their win at the State FFA Judging finals in the area of Ornamental Horticulture. Cupid and the baby stork have been working hard bringing new joys to our section. Shaina Leach at *Heritage HS* is currently engaged to Josh Rushing and soon to be wed this year. Ralph and Sara Mosqueda at *Hemet HS* are keeping busy with their new born son Ryder James and soon will have a playmate as Jeremy and Kelsey Helferich at *Rubidoux HS* had their first daughter, Kendall Grace, in September.

Continue the great work Southern Region!!

NORTH COAST REGION NEWS

BY SARAH HERDELL

With a new school year well on its way, the North Coast Region is enthusiastic about another year of successes and growth. Classes are full and students and teachers alike are looking forward to a fantastic year.

Sonoma Section

Many Sonoma Section schools are amidst Prop 1D construction sites and fall harvests, while classes are full and students are looking forward to a great year. Students throughout the section did well at both the Sonoma County and Napa Town and Country Fairs. *Santa Rosa FFA* won best design, best use of color, and best overall Jr. Garden at the Sonoma County Fair.

This summer, *Sonoma FFA* began selling animals, produce, and bedding flowers to The Fairmont Hotel to raise funds to expand the school farm. *Santa Rosa FFA's* vegetable garden is flourishing and has sold over 20 C.S.A. projects. *Elsie Allen FFA* recently had a very successful fundraiser at Kunde Winery and raised over \$35,000, and Sonoma FFA recently held a fundraiser at Larson Family Winery and raised \$30,000.

We wish good luck to *Tomales FFA* at National Convention with their Dairy Production National Proficiency Finalist.

Forestville FFA recently har-

vested their one acre of pinot noir grapes for their Lion's Pride wine, while Santa Rosa FFA bottled their second vintage of Panther Chardonnay. *St. Helena FFA* is preparing for both their Zinfandel grape harvest and pumpkin harvest in early October.

Healdsburg FFA is working on a watershed project with the Russian River Riverkeepers. Students at *Petaluma HS* are excited to have wildlife and nature science back in their schedules, and students in Tomales are eager to finish their restorations on a donated Minneapolis Moline tractor.

Santa Rosa Junior College is working hard on their sustainable agri-

NORTH COAST REGION (CON'T)

culture program, and has just put in a weather station and mobile poultry unit at Shone Farm.

Sonoma Section would like to welcome Robert Landry and Dan Famini at SRJC, Felicia Rush at Sonoma HS, and Wesley Hunt at Santa Rosa HS to our teaching crew this year. Lastly, a warm welcome to Landon DeMarta, son of Sadie DeMarta (*Sebastopol FFA*), born on September 13th.

Humboldt-Del Norte Section

Up in the Humboldt-Del Norte Section they recently had their "Elvis" themed SOLC with 60 kids in attendance, and they were excited to host their Greenhand conference on October 4th with 160 awesome participants. They are also excited about their collaborative lesson plan sharing at sectional meetings this year. The schools in the Humboldt Section have started the year with successful chapter meetings and full classes. This summer, students were very successful at the Humboldt County Fair and the Del Norte County Fair.

McKinleyville and *Arcata FFA* members had a blast serving hot dogs this summer at a Willie Nelson concert in Humboldt. *Eureka* and *Ferndale Chapters* both had successful Welcome BBQ's for their students to get their year off on the right foot. *Arcata FFA*, *Eureka FFA*, *Fortuna FFA*, and *McKinleyville FFA* are all excited about their upcoming

Drive-Through Tri-Tip Fundraisers this fall.

Fortuna FFA is preparing for their apple harvest, a petting zoo, and ag education games for kids. In addition, they are busy planning their 5k walk/run to benefit the local food bank and FFA. Students are also excited at Fortuna to have the opportunity to take forestry and ag business classes this year.

At *College of the Redwoods*, staff is busy developing an outstanding leadership program. Ag ambassadors and teachers hosted the North Coast Region COLC. The farm has been busy with C.S.A.'s including an extensive array of crops and active student participation. CoR is now offering degrees in general agriculture, animal science, and plant science, and are excited to be hosting a field day on February 11 with 7 contests this year.

Mendocino-Lake Section

In the Mendocino-Lake Section, teachers are excited that school is going great with full classes, new A-G classes, students being nice to the teachers, and lots of great new ag students enrolled. Chapters did great at the Mendocino County Fair and Lake County Fairs. *Anderson Valley FFA* is enthusiastic about developing a rabbit facility on the school farm. *Round Valley* is proud to be cleaning up their school farm and getting animals back. *Upper Lake FFA* is looking forward to progress on their

school farm construction and developments, and their in-ground garden being planted this spring. *Willits FFA* is busy working on their 120 head rabbitry and their 4'x40' vermiculture unit in its first year to harvest.

Alameda-Solano Section

The Alameda-Solano Section had a great summer with many successes, including the Grand Champion State Fair Steer from *Livermore FFA* and many school farm and facility construction projects moving right along. *Rio Vista FFA* has a new classroom, greenhouse, and barn on campus. *Dixon FFA* and *Livermore FFA* are both working hard on their school farm and garden developments, and Livermore is excited to have theirs open hopefully this April. Classes all over the section are full, and student participation is up.

Vacaville and *Napa FFA* are looking forward to their upcoming State Officer visits. Napa FFA is preparing to harvest their pumpkins next month, but in the meantime is busy with their Saturday Farmer's Market stand where they sell produce from their organic garden and eggs. *Liberty-Brentwood* is excited about their upcoming trip to the Del 'Osso corn maze and also about starting up a swine breeding project.

Lastly, new to the section's teaching crew, Alameda-Solano welcomes Marcus Tanaka at *Dixon HS* and Rebecca Hein at *Rio Vista HS* this year.

THE 2011-2012 CURRICULAR CODE

The following contests were updated or added:

<http://www.calagteachers.org/CurricularActivitiesCode.html>

- Program of Activities
- Fruit Tree Judging
- Livestock Judging
- Parliamentary Procedure
- Creed (scorecard only)
- Agricultural Sales
- Agriscience
- Poultry Judging
- Impromptu Public Speaking
- Natural Resources