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October 2009

## Superior Region News

By Janice Lohse

It's time for another busy, yet rewarding year of teaching and FFA activities. The Superior Region would like to welcome new teachers to our area, as well as the individuals who have changed schools. Ross Macy, Westwood HS; Brian Butler, Maxwell HS; Alex Xanthus, Willows HS; Craig Taylor, River Valley; Jennifer (Caputo) Crerar, River Valley HS in Yuba City; Tim Arnett, Shasta District Farm; Robert "Tad" Drain, Hayfork HS; Stephanie Allan, South Lindhurst HS; and Christy Baviere, Durham HS.

### Chico High Update

In the fall of 2008, the Chico FFA along with the help of The Friends of Agriculture, began farming approximately 14 acres of land in Chico. The land, which was originally purchased to build a school, is being borrowed from the Chico Unified School District. The land sat vacant, full of star thistle for several years before members of the Friends of Agriculture and CUSD Board Member Andrea Lerner Thompson decided to ask for permission to use the lot.

After harvesting a fall crop of winter wheat, that was planted by two students as an SAE project, the land was prepped for the next late spring/summer crop. In June, Chico FFA students collaborated with local farmers and seed companies to plant several vine and row crops. Seniors Sarah Butterfield and Elizabeth Rivarara are the student farm managers. The property has 3.5 acres of pump-

kins and gourds, 3 acres of melons, 3 acres of cucumbers, and a ¼ acre of zinnias. The melons and cucumbers are contracted for seed to a seed company.

From the end of September through October, the pumpkins and gourds are going to be sold from the property and the entire FFA chapter will help participate in a community pumpkin patch. The seed for the pumpkins and gourds were donated by Seeds by Design of Maxwell. They plan to have educational booths promoting agriculture and invite area elementary schools to pick pumpkins. The zinnias are currently being sold as cut flowers directly from the property. This project has been an excellent collaboration of local agriculture supporters, farmers, and the future of our agriculture industry. The Chico FFA is excited to begin their first pumpkin harvest and would like to thank all of the many contributors and supporters of the Chico FFA Farm.

## Southern Region News

By Robin Olsen

The Southern Region has begun the year as busy as ever. Despite budget blues southern region teachers are dedicated to the education and success of our students in agriculture education. Some of the happenings around the Southern Region are highlighted here.

### Orange Section

*Buena Park High School* was named the NAAE Outstanding Agriculture Program in the western U.S.

for 2009 and has opened a new farm store! *Sunny Hills High School* is proud to announce that their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party has been scheduled for January 9, 2010. Way to go! The Ag Ed family is proud of you and hope you have another 50! *La Habra High School* is building a barn while *Chino High School* successfully recruited 192 freshmen! *Mission Viejo High School* is revved up for a great year with success in marketing lambs and a big jump in enrollment. All of the Orange Section students are talking about their first section meeting of the year and are awaiting the Opening/Closing Ceremonies Contest in November.

### Imperial Section

*Calipatria High School* is offering a new Renewable Resources class and had a successful officer retreat, planning a new year full of activities. *Southwest High School* first wishes to clear their names of any wrong doing in their former Chapter status reports - okay, you're clear.... and we're sorry?? The chapter will be hosting the Section Leadership Conference and Basketball Tournament. *Palo Verde High School* in Blythe took their officers to a donated cabin in Williams and enjoyed site seeing at the Grand Canyon and teaching their officers the art of Snipe hunting. *Holtville's* officers have chosen to "Inspire to Make an Impact" on their members and are gearing up for Opening/Closing Ceremonies. Imperial just completed a fundraiser golf tournament with their booster club and are getting ready to go to the National Convention. *Winterhaven High School* is gearing up for their homecoming BBQ and did something dif-

ferent by taking their first year students to a Greenhand Conference in Arizona. *Calexico High School* just held their fair parent meeting with close to 200 parents and students in attendance. *Brawley High School* is preparing for a new “normal” tomato crop (after last years newly discovered pest species) and just had it’s solar panels on their greenhouse inspected.

### **San Diego Section**

*Warner Springs High School* is excited to have a new teacher Alyson Tulloch. Welcome back to SoCal Alyson (yup that’s a teacher’s kid). *Vista’s* first FFA meeting had a 75% attendance rate. *El Capitan High School* has overflowing classrooms and are looking forward to the construction of a new department this year. *All Tribes’* students are taking an active roll in fundraising for their school and ag department. Kudos to the students finding the funds! *Escondido High School* is getting a facility “facelift”, two phases of construction are planned to give the department a new shine. *Orange Glen High School* will be joining Escondido for their Fall Fair.

### **Riverside Section**

Tiaras are raining down on the section. The section officer from *Jurupa Valley High School* was crowned homecoming queen, while *Norco High School* has Miss. Norco in their program. Watch for the National Officer Candidate from this section. *Hemet’s* facility upgrades should be done by March. *Norte Vista High School* is combining their program with the slogan “too much good stuff.” *Perris High School* is gearing up for their Greenhand reception. *San Jacinto High School* is anxious to get started on their new greenhouse/shadehouse. *Indio High School* is waiting on news from the \$3 million grant. *Coachella High School* added an academy. *Heritage High School* in

Romoland has 500 students and may have to add a fourth teacher.

### **High Desert Section**

*Grove High School* is getting ready to reactivate the chapter and get going! *Antelope Valley High School* had a very successful fair and is getting ready for it’s annual fall pumpkin patch. *Serrano High School* is repairing facilities and adjusting to Gary Martin’s retirement. *Palmdale High School* completed their Xeriscape and is participating in the California Forestry Challenge for the second year. *Littleton High School* is surviving the implementation of the Partnership Academy Grant, gearing up for Nationals and had an outstanding fair. *Apple Valley High School’s* swine breeding program is in high gear for this year’s San Bernadino County Fair. Last year they bred seven class winners and the supreme champion. *Lucerne Valley High School* hosted the first section meeting and hosted a great taco dinner!

There’s the haps from way down South!

## **Central Region News**

By JessaLee Goehring

Greetings from the Central Region. It has been another busy summer. We all know that our lives as agriculture teachers mean summer vacations are our county fairs and for a majority of us, the CATA conference. Many of our teachers spent their summer traveling among the states, adding to their families, or getting married! There have also been many additions and/or changes to departments and, as always, active FFA programs. Our region is looking forward to an eventful and successful school year and seeing you all during the spring judging season!

### **Yolo Section**

Lindsey Kovach doesn't have enough to do at *Ponderosa High School*. Growing the agriculture department to over 200 students, starting goat and sheep breeding projects at the school farm, losing her project period, and moving to a new classroom did not prove challenging enough for her. So, she decided to add to her family in a big way. Her twins are due to arrive in December- we'll see if they wait that long! In the mean time, she is busy working with the officer team and planning for her maternity leave. One new idea in the Ponderosa FFA this year is to set up informational booths at the first FFA meeting to inform new students of all of the opportunities available during the year. Freshmen and new students are invited to arrive a half hour early so that they can talk to upper classmen about BIG, judging teams, Creed Speaking, and other activities. In addition, the FFA calendar is online now and all students will be working on e-record books. Those were some helpful workshops at CATA Summer Conference!

*Woodland High School* would like to congratulate Jerry Delsol on receiving the Teacher of Excellence Award this year.

### **Sacramento Section**

*Franklin FFA* welcomed their newest addition to the agriculture program on July 29<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to Amber McDowell and her husband Michael on the birth of their baby girl, Sierra Ann!

*Florin High School* would like to welcome two new additions to their agriculture department; Tara Meade and Brianna Perry.

### **Delta-Cal Section**

*Sierra Manteca FFA* had a great year at the San Joaquin County Fair. They had numerous novice students

win showmanship classes. Their FFA chapter also won Supreme Champion Market Goat, Supreme Champion Market Turkey and a Reserve Champion Hog. Additionally, they had their Montadale Sheep Project at California State Fair. The FFA students are planning another huge drive-thru BBQ and are excited about the new year. The school farm is also going through a new construction project that will give the school new barns, new shop and three more classrooms. Pat Ariaz stays busy supervising ag mechanics projects, goat and sheep projects. Amanda Gardner is the FFA advisor, swine and beef advisor, and is expecting her second child in February.

Congratulations to Jennifer Terpstra, from *Escalon High School*, on her Teacher of Excellence Award and to Gino Farinelli on his induction into the CATA Hall of Fame.

#### **Stanislaus Section**

*Modesto Junior College* was awarded the Outstanding Large Community College Agriculture Program and the overall State Winner Outstanding Community College Agriculture Program at the CATA Summer Conference. Great job MJC! To top it off, Steve Amador was awarded Teacher of Excellence.

#### **Tri Rivers Section**

In the little free time ag teachers have, the *Newman FFA* advisors managed to fit in some mini vacations throughout their crazy summer. Jaime Rico took his family to Pismo Beach and Disneyland; Karling Skoglund ventured up to her hometown of McKinleyville to see family and did some relaxing at her boyfriend's ranch near Marysville. Lauren Stroud went camping on the Sonoma Coast, fished the Sacramento River, and attended numerous weddings. They also had a great officer retreat at Lake Alpine, a wonderful

fair with more exhibitors than ever, and are gearing up for another exciting and successful year.

#### **Merced/Mariposa Section**

The *Merced College Agriculture Division* has lots of stuff going on including the hiring of Bryan Tasse to head up the Landscape Horticulture program. Be on the lookout for the Nursery/Landscape Contest in your Merced College FFA Field Day registration paperwork when it becomes available. The annual planning retreat was held on Dean Andersen's houseboat and they had more fun than they should have. The Cal Poly student teachers stopped by for a visit while they were on their California whirlwind tour and were treated to pizza and soda. Darol Fishman will be uniting two Merced College graduates in holy matrimony as he is now ordained to perform such ceremonies. The U-Pick Pumpkin Patch will happen again this year in October. Finally, Aggie Fest Suds & Sausage Sampler will be taking place on October 17<sup>th</sup>. We hope to see some of you there.

In closing, we would like to recognize the Central Region volleyball, softball and three-on-three basketball teams on their wins at the CATA Summer conference! "We are the Champions, my friends!"

### **North Coast Region News** By Lynn Scholten

*Healdsburg High School* just had a great Healdsburg Fair with over 60 market animals and 35 exhibitors. They had one American Degree recipient and 18 students showing at Sonoma County Fair. Their November 7th Boosters fundraiser is in the final planning stages.

*Elsie Allen's* officer retreat was

held in June to discuss upcoming events for the year and officers spent the second day together at Discovery Kingdom.

*Petaluma High School* held their officer retreat at the high school in June to choose their theme and designed their program for the 2009-2010 year. They had one American degree recipient and the dairy team is busily preparing for the National contest in October.

*Santa Rosa High School* planted a pumpkin patch to be open to the public this fall and are preparing grapes for harvest. The Ag Boosters hosted a very well attended Casino Dinner Fundraiser, they also sponsored over 100 exhibits at the Sonoma County Fair and their officers are organizing their retreat while the State Proficiency winner will compete at Nationals. They also have two American Degree recipients.

*Analy High School* is constructing a new greenhouse this fall and planning an officer retreat.

*St. Helena High School* has planted three acres of pumpkins which will be run as a student enterprise program. They have great class sign ups for this year!

*El Molino High School* is offering a full program of five college prep courses this year! Many students exhibited animals at the local fairs and the officer team had a productive retreat, while one student earned their American Degree. Their viticulture class will assist in harvesting their one acre school vineyard soon and a local Russian River Valley Vineyard wine maker will produce Lions Pride wine.

The rest of the schools in the North Coast are doing great and are looking forward to a new school year.

## 2009-2010 CATA ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President Larry Wright	President-Elect Darol Fishman	Secretary Jake Dunn	Treasurer Steve DeRose
Past-President Jim Shanks	Operations Chair Laurie McCormick	Secondary Chair Jill Sperling	
Post Secondary Chair Howard Lewis			

### REGIONAL PRESIDENTS

Central Region Thomas Perez	North Coast Region Debi Batini	San Joaquin Region Anthony Catalan
South Coast Region Peggy Flynn	Southern Region Tracy Putnam	Superior Region Jim Shanks

### DIVISION OFFICERS

Operations Chair-Elect Mike Campbell	Secondary Chair-Elect Shay Williams-Hopper	Post Secondary Chair-Elect Merlin Welch
Operations Vice-Chair Clay Freeman	Secondary Vice-Chair Lilly Pimentel	Post Secondary Secretary Steve Rocca
Operations Secretary Todd Coons	Secondary Secretary Dave Gossman	

### COMMITTEES

<i>Budget and Audit</i> <i>Membership Services</i> Mike Campbell	<i>Affairs and Relations</i> Dave Gossman	<i>Affairs and Relations</i> Howard Lewis
<i>Nominations, Bylaws, &amp; Professional Awards</i> <i>Teacher Recruitment</i> Laurie McCormick	<i>Inservice</i> Jill Sperling	<i>Inservice</i> David DeSilva
<i>Curricular Code</i> <i>Ag Issues</i> Todd Coons	<i>Curriculum</i> Shay Williams-Hopper	<i>Curriculum</i> Don Borges
<i>Professional Ethics</i> <i>Tech Prep/Articulation</i> Clay Freeman	<i>Student Activities</i> Lilly Pimentel	<i>Student Activities</i> Steve Amador