

AGGIE ANNEX

MAY 2010

CENTRAL REGION NEWS

BY JESSALEE GOEHRING

Greetings from the Central Region! Spring has sprung, and we are very excited for the months ahead!

Delta-Cal Section:

Manteca Unified has been busy! The construction of their new buildings and barns are under way with a completion date of December 2010! John Hopper has approximately 20 students involved in a new Pheasant project and Ryan Costa has a new script vegetable, Veggie Express, project that is growing and selling vegetables. Manteca Unified also has 4.5 acres of new pasture, for the Montadale flock and also for other livestock brought in for student projects. Additionally, the Central Region would like to congratulate Amanda Gardner on her 6 pound 12ounce baby girl!

Lathrop FFA is hosting a small mini conference for their students to try to get them more interested in FFA. Being a new school, there are not many students who have attended different conferences. Their plan is to get shirts, have booklets printed up and have a local chapter as well as sectional officers conduct different workshops to motivate students to become more active at all levels of the FFA. Dani Ariaz also has a new Rabbit project that has approximately 20 students involved and the projects are utilizing the new cooler in the barn! Dani also just put together the first *Lathrop FFA* floral contest with over 20 teams competing and she started a website for the floral projects. Check it out at www.lathropffaflow-ers.shutterfly.com. Finally, they are hosting a softball tournament for the different Manteca Unified schools, where the kids can socialize with a BBQ after!

Stanislaus Section:

Mark Nower of *Grace Davis FFA* is

engaged and will be getting married this summer! Congratulations!

Tri Rivers Section:

Newman FFA has had the pleasure of hosting Shannon Aguilar, a student teacher from Cal Poly, SLO for spring semester. Shannon has brought new ideas, teaching strategies, and enthusiasm into the department that has helped motivate students to learn and get involved. The department that hires Shannon will be lucky to have such a dedicated and effective teacher/advisor in their program. They will be sad when she completes her assignment and has to leave. For spring break, Karling Skoglund, will be traveling to Belize; Lauren Stroud will be traveling to Seattle to meet her new niece; Jaime Rico and Shannon Aguilar will be spending time with friends and family. Also, their new school farm, funded by Prop 1D, will be home to it's first round of livestock in April and everyone is excited to embark on the new adventure of having a school farm to get their hands dirty in!

Turlock FFA is having a face lift! The district is finally modernizing the 1949 agriculture department with State modernization, local measures, and 1D monies. It is scheduled to begin June 1; the Monday after school gets out and will finish who knows when. They are planning to move back sometime in January 2011. They will be utilizing other facilities (Wood Shop, Auto Body) on campus until then to teach mechanics. Chad Russell is working day and night and some weekends trying to get the large fabrication projects done before the school year is finished. This will definitely change their summer plans, maybe they will all get a vacation?

Merced/Mariposa Section:

The 42nd Annual *Merced College FFA Field Day* is now in the books and we thank all who attended with over 1100 FFA members participating and they don't think there were any problems...at least not yet this morning!! Darol Fishman and Bryan Tassej attended the annual CWA Merced Chapter luncheon last week. Bryan has some great things happening with Tree Partners and Rainbird sprinklers in the Landscape Horticulture program. The livestock show team led by Jaime Farao had a good showing at the Great Western in Tulare. The Project Competition, coordinated by Merced College, was a success with the judging of 71 projects from the 11 section schools culminating with the banquet on January 27. Merced College wishes you all a great rest of your school year and will see you at Conference.

2010 CATA IDEA SHOW TUESDAY, JUNE 22ND

BRING YOUR INNOVATIVE TEACHING IDEAS, ACTIVITIES, AND PROJECTS TO SHARE WITH OTHERS IN AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION. MONETARY AWARDS FOR FIRST THROUGH THIRD PLACES IN EACH AREA.

1. AG PRODUCTION/PROCESSING AND 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
10. FLORAL DESIGN
11. AG BUSINESS

SOUTHERN REGION NEWS

BY ROBIN OLSEN

Good things are happening down South -The teachers of Southern Region are actively addressing the needs of their students and it shows. Lots of great student recognition as the Region hosted its State FFA and Awards Banquet. Region student programs are blooming like the flowers in spring and are as busy as ever.

Apple Valley High is getting ready for their fair in May. Students will be exhibiting 40 pigs! Many of these hogs were farrowed at high school agriculture laboratory. The program has also just received a \$10,000.00 grant from US Bank to offer students livestock loans.

Redlands-Grove is officially reinstated and is working on upgrading facilities. They are also adding a "Market" garden to be able to sell at farmers markets and eventually would like to add a store.

Antelope Valley FFA and *Lancaster FFA* did very well at the Indio National Date Festival showing Llamas. Students competed in obstacle courses, public relations, Packing and Showmanship. The department now has a Llama herd, fainting goat herd and sheep flock in addition to various student projects. The department also had an "off road" search and rescue experience-things like this always add to the flavor of life.

Littlerock is working on "Environmentalizing" the curriculum and

forming additional industry partners to meet the goals of the new California Partnership Academy grant. Planned additions to the department include wind and solar power for the lab. This year's local Science Fair was judged and supported by the Mohave Environmental Education Consortium. The top project received a \$50.00 savings bond. Rochelle Miser and husband Jimmy are expecting their first baby in June.

Orange hosted many activities for FFA Week including: a green picnic administrator luncheon, game day and farm festival. Student, Shannon Kea was recognized as the Bank of America Award winner. The department is also busy with lambing and community outreach with petting zoos and the Orange Park system.

La Habra is excited to have two Small Engines and a BIG team making the rounds to local field days and doing well. The department has two students receiving their State FFA Degrees and students are building a new barn. The department has also received a Prop 1D grant that will assist them in modernizing their facilities. Jaimee Rojas, and husband Rafael are expecting their first child around the beginning of June.

The *Don Lugo Ag Department* had a great trip back to Nationals and has recently planted fifty fruit trees. They also have been upgrading facilities, adding new

walkways and gates to their sheep barn. They have a great lamb crop this year and will be hosting a public fruit tree seminar.

Sunny Hills celebrated their 50th year with a great anniversary event showcasing the program. The activities included Alumni, games and food. Also on board this year, the department is pleased to announce, their student teacher Kelly Roach.

Sonora-LaHabra has 16 State FFA Degree recipients and five proficiency winners. District Administrator, Carmen Routledge, has been recognized by the region as an outstanding administrator. They are busy planting Orange Trees-trying to bring the "Orange" back to Orange County.

Buena Park is very excited to be under construction thanks to Prop 1D! Construction began in November with a new science lab and greenhouse. Many new facility improvements are on the way. Students, community members and administration are all excited about these positive new changes. The program is growing with over 30 livestock projects and new "adventures" in turkeys and bantam chickens.

Whew, there was more news there than I thought-but still more that wouldn't fit! Great teachers, great students-a whole lot of good happening down south!

SUPERIOR REGION NEWS

BY JANICE LOHSE

Loyalton FFA lost a member to an accident with a firearm in February. A gun went off accidentally and the young man spent a week in a coma before passing away. The only two things he was really involved with were FFA and Drama Club. Unfortunately, the family had no insurance and the parents are without employment. The two organizations joined together for a benefit to assist the family. The FFA prepared a dinner and conducted a silent auction while the drama students performed monologues and duos. Of course, many of the stu-

dents are in both organizations as the drama teacher is also the agriculture teacher.

River Valley ag department is excited that the greenhouse is up and running. They will be having their first official plant sale this spring. A variety of veggies and flowers will be sold. Member involvement is also continuing to grow at each meeting. This year over 80 kids crammed into one classroom just for a lunch time meeting. The FFA also had a bowling and pizza night during FFA Week and had a great time and turn-out.

For the second year *Corning FFA* and the *CUHSD Rodgers Ranch* (our school farm) took an Angus bull to the Red Bluff Bull and Gelding Sale. The bulls were born and raised on the ranch from the school's cows and are shown each year by a FFA member. The students work with the bull and groom it for the show prior to the sale. This year's bull sold for \$3000, last year's sold for \$3500. The profits from the sale of each bull goes back into the school ranch and the Angus cattle. This year was also the first year for the FFA calf scram-

ble at the Red Bluff Bull Sale. Several schools from the Superior Region competed and it turned out to be a great fundraiser for Corning FFA. The winning team from Corning received \$300 for first place and \$200 from the individuals that bought them in the calcutta.

Durham FFA had a fun filled week full

of chickens, hay, goats, sheep and laughter during National FFA week. Monday was chicken herding Students were given a chicken and had to get it around a barrel and back to the starting line. Tuesday was hay bucking. Wednesday was their annual petting zoo for the elementary students. Thursday was tug-a-war. Friday was kiss-a-pig, which kids had been participating in

all week. Earlier that week boxes were set out for students to put money in for the teacher whom they wanted to see kiss the pig. Their new math teacher, Mr. Van Arsdale, was the lucky one to win. Also during the busy month of February Durham FFA had two students earn their state degrees, Regan Lundberg and David Hodge.

SAN JOAQUIN REGION NEWS

BY SHAY WILLIAMS-HOPPER

Greetings from the San Joaquin Region. As usual, the teachers of the San Joaquin Region are hard at work, cultivating, coaching, and supervising their fantastic programs. Here are a few blurbs about what has been happening in the San Joaquin Region.

Avenal FFA has been actively participating in Sectional activities this year. The their new agriculture instructor, Tim Sailors, they have participated in BIG, COLC, and the sectional state degree banquet. Tim has made a huge impact in his short time at Avenal and we look forward to seeing him and his students in the future at more events!

Lemoore HS is sad to say that Ron King is retiring after 23 years of service in their Ag Dept. He is planning on attending dog shows in Rome, England, and Ireland with his herd of Basset Hounds and Saint Bernard's during the summer. Best wishes to Mr. King on his retirement. Lemoore has purchased a new Deutz-Fahr Tractor from McCann & Sons Tractor Dealer in Lemoore (the other green tractor). The Lemoore FFA boosters also bought the department a new Torchmate computerized plasma unit.

Hanford HS would like to welcome their newest addition to the family. Cort-

ney Bell and her husband Erin, had a baby boy, Conner John Bell on January 4, 2010. Conner's proud grandfather is Selma Agriculture Teacher John Bell. Congrats to the Bell Family.

Kingsburg FFA would like to congratulate Brian Donovan on his recent engagement. The wedding is set for July 2010.

Dinuba HS will soon be expecting a new addition to their department. Tommy and Christine Henderson are due to have a baby girl, to be named Moriah Grace. We wish them all the best.

Arvin HS would like to announce the success of writing two grants for its program. One will build a state of the art agriculture mechanics, environmental horticulture, and food science classroom and the other will initiate a new green horticulture academy. The grants totaled two million dollars. FFA and the agriculture program is on the rise in Arvin.

Delano FFA spent their winter vacation helping to decorate the first ever FFA Rose Bowl Parade Float. Students helped to pin on greenery and carnations onto the float.

Strathmore FFA brought in almost \$3,000 in donations in December and

used that money to purchase food for 50 families in the area. Students and staff filled almost 30 shopping carts with food at Food 4 Less and then sorted all the food for delivery and pick up. Many families arrived at the Ag Welding shop on the evening of Dec. 17th to pick up food and the remaining food was delivered the next day to homes in the Strathmore and Plainview communities, and many homes further out in the rural areas.

Exeter FFA members have been diligently working on community service activities! They held a three month long canned food and coat drive to help the local community. Students donated and/or collected over 300 coats and over 10,000 cans! For the classroom side of the program, Exeter is making a transition from their current block schedule back to a six period day for the 2010-2011 school year. New courses offered to students next year will be Ag Biology and Ag Engineering. The school farm has been busy with lambing season, show steers, plant projects, and mechanics projects. Mr. Crookham and his students just completed a new large covered structure for propagating plants which is already in use. Congratulations to Nicole Castle who just recently got married and is now the new Mrs. Ray.

Nicole married Brian Ray from Porterville (via Cal Poly) and the two will reside in Exeter. Also, Ms. Shelly Elam married Clay Lyons of Visalia at the end of March!

To close, I would like to wish each of you a successful close to your school year, and a great summer!

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION IS
ON THE WEB!

WWW.CALAGTEACHERS.ORG/CONFERENCE/INDEX.HTML

SOUTH COAST REGION NEWS

BY SARA BANDY

Ventura Section:

Santa Paula attended World Ag Expo with 32 students. They had eight State Degree Recipients and one Regional Proficiency finalist in Poultry Production.

At *Ventura High School* student projects are making money! Their Valentine's Day Color Bowl sale profited each student nearly \$300. Their Lowes kit greenhouse completed and they have just made their first delivery to Food Share with potatoes grown in the school garden laboratory.

Congratulations to Bobbi Roderick who has moved from decades of ag teaching to vice principal of *Carpentaria HS*. Welcome to her replacement, Holly Smith! The Carpentaria Chapter will be featured in the next issue of Ventura Farmers and Ranchers Magazine.

Camarillo HS is learning in the Community with 18 students out this semester on internships! They also have been given the go-ahead to get bids for a brand new greenhouse and swine unit!

Fillmore HS welcomes back Joe Richards! Thanks to Bob Young for substituting while Joe was out. Fillmore is putting up a new Greenhouse, and planting five acres of oats. They are replacing five acres of oranges with row crops, and are also building their new steer pens.

Monterey Bay Section:

Soledad is working on building a permanent lamb structure and shelter on their campus, expanding on their existing hog facilities, and building more garden boxes to add to their horticulture unit.

Greenfield FFA kept busy picking up fair animals, working on the Valentine Gram fundraiser, and planning for National Ag Week.

All three high schools in the Salinas UHSD - *Everett Alvarez*, *North Salinas*, and *Salinas*, just received approval for the following curriculums Ag Chemistry, Ag Government/Econ, and Environment Horticulture.

Construction on the new Ag Center at *Everett Alvarez* started in April.

Salinas thanks Lindsay Walsh for being a great long term substitute.

Soquel FFA had fifty members prepared for and planted their new, on-site 65-tree fruit orchard! Thirty two members were instrumental in the smooth running of a most successful, Santa Cruz Orchid Show and Sale. Sixty members are working on flower arrangements for three local weddings! The Veterinary Science classes have added a new bird breeding project to its program, while the dog grooming shop and agility programs continue to be a main stay in our community!! Our sincere thanks to our supporters in the community!!!

North Salinas FFA has had a remarkable year with student involvement and achievement. In every single competitive sectional event that North Salinas FFA students have entered, they have brought home first place. According to their resident historian, this is the first time that any FFA chapter in the Monterey Bay Section has taken home all first places in the events they entered. Congratulations! They welcomed Felipe Barrientos to their program, as their 12th ag teacher intern, for the spring semester.

King City was excited to break chapter records with 23 state degrees and 21 proficiency winners.

Hartnell College reports that their new Center for Advanced Technology, which includes agriculture, is a 55,000 sq ft building that will open in the Fall 2010. The college has concentrated on revitalizing its agriculture program, with a very high level of industry support and involvement, over the past three years and the opening of this new, state-of-the-art facility is the culmination of those efforts. The 'new' agriculture program features major areas in Ag Business, Ag Production, Ag & Industrial Technology, Diesel Technology, Food Safety, Precision Technology, Welding Technology, and Pest Management.

San Luis Obispo Section:

Morro Bay HS is eagerly awaiting the approval of the solar plan that will allow them to utilize space under huge solar arrays for beef pens and equipment.

Shandon FFA - the few, the proud have been busy with a trip to Indianapolis to watch their very own Nessie Early complete her year as National Secretary.

Coast Union held a very successful BBQ that helped send seven students to State Conference. Ms. Dobrec took nine students to the Tulare Farm Show for the first time.

Paso Robles chapter officers are excited that monthly meetings have been setting record attendance. The petting zoo at the school farm was a huge success with over 350 children attending from local schools. Their vine pruning team took second place at the Arizona National Livestock Judging Contest. Welding classes are working hard on projects for members of their community.

Atascadero FFA had a blast during FFA week with a petting zoo for the elementary school, teacher and staff pizza, FFA member BBQ, and school wide tri-tip BBQ on Friday.

San Luis Obispo HS welcomes Amanda Rodriguez as their spring student teacher. Their school farm is currently undergoing a huge, much needed renovation with help from their Aggie Backers. The "hen house" enjoyed their two week spring break that did not interfere with a state conference.

Templeton would like to welcome Heather Hansen as their spring student teacher. FFA week was kicked off with game night they had over 125 students in attendance.

Santa Barbara Section:

Arroyo Grande is excited to have several regional proficiency winners and regional officer candidates. The students are busy looking for fair animals for the 2010 Santa Barbara County Fair.