

# AGGIE ANNEX

JANUARY 2015

## SUPERIOR REGION NEWS

BY ANDREE' EARLEY

The Superior Region has been busy with the start of this school year. The region attended a joint meeting with the North Coast Region at Elsie Allen High School in Santa Rosa. The Power of 3 Summit was also a success with 16 teachers ranging from 31 years teaching to second-year teachers spending the weekend together in a house at Lake Almanor, where they were able to share ideas and left the summit with three items to make themselves, their departments, or their chapters better.

### Sierra Buttes Section

At **Nevada Union FFA**, the parli-pro team came home from the national contest fourth in the nation. The forestry team won the Shasta Forestry Challenge in October. They are giving their presentation to different forestry organizations in their community. The natural resources team is gearing up for their contest and recently won the West Hills College FFA Field Day. The Veterinary ROP was absorbed into the ag department and other courses are being re-aligned to provide different course sequences to better fit career pathways. Chloe Smith returned home to Nevada Union as their new hire. **Sutter FFA** started doing "Aggie of the Month" and "Aggie on the Rise" to recognize one student doing great things in the chapter and one upcoming freshman coming out of their shell. They earn a tee-shirt and get their name in the local paper.

**South Lindhurst FFA** began holding monthly meetings and are excitedly preparing for the sectional opening and closing contest.

**River Valley FFA** was able to expand with Ashli Darrach being hired to teach part time. This past fall they hosted a local opening and closing contest and had to move their FFA meetings to the gym in order to accommodate the large crowds. They also added UC-approved ag earth and ag biology to the class schedule. **Yuba City High School** added two new teachers including an expansion to the department, which brings the ag faculty to three. They have started the process of implementing the Career Pathways Grant that they were awarded last year.

**Wheatland FFA** hosted an ALS challenge donating over \$60 to ALS and the Wheatland Community Car Show raised over \$1,000 for Wheatland FFA. Their chapter fall and winter canned food drive was a success. **Live Oak FFA** held a haunted house and had over 500 people from their small town go through it. They are making facility improvements to their Ag mechanics shop and are working with Tri-County ROP to administer a common core style test to their CTE classes. They are working with NOCTI (National Occupational Competency Testing Institute), in the beginning phases to get data on their CTE students.

**Del Oro FFA** was awarded a large grant from the CRANE program which will allow them to purchase a new intershield welding machine, increasing the number of types of certificates that their shop students can earn. The ag science classes are working on a Farm to Fork capstone class where

both ag and culinary students will intern in the community and prepare monthly meals served to the student body using food grown on the school farm.

### North Valley Section News

At **Williams FFA**, there was a pumpkin carving contest in which 40 students participated with ten total teams. The pumpkins were displayed in the department and voted on by all classes with the winning team getting a prize and all students got to take their pumpkins home on Halloween. Kyle Shaad is **Willows High School's** new hire for the year. Willows FFA hosted a tri-tip lunch during homecoming serving students, staff and members of the community, raising \$3,000. They are hosting an ag boosters dinner where they will introduce their officer team, public speakers, creed speakers and demonstrate welding and woodworking to the community. Woodworking has produced a variety of cutting boards and the welding course built fire pits to auction off as well. Willows FFA took 16 students to National Convention including a national proficiency finalist for Grain Production.

**Elk Creek FFA** held their Annual FFA Ag Day for pre-K thru seventh grades in the district. Each station had a hands on workshop with topics including: horses and donkeys, tractors, ducks, arc welding, working dogs, soil and land judging, emus, turkeys and chickens. **Core Butte FFA** held a harvest dinner for the supporters of the chapter with a silent auction, dessert auction and live auction. They had over 180 people attend and look forward to

## SUPERIOR REGION NEWS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

expanding next year.

**Gridley FFA** hosted their drive thru rib dinner and cooked 200 racks of ribs making over \$5,000 in one day. They also hosted a fun Halloween meeting with a lot of participation and prizes.

**Las Plumas FFA** is ready for a great year with over 150 students at each of the first three meetings with fun activities for the students. Their food for all grant is coming to a close with 30 hens on the school farm supplying eggs to the local rescue mission. Students are currently applying to manage the laying hens and their breeding beef project. **Colusa FFA** had an exciting trip with Andrea Thomas bringing home the national proficiency title in Diversified Agriculture.

### Intermountain Section

Russell Pitter is replaced Daryl Hirschler at **Tulelake FFA**. Practices for contests are now in full swing, the school farm mint was harvested and FFA members helped with the elementary school Halloween party. **Susanville/Lassen FFA** has their community service in full swing, with 30 FFA members participating in their annual trail clean up beautifying the surrounding Susanville FFA area.

They held a canned food drive, did their "adopt a family" for Christmas and helped ring the bell for the Salvation Army during December.

**Modoc FFA** welcomes Amber Hoffeld as their new teacher with a busy fall participating at Shasta College

Field Day with two livestock teams and one small engines team. They took seven students to the National FFA Convention for the first time in four years. They are working on changing the pathway and classes offered next year. At **Herlong FFA** they have expanded their swine herd at the school farm raising and selling 10 to 12 litters of weaner pigs each year. Students in the ag business advisory class manage the school farm.

**McArthur FFA** welcomed Kate Bigelow to their program this year, they were busy with their apple pie sales, pumpkin carving at their FFA meeting and bringing home the blue ribbon in Shasta College Field Day best informed greenhand and novice livestock contest. **Surprise Valley FFA** won the chili cook off contest in Alturas, winning \$100 for first place and \$772 in proceeds going toward the students attending the 2015 National Convention. **Loyalton FFA** attended the National Convention and participated in Apple Day working with kindergarten and first grade students making cider, applesauce, canning, and homemade caramel for local apple slices.

### Shasta Section

**Anderson FFA's** animal science class is conducting a feed trial on some market hogs with students analyzing feed to grain rations, average daily gain and projecting market weights for the hogs. They also castrated a few of the animals and learned how to vaccinate as well. **Corning FFA** received clearance from the board to drill a new well on their 175 acre farm that will put close to 100 acres under irrigation within the next year.

The McConnell Foundation has a worksite learning program for current **Shasta College** students enrolled in the agriculture, natural resources or horticulture fields of study. Student interns learn restoration techniques by working with McConnell staff on restoration projects on Foundation properties. Interns engaged in native plant recognition, planting and transplanting natives, invasive weed recognition and control, habitat identification, erosion control, and even managed cattle grazing.

**Etna FFA** members are researching boars and selecting semen for their breeding sow project to raise fair pigs. **Hayfork FFA** just finished installing a walk in cooler at their school farm for their "Farm to School" lunch program that they work on throughout the school year.



### Power of 3 Summit

From left to right: Meaghan Garrison, Jamie Lynn, Jim Knapp, Heather Thomas, Phillip Bentz, Amber Hoffeld, Mike Rourke, Kristi Hill, Mike Summerville, Andree' Earley, Tim Reid, Emmalee Hayes, Kyle Shaad, Luke Browning  
Not pictured: Janice Lohse, Elizabeth Ammon, Jeanette Lowe

## SOUTH COAST REGION NEWS

BY SHANNON POWELL

The 2014 year ended well for the South Coast Region teachers and FFA members.

### Santa Clara Section

**Westmont FFA** is working on a club calf sale as an ag-business and economics project. **San Benito High School** welcomed Cassie Rodriguez from Fresno State as their fall student teacher, they also welcomed the newest addition, Myndi Krafft's daughter, Ken-si. **Gilroy High School** is working on renovations to their school farm, including hog pens, chicken coops, lamb, and goat pens. At **Sobrato High School** they have been focusing on community partnerships, which have included the beginnings of projects and involvement with the Open Space Authority. At **Morgan Hill**, the facilities will be undergoing a well needed update, giving the students the opportunity to get involved with community members and volunteers.

### Monterey Bay Section

**King City FFA** would like to welcome their fourth ag teacher Miss Lauren Fontes, and their current teacher candidate Lori Baker, from Cal Poly SLO. **Greenfield FFA** has expanded its ag program by adding an animal science course. It's happening in **Soledad!** As

they gained a new ag teacher, Mr. Mike Clifford who is working hard on several new livestock units. **Gonzales FFA** would like to welcome new teachers Lauren Carminati and Erica Guido. **Everett Alvarez Ag Academy** offered their career trade show again this year, with 30 students participating in job shadowing of an agriculture career area at a local business. At **North Salinas** they harvested their half-acre plot of pumpkins and ended up with over 1,200. **Salinas FFA** is had a busy fall as they traveled to the Showmaster Feed's Junior Livestock Camp, and to numerous produce companies around the valley. **Soquel** has a new floral design instructor and 3-course ag integrated environmental science sequence.

### Santa Barbra Section

**Righetti High School** held their annual Kinder-Patch where 500 kindergarteners were able to get pumpkins. **Pioneer Valley High School** currently has the largest class of freshmen ever. **Nipomo** is welcoming their new principal and vice principal and hosted their annual Cow Pasture Golf Tournament. **Santa Maria High School** was off to great start with the addition of ag chemistry and floral designs classes and **Lompoc FFA** had 122

students at their first FFA meeting and welcomed the state officers. **Santa Ynez** had a very busy fall, as they hosted Cal Poly students and took over 20 members to Greenhand Leadership Conference, while **Arroyo Grande** is doing well with the addition of two new courses viticulture and food science.

### Los Angeles Section

**North Hollywood High School** welcomed a new principal and **Canoga Park** is celebrating 100 years of their high school with a pancake breakfast fundraiser. **Verdugo Hills** has a new farm plot with chickens and rabbits. **Sylmar High School** is working to expand their horticulture projects.

### Ventura Section

**Santa Paula High School** is working on their new 29-acre school farm, **Carpentaria** hosted their Back to the Farm Night. Fillmore has been busy with many fundraisers including fireworks and a pancake breakfast and the **Ventura FFA** students are growing organic heirloom salad greens in ag biology. Lastly, **Camarillo High School** is hosted a community flower and plant sale.

## SAN JOAQUIN REGION NEWS

BY NATALIE RYAN

Chris McKenna (**Tulare**), Kristin McKenna (**Madera-South**), Jennifer Knight (**Clovis**) Aireal Covey (**Clovis**), James Corbett (**Monache**), Jalisca Thomason (**Woodlake**), and Shay Williams-Hopper (**Tulare**) all welcomed new additions to their families.

**Avenal High School** is starting the Paramount Ag Academy and

their football team was in the valley playoffs!

**Corcoran High School** has a new hire for the year, Ariana Hallum and is starting an ag academy as well. They are finishing up custom skate lockers for the junior high school too.

**El Diamante FFA** celebrated a successful Tulare fair with a Reserve

Champion Grade Heifer. They were busy with their community service project with PTSA providing 100 families with holiday food baskets and they just finished building eight garden plots at Cottonwood Creek Elementary School.

**Farmersville High School** is excited for the marriage of Audrey Collar-Westbrook.

## SAN JOAQUIN REGION NEWS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

**Golden West High School** is busy getting their ag engineering pathway and academy up and running. With the addition of a fourth ag teacher, Frank Roche, they are completing various projects on-site including their barn and poultry facilities. Their officer team took first at the sectional opening and closing contest and they participated in the St. Jude's Piggy Bank Project and raised \$500 to send to the hospital. Congratulations to Courtney and Jared Castle for getting married in October!

**Hanford High School** has been busy with community service, they won the most spirited award at the Hanford Relay for Life and raised \$5,000 for cancer research. They have grown and donated over 2,000 pounds of fresh produce for the Hanford Soup Kitchen and donated 2,700 eggs from their laying project. They conducted their door to door canned food drive in November and collected over 2,000 pounds of canned goods to help feed those in need in their community. Hanford was a recipient of a \$10,000 donation from the Hanford Rotary to help continue the remodel of the OH unit and greenhouse this is the second donation from the Hanford Rotary and they are very excited about the partnership. They continue to work closely with their local repre-

sentative to emphasize the importance of Ag Incentive Grant funding to ag education. They were proud to present their Honorary Chapter Member, Assemblyman Rudy Salas with a Hanford FFA jacket to display in his office. They encourage the rest of the CATA to continue working with legislators.

**Lemoore High School** celebrated their 85th anniversary on November 15th. They also raised eight guide dog puppies for the Las Cruces chapter in New Mexico. They made the trip, with students and puppies, to New Mexico to drop off the dogs and get the project set up with the chapter.

**Minarets High School** returned from a successful trip to the National FFA Convention where their livestock judging team was crowned National Champions!

**Mt. Whitney High School** added a third ag teacher, Don Patrick, to their program. They also added an ag construction pathway to their department. They had a student receive their American Degree and took a group of five back to National Convention. They are just coming off of a successful drive thru BBQ.

**Orosi High School** ag de-

partment is in the process of building a greenhouse, with plans to add a shade house and raised garden beds as well. The plan is to raise and produce plants and products that can be sold at local farmer's markets. Congratulations to Jessica Cavalla on her pregnancy!

**Redwood High School** was named the Outstanding Single Person Department for the Tulare Kings Section! They are currently working on another prototype within their shop while also working on a sustainable ag project within their greenhouse that focuses on the organic/farmer's market niche.

**Sanger High School** is excited to welcome Nicole Potstada to their department. They have made major updates to their farm including greenhouses, aquaponics and hydroponics as well as a plant science lab. They have also made upgrades to the ag mechanics facilities with plans for shop improvements. Finally, they are starting a partnership with Paramount and Reedley College.

**VTEC** added a fourth teacher to their department, Amy Dufur. They also had their first set of chicks born on campus!

**2015 CATA Summer Conference June 21 - 25**

**Farm Show and Idea Show June 23**

**Agriskills Classes June 25 - 26**

**Irrigation Faculty Academy June 25 - 26**



## CENTRAL REGION NEWS

BY BECKY FREEMAN

The Central Region has been full of excitement this fall and winter. Happy New Year and hope you all enjoyed your holidays!

With a successful trip to the National FFA Convention, the Central Region should be very proud. Here are a few highlights:

- **Hughson FFA** – national winner Poultry Contest
- **Galt FFA** – second place Ag Issues
- **Gustine FFA** – second place Dairy Cattle Judging
- **Davis FFA** – second place Horse Judging
- **Atwater FFA** – fifth place Milk Quality & Products; sixth place Ag Mechanics
- **Liberty Ranch FFA** – sixth place Floriculture
- **Gustine FFA** – National Proficiency Winner – Tony Lopes
- **Agriscience** – Congratulations to the many schools that competed in the national contest: Elk Grove, Lodi, Sacramento-Sheldon, Hughson, Sacramento-Florin, Galt-Liberty Ranch, and Escalon.
- **National Chapter Awards** - Florin FFA – 1 Star and Lodi FFA – 2 Stars
- **Honorary Degree** – Jason Bretz, Los Banos HS

### Sacramento Section

**American River College** has an opening in the horticulture department. The position will be for fall 2015. Anyone interested should file an application with the Los Rios Community College District. Contact Deborah Flower at ARC for more info.

### Yolo Section

**Esparto HS** agriculture department has been awarded the Monsanto Grant: America's Farmers Grow Rural Education. The \$10,000 grant paired with a \$5,000 grant from DuPont Pioneer will be used to purchase new lab equipment including new microscopes, portable microscope cabinet, DNA electrophoresis kit, and materials needed to conduct more rigorous labs. A field trip to a local biotechnology company and teacher training is also included. The goal of the grant is to encourage students into science and agriculture careers. The culminating activity for the advanced ag science class is a Dinner with an Agriculturalist. During this event students will have the opportunity to sit down and have meaningful conversations with people in the agriculture industry. It is the goal that this dinner will be sponsored by local agricultural businesses in the future.

### Delta-Cal Section

**Weston Ranch FFA** is excited to offer a new class this year: ag food science. There was enough interest to offer two sections for this school year. Students have learned about different food sources including growing and using products raised in the school garden. The class has been a big hit and students love what they have been learning. Recently they learned about pumpkins and then took raw pumpkins and processed them in to pumpkin pie! They were all impressed that they were able to do it. It has been a fun but challenging class to teach. Students are already asking if they can sign up for next year. The floriculture class has been busy taking holiday flower orders and gearing up to offer several public floral classes to the local community as a fundraiser. Student interest in animal SAE's

are up this year including students participating in the Guide Dogs for the Blind program. Several of their students have taken the first steps to being in the program and will receive their puppies in January! Ag Venture was a huge success at their district farm this year. They took 20 students from their program to help or put on presentations. It was a great experience not only for the third graders but also for their students! They loved it so much they will be participating in the Lodi and Stockton Ag Ventures this year.

**East Union FFA** This year on November 6, the Manteca Unified School District held its Ag Venture at the district school farm. Ag Venture is where the chapters in their district teach over 4,000 third graders all about agriculture. It's a very hands on learning experience that broadens the children's knowledge about animals, produce, and most importantly the FFA. East Union FFA has the opportunity to attend all three Ag Ventures that are held throughout their county. A new community service activity that the East Union FFA participated in this year was the Delta Humane Society Pet Drive. They collected blankets, towels, dog bowls, pet toys and food for all the animals. Then they were able to deliver everything to the animals in time for the cold weather. It feels good to know the animals have warmth, toys and food for the upcoming months.

### Stanislaus/Tuolumne Section

**Gregori HS** would like to welcome intern Hayley Lawson, from Chico State as well as student teacher Kim Ghisla, from Fresno State.

**Articles due March 20, 2015  
for the May Issue.**