

AGGIE ANNEX

MAY 2015

SUPERIOR REGION NEWS

BY ANDREE' EARLEY

The Superior Region has been busy this spring with contest season upon us. Our Regional Meeting was held during CSU, Chico Field Day graciously hosted by Chico High School agriculture department.

Del Oro FFA is excited to offer a new capstone course that blends two career pathways - agriculture and culinary! Their new "Farm to Fork" class will offer their students a safe-serve certificate, a hands-on experience in the school culinary kitchen and school farm as well as an internship on a local farm and a local restaurant! They are so excited to have their students prepare a meal once a month for the student body made with fresh ingredients grown right on the farm! Right now, the district office staff get to enjoy these meals and their student body is eager to have the same opportunity!

Lots of wind damage at **Herlong High School** during storm on February 6 (91+ mph wind). But now greenhouse and ag-barn are repaired and upgraded. Greenhouse is full with bedding plants. There is a strong pig production enterprise in ag facility underway right now.

Core Butte Charter has been busy these past few months, with regional contests and regional officer elections. They just held their annual tri-tip and salad dinner and were busy practicing for field days. This year their chapter took 28 students to state conference and they had a state officer candidate!

South Lindhurst and **North Marysville** will be combining into one school site located at South Lindhurst.

Their numbers are going from 95 students and four teachers to 228 students and five teachers. Their chapter will be growing, with only one science teacher all students will be ag students. This is exciting for their FFA program. Their officers have taken on a scrapbook, newsletter for the school, and monthly meetings with activities at each meeting being ran by their FFA leadership class. Great things happening at South Lindhurst, for the first time South Lindhurst will compete in the Scrapbook Competition at the state level earning second place in a tough Superior Region Competition.

Foothill Ag Department currently has 20 students placed in veterinary clinics completing their second semester internships, of which one has already been hired! On average approximately 30% of students are hired at the conclusion of the semester. Foothill FFA will FINALLY have their first spring plant sale! Seeds are sown and they are sure looking forward to a community sale. In addition, this will be the second year that they have had facilities to house market animals on campus to provide that opportunity for students. They are developing!!

Lincoln FFA's school district has started a full year middle school agriculture elective at both of their middle school campuses! Students from that program enroll directly into ag classes as incoming freshmen. Current FFA members are visiting the program and sharing their FFA experiences with the middle school students. Middle school classes are currently taught by Jessica Armistead.

Sutter FFA started Aggie of the Month which recognizes a second through fourth-year ag student, an Aggie on the Rise, which is a first-year member. Information about each student is published in the local paper and they receive a special t-shirt. We also started an ag department-wide S.A.E.-raising laying hens, selling eggs, and building custom chicken coops.

Yreka FFA is busy building a 40'x75' show arena outside the new market hog and heifer barn. This facility will help students hone their skills in preparation for the Siskiyou Golden Fair in August. There is an irrigated two-acre pasture for the use of students who do not have facilities suitable at home, adjacent to the new show arena. These facilities have been designed and installed by students in the metal fabrication and landscape courses.

Alturas has been working on promoting their chapter within the community and expanding their relationship with local businesses to work with their classes to strengthening students' skills and to gain real-life skills and experiences.

Chico FFA hosted 156 eighth grade students from surrounding junior high schools for the seventh annual ag showcase day. The students have the chance to participate in different ag classes and FFA activities that are offered by the ag department at Chico High. After rotating through four stations in animal science, welding, plant science, and FFA leadership; the students eat lunch and are encouraged to sign up for ag classes at Chico High. Chico FFA stu-

SUPERIOR REGION NEWS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

dents gain valuable organization and presentation skills by putting on this event and Chico High relies on this event as their main recruitment activity.

Las Plumas FFA had a successful Steak and Crab Feed once again bringing in over \$10,000 for leadership

activities and scholarships. They also hosted their largest drive-thru BBQ during FFA week, cooking over 350 whole tri-tips. The funds are flowing allowing their students to travel every weekend up and down the state with several successful CDE teams with their eye on the silver bowls at state finals.

They started an egg laying project on the school farm and get 30 eggs a day, selling several "Eggcriptions" (one dozen per week for 6 months). The mechanics classes have also found a market for chicken coops for backyard-chicken enthusiast.

SAN JOAQUIN REGION NEWS

BY NATALIE RYAN

Arvin has been busy with their Food/Meat Science classes and community vegetable garden. They are also in the middle of lambing, kidding, and calving at their school farm.

Bishop just bought a new livestock trailer! They have been busy raising animals born at their farm for their county fair and have hosted several events at their farm to promote agriculture within their community.

Foothill recently started a project adding raised plant beds to the school farm. They are also busy planning their Ag Boosters fundraiser and chicken plop event.

Highland is looking forward to several changes in the new school year with the addition of a new ornamental horticulture class, construction on a new shop, school farm improve-

ments, and hiring a new agriculture teacher. They are also gearing up for their project competition and establishing a weekly farmer's market. Congratulations to Lindsay Devaurs and her husband Jensen who recently welcomed their first son, David.

Lone Pine is finalizing a twenty-year long (yes 20 years in the making) irrigation project with the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power and the Inyo County Water Department to provide 40 acre feet of water to the FFA School Farm. The students at Lone Pine have just installed the eight inch water line throughout the 12 acre school farm and 150 permanent pasture sprinklers for irrigation. The agriculture mechanics and construction students poured ten yards of concrete and constructed a new 12'x14' feed and storage barn, wash rack, and shearing

area for the sheep unit. The program also held their annual Blue & Gold Fundraiser and raised over \$20,000 for the construction of the new tractor storage barn to be built in fall of 2015.

Kern Valley is excited to welcome Robert Hanger as a second teacher to focus on expanding their agriculture mechanics program.

North made recent upgrades to their school farm facility with the addition of a permanent shade structure to cover livestock pens with the generous support of the community.

Kern ROC will be adding a new position in ag food science. They are excited to add 35 new John Deere engines at a value of \$150,000 into the ag diesel class. They are also keeping busy with 27 acres of alfalfa.

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

Spring has sprung in the Central Region! Chapters are busy with judging practices, field days, State FFA Leadership Conference, awards banquets and county fairs! What's more fun than being an ag teacher in the spring? I can't think of anything!

We would like to congratulate the 493 State FFA Degrees awarded to members in the Central Region, with a total of 58 chapters participating. Along with that, we have 19 proficiency award state finalists. The Central Region had 15 of the 37 state FFA officer candidates moving on to the next level of competition. Congratulations to Danielle Diele (State Reporter) from Golden Valley High School in Merced, Breanna Holbert (State Secretary) from Tokay HS in Lodi, and Tim Truax (State Sentinel) from Pitman HS in Turlock.

Sacramento Section:

John Gladman at **Liberty Ranch** just got engaged to Brittany Whyler at **Elk Grove HS**, making

three out of six teachers (Haley Clement and Missy Ruble are engaged as well.) at Liberty Ranch engaged to be married next year and two of those (John and Haley) are marrying other ag teachers!

Delta-Cal Section:

Weston Ranch have had a busy start to their second semester. Students have been growing plants from seed in the greenhouse. They have participated in the Stockton Ag Venture and the Lodi Ag Venture. In February, they hosted 365 eighth graders in their program for recruitment. Ag students hosted four different activities that the eighth graders rotated through including building planter boxes in the wood shop, transplanted plants into their boxes, learning about animals, and working together in leadership challenges. They had great feedback from the eighth grade teachers and their principles about the recruitment. SAE's - students have recently got their pigs and turkeys for fair. They have six students who are

working with Guide Dogs for the Blind and will be raising guide dog puppies this year. Their students are very excited about raising the dogs.

Gregg Bridges has been out on medical leave and they have Brittany Hamrick long-term subbing for him. The ag mechanics students have loved having her and working with her in the shops. She has been a great addition and they are grateful for all her help.

Merced-Mariposa Section:

Pacheco FFA has two new additions to their panther family! Katie Wortman gave birth to daughter Emma on September 27, 2014. Caitlin Freeman gave birth to son Carson on November 18, 2014. Both are growing and are very happy and healthy!

Lastly, we would like to welcome Jill Sperling back to the Central Region as the new Regional Supervisor. We are so happy and blessed to have you as part of our Central Region family!!!

A big **thank you** to all the teachers who volunteered to work in the CATA booth during the FFA Career Show!

