

# AGGIE ANNEX

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MAY 2013

## SAN JOAQUIN REGION NEWS

BY SHAY WILLIAMS-HOPPER

Greetings from the San Joaquin Region. Things are in full swing within our region and we are looking forward to the spring semester. As some of you might have heard, we have been shaking it up and reorganizing our sectional boundaries with the hopes of providing greater opportunities to our students!

**Avenal** - Tim Sailors was back at work after recovering from back surgery. Unfortunately he sustained a fall during State FFA Conference and is back in the hospital, please send positive thoughts his direction. Avenal FFA is gaining a lot of participation from the school with increased membership in our chapter. They now have over 130 members with 50 active members, and 35 students took animals to the Kings Fair last year showing pigs, sheep and beef. They are beginning to apply for this year's fair with a lot of interest from the new members wanting to show.

**Corcoran** welcomes new agriculture teacher Mike Rossi to their program. He comes to them from the Parlier Ag Department. Currently, the students and staff are gearing up to plant 74 acres of cotton for their crop enterprise project. Corcoran ag classes have been busy making an impact in their community as well. Current projects include: building partitions for a new student store, designing & making trophies for Corcoran Car Show and Hanford Car Show, and building a trailer for Double Oak Ranch.

Lots of exciting things are happening in **Hanford**. Congratulations to Dennis Fuller, as he and his new fiancé

Emily will be married in June! Sam Rodriguez and his wife Lisa are expecting a baby girl in June as well. The department would like to welcome Mrs. Rochelle Mederos to the team. The chapter is excited to have a new van donated by the Hanford FFA Parents Club! Hanford was also a recipient of a FFA Food for All Grant and is planning to raise chickens for local food banks. Thanks to a donation of \$8,500 from the Hanford Rotary in the name of Mr. Le Roy Morgan, the Hanford FFA is currently working on remodeling their ornamental horticulture facility. Congrats to Hanford for also having the State Champion Cotton Judging Team in November.

**Lemoore** - Mary Beth Hearn and her Veterinary Science students have more guide dogs than ever and are doing well. Thirteen dogs in training and three in formal training at the guide dog school in Boring Oregon. We wish them all good luck as they continue their training! Outside of the department the staff has been busy at home! Mary Beth's granddaughter just turned four and is looking forward to becoming a future LHS FFA member. Matt Moreno's daughter Mayce is almost two years old, and getting big. His stepson Hayden is now eight and riding bull calves in junior rodeo and has dreams of becoming a professional bull rider!!! PBR here we come! Howard Clarke's family is doing well and his kids are thriving at school, very smart kids because of his wife. Paige is in fifth grade, Megan is in fourth grade, Tyler is in first grade. All his kids play indoor and outdoor soccer.

**Tulare Agriculture Department** has been busy all year. The teachers are neck deep in FFA activities and excited for the spring to come. LeAndre Jefferson was recognized as the National Creed Champion at the National Convention in October. This is the third National Winner in Creed that Tulare has had. Tulare FFA is proud to announce that they have captured their first State Championship of the year, winning the State title in Citrus Judging. Currently, the department is working on ordering a new pick-up truck with money donated from Pfizer and their Ag Boosters Club.

From **Reedley High School**, they are excited as the district has decided to let the ag department farm the recently purchased 45 acres of land that will be eventually used for future school sites. The property has 23 acres of plums and 22 of open ground. This will allow their students a greater venue in realizing agriculture production. They will also be able to open community involvement with our program as well as we seek advice and usage of equipment. On a sad note, one of their stand-alone ag classrooms caught fire on February 7th, and destroyed all interior items. All aspects of learning essentials for the student's class were ruined. There was nothing salvageable. The district plans on rebuilding the room but on another site on campus. Mr. Sa says, "It's darn hard to teach any class without teaching materials!"

**Kingsburg** - Congratulations to Brian Donovan and his wife, who are expecting their first child, a little girl in June.

## SAN JOAQUIN REGION NEWS (CON'T)

**Fresno Central Agriculture Department** welcomed two new ag teachers this school year. Ariana Hallum is teaching the Ag Power classes and Agriculture Science I and June Betten-court is teaching Agriculture Biology and Food Science. Taree Downs will be welcoming a new baby in May, Congratulations Taree!

**Sanger** is preparing for the upcoming spring with 18 bred dairy goat does. They are hoping to have about 36 kids when all is said and done. All of the students are really excited but then comes milking each of the does for the next seven months!

**Madera FFA** recently purchased a new truck and a new van to replace the older 1982 models. Their new two acre vineyard project is underway and should be complete by the end of the semester. They are planting primarily wine grapes which will be used for hands-on learning by the students in the plant science courses. The grapes produced will be marketed to local wineries for use in their blends. Also a big congratulations to Madera FFA as they captured their first State Championship title of the year in Grapevine Pruning!

**Dinuba High School** is happy to welcome their initial student teacher from CSU Fresno: Ryan Fellows, a previous student of Christine & Tommy's from Paso Robles, she is a dynamic new teacher! Dinuba has been expanding and improving the agriculture facilities – new citrus and stone fruit trees planted in the orchard; revamped greenhouse; updated shade area for OH projects; and they continue to improve their outstanding livestock facility. Tommy's classes are busy building lots of projects,

including 40 cedar outdoor lawn chairs, split rail fence, and a concrete project. Roy Browne's Specialty Animal/Vet Science team learned a great deal at the new National Contest, and look forward to the changes in the state contest this year, and his Ag Science classes are getting great hands on experience in their plant science projects! Christine has been busy with her two little girls, as well as planning for the Ag Skills Floral classes for Cal Poly, learning from serving CATA on Governing Board, and designing floral arrangements for weddings and special events. It has been a great experience for their chapter to have a student as sectional president, and regional vice president!

**Fowler FFA** had a wonderful FFA week that got the whole school involved. They began the week with a Staff Breakfast that included eggs, bacon, pancakes, sausage, fruit, bagels, many juices, and toast. Greenhands dyed their hands green in their ag classes, and the whole chapter conducted lunchtime activities that included a milk crate pillow fight (Milk Crate Gladiators), Cow Pie Eating Contest (Brownies, ice cream, whipped cream) – no hands allowed!! They also had a metal barrel sledge hammer bashing contest, and ended the week with their very-own school FFA rally that featured a 4-Way Tug-o-War, FFA Greenhand Awards, and a food products Aggie Relay!!!

**Frontier Ag Boosters, Inc.** just completed their 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Ag Boosters Fund Raiser - The Spring Round Up. This event brings more than 225 people together for a steak dinner, door prizes, silent and live auctions,

dancing, and more. Proceeds from the event totaled more than \$42,000; all of which goes back to the 435 students who make up the Frontier-Bakersfield FFA Chapter. Over the last five years this event has raised just over \$175,000 to benefit the FFA students. From the purchasing of animal projects for the Kern County Fair, scholarships for seniors, the building and maintenance of the school farm, to providing hotels for 72 student who attend the State FFA Leadership Conference every year, the Ag Boosters program allows these members to be active, competitive, and engaged in FFA activities!

**VTEC** is currently securing a deal to purchase the newly vacated College of the Sequoias Farm in Visalia. VTEC is presently housed in portables on the old COS farm and is looking forward to the move when the deal closes in a few weeks. The facilities will be renovated and will allow for animal projects and new greenhouse facility opportunities.

Through the overwhelming generosity of local companies and supporters **Kerman FFA** is installing a new vineyard on campus! The vineyard will consist of two varieties of wine grapes, four varieties of table grapes, and a raisin variety. Thanks to overwhelming community support the entire vineyard is being installed with zero out of pocket expenses. In addition to the vines Kerman Ag Department is completing a farm expansion/update, consisting of: two new pastures, swine unit expansion, and a new poultry facility, the projects listed will be entirely completed by students.

Register for 2013 CATA Summer Conference online at [www.calagteachers.org](http://www.calagteachers.org).

## CENTRAL REGION NEWS

BY JESSALEE GOEHRING

Greetings from the Central Region! Spring has sprung, and we are very excited for the months ahead! Spring has started off quite well for the Central Region, with field days, applications and state degrees; we are quite busy. We would like to recognize the 495 Central Region State Degree recipients! Congratulations to the hard working FFA members!

### **Delta-Cal Section:**

Congratulations to **Lodi HS** on having three state proficiency winners, and for having the Star State Farmer at this year's State FFA Conference. They were also announced as the state winning chapter for the National Chapter Award!

**Weston Ranch HS** has been very busy this year. The installation of a greenhouse and shade house in the garden has doubled the growing area. There are over 25 students who have SAE projects this year in the new space. The welding classes recently contracted with a local rancher to build all of his livestock panels for his new corrals. They have been busy working on putting together over 100 panels. Abel

Villa and Ruel Celeste have received there State FFA Degree this year. Weston Ranch is gearing up for their end of the year activities that include Planet Party for sixth graders in the district and Farm Days at the local feeder schools.

### **Merced-Mariposa Section:**

**Merced College** sent eight students back to Auburn University in Alabama to compete in the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Planet Student Career Days. This is only the third year Merced has sent students, they are in the learning stage but were very well represented. In Small Engine Repair, Will Chase placed second high in the nation out of 41 other competitors. In Annual and Perennial Identification, Elias Armenta placed 12<sup>th</sup> out of 91 and in Wood Construction, Andrew Ornelas and Roman Conroy placed 11<sup>th</sup> out of 40 qualifiers. They are very proud of all their students accomplishments. The Merced College Ag Ambassadors hosted both the Sectional and Regional Parliamentary Procedure contests with kudos going their way for a job well done. Finally, The Livestock Show team did very well with many of the lambs and sheep placing very high. Bianca Taylor won first in Inter-

mediate Showmanship and then placed sixth in Advanced Showmanship. One of her ewes made Reserve Champion then went on and won Reserve Grand Champion. Great job Merced College!

### **Tri-Rivers Section:**

Achieving their charter in September 2012, **Turlock Christian HS** is the first private school in California to have a charter through the FFA organization. With 31 members they have jumped right into all of the FFA activities being led by their advisor, Ms. Hannah Ewing. They received silver in the FFA Opening and Closing Competition, as well as having two freshmen compete in the Creed Competition who placed fifth and tenth. They also have established a Dairy Cattle Judging team who just received sixth place at their last competition. Turlock Christian will be debuting their animals for the first time ever this summer at the Stanislaus County Fair with four members showing Dairy Cattle and two members showing swine. The chapter is excited to finish out the year and see what next year has in store. Best wishes to the program!

## 2013 Curricular Code Changes

The following contests will be up for change this year:

Agricultural Mechanics	Agricultural Pest Control	Agricultural Welding
Agronomy	Computer Applications	Cotton
Farm Business Management	Farm Record Book	Floriculture
Fruit Tree Pruning	Grapevine Pruning	Job Interview
Light Horse Judging	Marketing Plan	

Requests received to open the following contests:

**Impromptu Public Speaking** (Trial Contest)  
**Specialty Animal**

**Program of Activities** (Trial Contest)  
**Agriscience Fair**

## SUPERIOR REGION

Greetings everyone from the Superior Region. Everyone is in full swing running up and down the state busy as ever, along with several programs have been building up their program back at home.

The *Wheatland Agriculture Department* has teamed up with California Agricultural Leadership Program class 42 to reconstruct their school farm. Their FFA members did a presentation to the Yuba-Sutter Farm Bureau and one of their classmates was at the meeting, he thought the Wheatland program would make a great partner for their class project. Justin Micheli from Class 42 contacted them about helping them finish their greenhouse. Each class develops a project to give back to the community in a way that impacts agriculture around the state. This was an amazing opportunity for Wheatland. The project started off with them helping to finish the greenhouse by purchasing supplies and setting up the inside area, it has turned into them taking on a total reconstruction of the school farm.

It has been a team effort to get the project going and maintaining it while Class 42 was on their international trip to India. Wheatland asked for some garden boxes and new compost bins, they came back with much more than they ever could ask for. Their donation included, eighteen raised garden boxes that were built by Mrs. Taylor's construction classes, new shade house, 30 x 30 livestock show ring, two large compost bins, also built by the construction class, all the materials to get seeds and plants going in the greenhouse, and an education area. The education area will be ready to host classes with electrical access, tables and benches, and a BBQ area. The California Ag Leadership Program provides an advanced leadership development experience for emerging agriculture leaders who will be effective advocates for issues facing agriculture. This organization develops leaders for the future of agriculture in California. It's an amazing partnership, we develop leaders for the future and so do they.

The Superior Region FFA awarded the J. Everett Walker Memorial plaque this year to *Holly Egan* of Susanville, California. This Teachers of Teachers award is a prestigious award that is given to someone in our region each year who is an inspiration to fellow teachers and exemplifies a teacher in our profession. Holly has been teaching for 23 years, 19 of those at Lassen High School. Holly not only is an outstanding FFA advisor who always produces quality teams, officers and students but is someone who takes a lot of pride in her classroom. All of Holly's students who test for state standards, test above the non-ag classes which prove her dedication to quality teaching. Ginger Miller, a junior at Lassen High School stated "Mrs. Egan develops a personal relationship with each student and understands their motivations. She is then able to inspire each student at their own level. Her ethics and morals in the classroom are rarely seen at this level in high school." Congratulations Holly!

## Southern Region News

By Margaret Chapman

### High Desert Section

*Antelope Valley* was excited to have a visit to the schools ag lab by the California Secretary of Agriculture over the summer. She was impressed by the FFA members that greeted her. They are also excited about a partnership with the local fair and community group which has so far donated a state of the art hydroponic system, as well as materials to re-skin their greenhouse.

*Apple Valley* is excited about opening up a new machine shop and adding new equipment to their current welding shop. The mechanics program is growing by leaps and bounds.

*Grove HS* is currently getting

the school farm graded along with 13 acres that belong to The City of Redlands and is known as the Redlands Heritage Park Project which Grove is part of. This unique park will include features from prehistoric through modern uses of this particular piece of land. On April 27<sup>th</sup> the Redlands service groups and the Church of Latter-day Saints, better known as "Helping Hands" had a workday at the site to work on projects that will install and renovate some of the Grove farm facilities and structures. The workday was in celebration of Redlands 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Redlands-Grove FFA and the agriculture program continue to receive outstanding community support as they

continue to improve their student run store, farm to table lunch program, and the farmers market.

*Littlerock* - California CTE is pleased to announce that Robin Olsen, an agriculture teacher and coordinator of the Agriculture and Environmental Science Academy at Littlerock High School has been selected as the California CTE 2012-2013 Teacher of the Year.

*Lucerne Valley* took numerous students to State Conference in Fresno. They have been very busy with various chapter activities including FFA dodge ball, a lunch time meet and greet, National FFA Week and the Ram

## SOUTHERN REGION NEWS (CON'T)

it Forward Fundraiser.

The *Palmdale* program is doing well. They have had great success with various animal and ag mechanics projects.

*Serrano's* school year is moving along. They have enjoyed great success with fundraisers including sausage sales and the Ram it Forward Fundraiser.

### Imperial Section

*Blythe FFA* had a successful local fair the week of March 19-24. They had 62 market swine, four market lambs, four market goats and two market steers in the FFA Division. They also had 28 ag. mechanics and 20 floriculture projects exhibited. They had two students participate in the Southern Region Speech contest, one in Advanced Prepared Public Speaking and one in Advanced Job Interview.

*Brawley FFA* is proud to have 13 state farmers and one proficiency winner as they enjoyed their second annual Imperial Section Awards Banquet. The greenhouse is in full swing and tomatoes are being harvested along with lettuce, edible sweet pea, and other salad type ingredients. The fair was successful with six champion animals, six students that qualified for small animal round robin and six students that qualified for large animal round robin. Mrs. Taylor took 20 eager students to State FFA Convention.

*El Centro's* fair went well, they had the Supreme Grand Champion market hog and several students went to round robin. Their garden has been doing well. They have harvested lettuce and helped the culinary arts program make salads for the school and district staff, as well as cauliflower, cabbage, artichokes and celery. They have also acquired five citrus trees and are planting those near the garden. By the end of the year, they hope to have a chicken coop built at the school. Students were excited about State Conference, as they took a "school record"

eleven students this year.

*Holtville FFA* had another successful Ag Awareness Day where 130 elementary students went through five different stations learning about various ag related topics. Each year the Ag Awareness Day gets bigger and bigger. They are proud to have eight State Degree Recipients, a Section Star Reporter, and Southern Region Star Advisor. Fair was very successful with Champion and Reserve Champion FFA goats, Reserve Champion Breed Lamb, Reserve Supreme Champion Steer and Large Animal Round Robin participants. They continue to have generous students who donated a percentage of their profits from their fair animals to charities they feel strongly about totaling \$7,000. On March 21<sup>st</sup> Holtville had their first Farmers Market where Holtville FFA sold fresh produce donated by their local farmers, succulent bowls, and color flower bowls. It was a great success.

*Imperial FFA* just had a successful year at the fair with a FFA Grand Champion Purebred Swine and FFA Reserve Grand Champion Lamb, with multiple students competing in FFA Round Robin. The chapter had seven successful students compete in Regional Speech Finals and a State Proficiency Finalist. They held a huge drive through BBQ fundraiser that served over 1,000 plates which helped the chapter attend State Conference.

### Orange Section

*Buena Park* has had a very exciting year. They started the year off with over 500 students enrolled in ag classes and three full time teachers. They had over 45 fall projects and are looking forward to over 75 spring animal projects. The farm is very busy this time of year with two breeding ewes having three lambs and three dairy goats having a total of seven kids. They have grown and sold over 500 heads of lettuce and close to 5,000 pieces of citrus that were distributed among the high schools within the dis-

trict. Judging teams competed in all the local field days placing in the top five at each competition. They also had three students who won at the section level speech contest and moved on to regional competition. Additionally, they had two State Proficiency Finalists in the areas of Agriculture Sales and Vegetable Production, a student on the nominating committee for state officer screening and two other students who served as State Conference Subcommittee chairs this year. Lastly, they were excited to have two students run for regional office and look forward to a great spring and a great fair!

*Covina FFA* is happy to announce 50 spring fair animals, four state degree recipients, two veggie teams, two state band participants, one state proficiency finalist and the possibility of hiring a part time teacher next year. The chapter is in full swing prepping for all the spring and summer fun!

*Orange FFA* like everyone else is preparing for spring animals. Their community outreach is in full swing with petting zoos, kid auctions, farm visits and Farm Fest in May. They are busy, working hard and having fun!

The *Sunny Hills FFA* Chapter is excited to welcome new animals to the farm in the coming weeks. Students have been anxiously awaiting their new fuzzy friends. They are also proud to have a student in the area of Diversified Horticulture that advanced to state for proficiencies, as well as one of their prepared speech students advancing to the Regional level. Sunny Hills is also excited to begin their fundraiser selling raffle tickets to win a side of pork, as well as several other fundraisers to help raise money for the chapter to support students at the OC Fair.

### San Diego Section

The *El Capitan FFA* advisors and nearly 500 members have moved in and are getting settled into their new 7.1 million dollar facility in Lakeside. They have added another teacher this

## SOUTHERN REGION NEWS (CON'T)

year, Mr. Jesse Meade (an El Cap FFA alumni). They are all getting geared up for their local fair where they have 100% member participation. The school farm currently houses 100 market hogs, 20 market lambs, 15 market goats and three market beef. They are also building breeding herds of sheep and goats and have a few breeding sows.

Members have competed in many competitions throughout the year including, opening/closing, judging field days, parli-pro and speech contests. They have also participated in

many fun activities like ice skating, turkey bowling, Tulare Farm Show, Padres game, movie night, and many many more! Students utilize leadership conferences such as Greenhand Conference, MFE/ALA and SoCal leadership conference. This year 30 members attended State FFA Leadership Conference in Fresno including proficiency finalists, Star Farmer finalist, and a State officer candidate. The chapter is looking forward to finishing the year strong with two fairs, an awards banquet, and the point of awards trip!

At *Fallbrook FFA* excitement

is in the air with the start of livestock projects and students selling their nursery projects at monthly nursery sales. Students were eager to attend the State FFA Leadership Conference, where over 30 students participated. Fallbrook also had three proficiency finalists, two star finalists, a member of the nominating committee, and a member of state band. The Parliamentary Procedure teams, as well as five individual members, competed in the region contests and worked hard preparing for a spot in the finals up in Fresno. The chapter looks forward to a great spring!

### Enter your great teaching ideas in this year's Idea Show at CATA Summer Conference.

There are eleven areas to enter:

1. Ag Production/Processing & Products
2. Ag Mechanics
3. Ornamental Horticulture
4. Natural Resources/Rural Recreation/Forestry
5. Ag Science/Farm Labs
6. Departmental Operations
7. FFA Operations
8. SAE
9. Working with Support Groups (i.e. Ag Advisory, Ag Boosters, etc.)
10. Floral Design
11. Ag Business



Bring your entries to the Farm Shop (Building 09) on the Cal Poly San Luis Obispo campus between 7:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Remember a lot of demos and class activities are based on handouts or displays. All of these would make great entries for the Idea Show. You can't win if you don't enter!

Monetary awards for first through third places in each area are:

- \* First: \$15
- \* Second: \$12
- \* Third: \$8

The entry selected as the overall outstanding idea is awarded an additional \$50 cash prize.

See you with your entries at Summer Conference!

**2013 CATA Summer Conference - Sunday, June 23 thru Thursday, June 27**

**Farm Show and Idea Show - Tuesday, June 25**

**Agriskills Institute - Thursday, June 27 thru Saturday, June 29**