

AGGIE ANNEX

JANUARY 2018

CENTRAL REGION NEWS

BY COLLEEN LAWSON

The Central Region has been off to a legendary start this year. On November 17th and 18th, educators from across the region convened at Consumnes River College for the annual Central Region Road Show and regional meeting. Instructors had the opportunity to participate in professional development through workshops and industry tours. Despite some wet weather, the instructors had a blast learning best practices from colleagues and getting to start the Thanksgiving break off right!

From weddings and babies to a truly amazing National FFA Convention, agriculture instructors and members from across the region have pushed the limit and captured success along the way.

Here are some highlights from the National FFA Convention:

- **Ag Issues** - National Champion - Galt HS
- **Agronomy** - Gold - Atwater HS
- **Extemporaneous** - Silver - Turlock HS
- **Farm Business Management** - Silver - Elk Grove HS
- **Floriculture** - Gold - Atwater HS
- **Job Interview** - Bronze - Buhach Colony HS
- **Nursery/Landscape** - 5th place - Atwater HS
- **Parliamentary Procedures** - National Champion - Liberty Ranch HS
- **Poultry** - 5th - Grace Davis HS
- **Agriscience Fair** - National Winner - Social Science, Division 5 - Turlock HS
- **National Chapter Award** - 2 stars - Galt HS

- **National Chapter Award** - 2 stars - Florin HS
- **Honorary American FFA Degree Recipient** - Dane White, Galt HS
- **National FFA President** --- Breanna Holbert, Tokay FFA

Congratulations to all of our competitors, and a very special shout out to our National Champion teams and Ms. Breanna Holbert!!!!

There have been many other exciting "happenings" around the region:

Weddings:

- Alexandra St. Marie (Ahalt) from **Dos Palos HS** got married to her sweetheart on October 21.
- Garret Rowley, **Mariposa County HS** married Ms. Reagan Ashley Steele July 29.

Babies:

- Congratulations to Sarah Thommen who gave birth to her beautiful baby girl, Halley! Born August 22 weighing 8 pounds 1 ounce and measuring 21" long!

Additions & Openings:

- **Sheldon HS** is excited to have Sarah McMaster joining the team this year!
- **Rio Linda HS** is looking for a long-term sub from January 8-March 23 (possibly longer). Courses taught to include 3 periods of Ag Biology and Animal Science.
- **Bear Creek HS** will have a long-term sub position starting in April to continue through the end of the year (4th quarter).

SAN JOAQUIN REGION NEWS

BY NATALIE RYAN

Allie Girard (**Hanford HS**) and Robert Calvert (**Selma HS**) are getting married in June of 2018. Annie Gonzalez (**Hanford HS**) was married in October of 2017.

At **Corcoran HS** Mr. Jon Spreng and a team of students successfully planted, grew, and harvested 80 acres of silage corn and 40 acres of acala cotton this summer on the school farm. This is the first time in al-

SAN JOAQUIN REGION NEWS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

most a decade that the work being done on the school farm is 100% Ag teacher and student directed. Additionally, due to generous support from the local ag community, the Corcoran FFA chapter will be receiving a new ag truck and livestock trailer this fall to be used to support our rapidly growing livestock show team.

Hanford HS has a new Ag Farm Learning Lab Facility opening January 2018.

The **Strathmore Ag Department** is in full construction! They are in the process of building a new school farm! So far they have in the works three greenhouses and they have just finished construction on a farmer's market building. They also have on site a crop box - a sea train container that has been converted to grow hydroponics, and an aquaponics system. Strathmore will be up and growing soon!

College of the Sequoias had a busy fall. They had 40 of their students serving as judges for the Tulare/Kings and the Sequoias FFA Section Opening and Closing Contest. On October 6, College of the Sequoias (COS) hosted 50 high school Ag tech students at a Shop Safety contest. On October 21, COS hosted

over 500 families at their Fall Harvest Festival. On October 28, COS hosted a state WISHA Horse show with over 100 riders from colleges throughout the state. COS is a happening place!

Avenal HS has an entirely new officer team this year with mostly first year members. They are working hard to get to know their members and learn their lines for Opening and Closing. The department will be trying their hand at the cookie dough fundraiser for the first time this year, as well as getting their greenhouse functional, and their garden beds into working condition for winter plants. Mr. Rossi continues to take care of his four boys and their new puppy and Ms. Fellows will become Mrs. Deaver in the spring.

Fresno-Central HS welcomed a new teacher this school year, Yesenia Ramirez. She teaches the power mechanics classes. The agriculture department was able to acquire a new ag truck and two new trailers! June Bettencourt gave birth to triplets in August, one unfortunately did not survive delivery. They were born very early and are facing some challenges before they can come home. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

2018 CATA CONFERENCE

JUNE 24 - 28

AGRISKILLS

JUNE 28 - 29

ONLINE REGISTRATION COMING SOON AT

WWW.CALAGTEACHERS.ORG