

AGGIE ANNEX

MAY 2014

CENTRAL REGION NEWS

BY REBECCA FREEMAN

Greetings from the Central Region! Spring has sprung and things are in full swing as we finish out the school year and head in to summer. The spring has started off quite well for the Central Region, with field days, state degrees, and application deadlines, we are rather busy. We would like to recognize the 502 State Degree recipients – the most the region has ever had!! We would also like to congratulate the 21 Proficiency Award Finalists.

Delta-Cal Section

Lodi FFA would like to congratulate Colleen Bartlett on her recent marriage in November. She is now a Lawson!!

Sierra-Manteca FFA is excited to welcome teacher, Todd Ingalls to the Ag Department. Todd is teaching full-time Ag Mechanics and doing a great job. They are very pleased to have him and the students are excited to be in his classes. Amanda Gardner is staying busy running the FFA program, fundraisers and activities for the chapter. Amanda is very appreciative of Todd's assistance as co-advisor. Sierra has 304 members in the chapter and is gearing up for the Spring Drive Thru BBQ. Sierra-Manteca FFA holds two Drive Thru BBQ's per year (each selling out with 500 dinners). Their students have participated in many leadership activities this year and their students are keeping busy with

their livestock projects, metal fabrication projects, and greenhouse production projects.

Yolo Section

Woodland FFA would like to congratulate Briana Perry on her marriage to Matthew Stoops. Bree and Matt live in Dixon and Matt is a member of the US Air Force. Congratulations!!

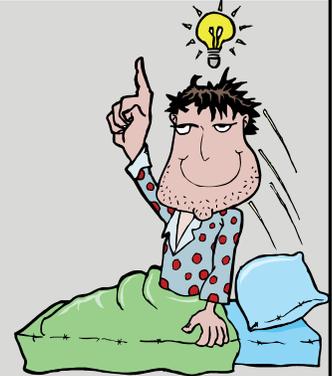
Stanislaus-Tuolumne Section

Things are in full swing at **Turlock Christian School**. Hannah Ewing has done a great job getting the program started. The chapter officers worked hard on their first FFA week festivities including Garton Tractors, carnival games, and a redneck relay race. The chapter also hosted their first annual TC Ag Day put on by the Ag Communications class. The students had a blast putting their presentations together, getting to feed a baby calf, milk a cow, hold a baby lamb, and feed a horse.

Pitman Ag Department is enjoying the work of their new teachers. Ms. Nicole Silveira is covering the Ag Science, Ag Geoscience, and Ag Biology classes. She returns back to Pitman, as this was her student teaching site. She is busy with teams and taking on the challenges of lead FFA advisor. Ms. Amanda Bevier, became Mrs. Bailey when she married a local pork

producer, John Walter Bailey, in November. She is currently covering the Ag Mechanics and Welding assignment for their department and helping students turn out projects for their fundraisers and the Stanislaus Fair this summer. Many have asked how three ladies get along, but they really have a great time together. They visit every morning and after school and lunch is a fun social time for all of them. They may not agree on everything, but they have each other's back and they have learned they can count on each other to get things done. (Really, I am just the mean boss lady and force them to do my bidding...haha cackle *insert evil witch laugh here* – Krista.) Their new garden and vineyard fence is installed and ready to go. Several of their shop boys were excited to help pour the concrete mow strip (Dr. Kellogg would be proud) for the 300' long fence. Another new addition is a small greenhouse for their FFA and Garden Clubs to start new plants and expand their horticulture offerings. The viticulture class will be bottling their first vintage of Petit Verdot in early May. Thanks to a partnership with Jessica Cardoso at Central Valley FFA, they will enjoy an Ag Chemistry guest speaker/sensory lab from an EJ Gallo Chemist in March. Busy times and fun times in the chapter of Sunshine and Rainbows (and unicorns).

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!

NORTH COAST REGION NEWS

BY ERICA BOOMER

Teachers and students are making great strides in the North Coast! Students are finding success in so many ways; we had five State Proficiency finalists, three scholarship finalists and one State Officer candidate. In addition, CDE team numbers are way up and students are traveling the state for competitions. Many schools are also reporting record attendance at their monthly chapter meetings. The enthusiasm and dedication of our teachers, and support from the community throughout the region, is one of the many great things about being a part of the North Coast Ag family.

One of the joys and struggles of agricultural life is dealing with the cards that Mother Nature deals; we had a cold and windy winter this year. *Del Norte High School* is repairing wind damage to their greenhouse, while *Sebastopol High School* had a tree fall on their barn and had to get that fixed before fair animals came in. *Napa-Vintage High School* planted a hay field and is in dire need of rain! These are good opportunities to teach students about overcoming hardships and being adaptable.

Another struggle that we all are facing is the proposed elimination of the Ag Incentive Grant. Ag Advisory and Ag Boosters programs have shown a lot of support for their local programs and there has been a

lot of letters, petitions and calls made to local legislators regarding saving the Ag Incentive Grant. We all feel very passionate about agriculture on the North Coast and we will do our best to work together and make sure these programs continue to grow stronger in the face of change.

Several schools are in the process of developing new curriculum and pathways for their programs. *McKinleyville High School* is adding an Ag Production and Processing class, *Vacaville High School* and *Forestville-El Molino High School* are adding Ag Mechanics and Floriculture, and *Livermore High School* is adding Ag Chemistry.

Other cool programs include *Del Norte High School* working with California State Parks to replant old logging roads in the area, *McKinleyville High School* is planting new trees in their orchard, *Forestville-El Molino High School* received two \$5,000 grants for their school farm, *Sonoma Valley High School* received an SSP grant to create a Sustainable Ag Pathway, *Elsie Allen High School* received a \$10,000 donation from American Ag Credit for the purchase of a Plasma CAM, and *Tomales High School* had two tractors and a hay rake donated that the students will be renovating. *Middletown High*

School received a \$50,000 grant to plant a five acre vineyard and *Kelseyville High School* got a huge donation and grant to build a new school farm!

In addition, ongoing improvements are occurring on school farms and gardens and many schools are utilizing Food for All grants, Farm to Fork initiatives, and promoting sustainable food practices.

Lastly, we would like to mention some announcements and recognitions in the North Coast. Lindsay (Bugbee) Kleiner is expecting her first child in August, congratulations! We would like to welcome Heidi Mickelson at Petaluma who has replaced Sierra Bruhn who has taken on a new job as a full time mom. Santa Rosa welcomed Riggs Lokken as a new teacher in January and St. Helena has been happy to have Lindsay Swickard as a student teacher.

Congratulations to Eric Crawford and Erica Boomer for being recognized by the *California Schoolmasters Organization* for their selection as award recipients for Lake and Mendocino Counties; they were honored at a dinner in Napa back in March. Best wishes to all of our Ag Family for a happy spring, successful Fair season and a productive summer!

CATA Summer Conference June 22 - 26, 2014

Register online at <http://calagteachers.org/Conference.html>