

AGGIE ANNEX

JANUARY 2014

CENTRAL REGION NEWS

BY JESSALEE GOEHRING

The Central Region has been full of excitement this fall and winter. With a successful trip to National Convention and 306 Central Region American Degree Recipients, we are ready for 2014. Happy New Year and hope you all enjoyed your Holidays!

Sacramento Section

Congratulations to **Galt HS** on their Reserve Champion Marketing Plan Team. Way to go! Also, Congratulations to **Florin HS** and Anh Nguyen on being a National Proficiency Finalist in the area of Ag Science Research/Plant Systems. **Elk Grove HS** continues with Agriscience success with two Reserve Champion Agriscience Fair competitors. Great job!

Delta-Cal Section

Lodi HS is excited and proud to announce their National Proficiency Winner, Jordan Sparrowk, in the area of Beef Production Placement. Roy Yates was also a National Finalist in the area Beef Production Entrepreneurship.

Congratulations to Amy and Jim Thorpe who are the new parents to Grant James Thorpe. He arrived on October 7, 2013 and weighed 7 pounds, 7 ounces! A special Congrats to the proud Grandpa Jim Schulte! Welcome to the newest member of the CATA family and **Merrill West HS!**

The **San Joaquin Delta College Horticulture Program** has partnered with Mickie Grove Zoo in Lodi. The Horticulture Design classes are redesigning the front of the animal exhibits and making recommendations to improve the grounds around the exhibits. Additionally, the Horticulture Irrigation class had 13 students certify as Water Auditors under the QWEL program and are now state certified. Great job **SJ Delta College** on getting involved in the surrounding communities and your students' success!

In 1938, the **Escalon HS FFA** chapter was granted its official state charter. In honor of this important milestone, the Agriculture Department Parent Boosters hosted a 75th anniversary dinner themed "Denim and Diamonds" at the Robert J. Cabral Agricultural Center in Stockton. This special dinner, held on November 9th, commemorated the great accomplishments of the chapter over the past 75 years. Serving as Master of Ceremonies was Mr. Gino Farinelli, past FFA Advisor and agriculture instructor at Escalon High School. Not only did Mr. Farinelli run the agriculture program for 32 years, but he, too, is an alumni of the program. Mr. Farinelli introduced the past agriculture teachers in attendance, and he spoke about their contributions to the profession, as many of the

past teachers moved on to teach at the junior college and university levels. Also in attendance that night was alumni Lindsey Anderson, who served as 2012-2013 National FFA Western Region Vice President. Her message was one of pride for the program and the Escalon community. Speaking on behalf of the Parent Ag Boosters, President Christine Watson delivered a message of gratitude to all in attendance as well as to the donors who have contributed over \$55,000 to the success of the event, which will be used to continue to make improvements to the high school's agriculture program. Ending the evening was Mrs. Bonner Murphy, the head organizer of the event, who talked about the tradition of being a member of the Escalon FFA, and how generations upon generations of young people have been influenced by its offerings.

There were several special presentations made that night to the agriculture program in honor of the 75th Anniversary. Supervisor Ken Vogel presented a Certificate of Recognition from San Joaquin County and Mayor Ed Alves presented a proclamation on behalf of the City of Escalon. Certificates of Congressional Recognition were presented on behalf of Representative Jeff Denham and Jerry McNerney, and a State Assembly Certificate of Recognition was presented on behalf of Brett McBay. An Assembly Procla-

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mation was presented on behalf of Assemblywoman Kristin Olsen and Senator Cathleen Galgiani. Rounding out the presentation, former Assemblyman Greg Aghazarian presented a Proclamation on behalf of State Secretary of Agriculture Karen Ross from the California Department of Food and Agriculture. At the event, there was a great deal of memorabilia on display that represented the theme that this year's Escalon FFA chapter officers chose, "75 Years ~ Strong. Significant. Successful." These displays included articles, books, photos, and display boards with highlights of the past 75 years created by the Anderson family. Katie Veenstra, 2008 alumni, dedicated a great deal of time and effort to create a slideshow presentation of poignant photos from the chapter's history. The slideshow played at the conclusion of the speakers, which wrapped up the night's presentation. The ag department will also be getting modernized later this school year and will undergo many positive changes and improvements. What a way to move forward as the program marches into the future! **Escalon HS** did an excellent job of showcasing the importance of agriculture education over the past 75 years, congratulations on your accomplishments!

Congratulations to **East Union HS-Manteca** on having a National Proficiency Finalist in the area of Small Animal Production and Care, Ben Liwanag,

Sierra-Manteca HS is pleased to have new teacher, Todd Ingalls in the agriculture depart-

ment. Todd has done a tremendous job with organizing and instructing the metal shop classes. Additionally, the agriculture department has been actively involved in the Ag Venture that took place on November 7th. They had 25 students that were directly involved with the presentations of the Ag Venture Day. Their students were very excited about teaching approximately 3,000 3rd graders about the importance of agriculture in a single day! November 8th was Modesto Junior College's Senior Ag Day and they took students to meet with MJC Faculty, had private tours of the college, and they heard firsthand about important scholarship opportunities. Their FFA chapter has been extremely busy participating in barbecuing home football games and other fundraising activities. Their students have been fundraising to attend the California State FFA Conference this year. Their students heavily competed in public speaking contests December, participating in FFA Creed Division, Impromptu Speaking Division, Job Interview Contest and Best Informed Greenhand Contest. Sierra FFA students are involved daily with MUSD School Farm projects, this time of year with breeding sheep, goats and rabbits, and preparing for the upcoming spring and summer show season! Great job Sierra HS!

Stanislaus Section

Gregori HS is still growing and expanding their program. They were able to add a fourth teacher Megan Tefertiller and in the spring semester she will be 80% in their

department. Congratulations to your continued growth and teaching additions.

Merced/Mariposa Section

Congratulations to Vikki Davis of **Merced-Golden Valley HS** on receiving the Honorary American Degree at the National Convention!

Los Banos HS is very proud of their National Proficiency Finalist in Agriculture Education, Jared Price. Congratulations! **Atwater HS** placed third in the nation for the Milk Quality and Products judging team and **Atwater Buhach Colony HS** placed fifth in the nation in Dairy Judging. Congratulations and great job at National Convention!

Merced College would like to thank everyone who supported their annual Aggie Fest Suds and Sausage Sampler. Over 900 people were in attendance to partake in over 200 beers and ales, 16 different sausages, and many donated cheeses. Bryan Tassej has been busy helping the local high school horticulture programs with plants, soils, and support. His efforts have brought many industry partners into the Merced College program. Darol Fishman ran and finished his first, and quite possibly his last, full marathon. He placed seventh out of 24 other runners in his age class. He's just happy it wasn't another second like his past Ag Mechanics Teams. Jaime Farao took 17 students to the Big Fresno Fair to exhibit in the collegiate division. They brought home several champions, reserve champions, and several class winners.

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Also, Dean Jim Andersen became a grandfather last spring. Autumn Mae Andersen was born on May 19th. Jim and Crystal are beaming with pride, the college is so

happy for them and their family. Finally, the Merced College staff sponsors and coordinates the Merced/Mariposa Section Project Competition program. They just finished

judging 85 students with many unique and diversified projects and are proud to be an integral part of this part of our local schools' Program of Work.

SOUTH COAST REGION NEWS

BY MYNDI KRAFFT

Santa Barbara Section

Arroyo Grande FFA has been busy. Nine teams have been practicing for Opening and Closing along with many other activities. They have numerous 9th graders wanting to participate in all aspects of the program. The new building is great and an ornamental horticulture facility will be on its way soon!

Santa Ynez is starting off the year strong with an additional ag teacher, Ms. Bishop, and at least 30% of students on campus enrolled in an ag class. For the first time ever, we had over 50 freshmen attend the Greenhand Conference!

Nipomo FFA had a very successful summer and first weeks of the school year. At Santa Barbara County Fair, they had champions in every barn and many successes in showmanship. Their summer officer and leadership retreats were great successes, and they had over 150 students at their first FFA meeting in September. Their annual Cow Pasture Open Benefit Golf Tournament raised over \$15,000 to help send 18 students to National FFA Convention, where 13 Nipomo FFA members received their American Degrees. They are looking forward to

other exciting events to come.

Cuyama recently held a chapter Greenhand activity and their annual pumpkin patch event for the elementary school students was a success.

Great things happening at the *Pioneer Valley* campus! The summer ended with an officer planning meeting that has the FFA schedule full for the rest of the school year. Numerous goals were set and the number one goal for the officers is recruitment! Also over the summer Pioneer Valley welcomed Mr. Gabriel Ponce to the team. Welcome Gabe! The FFA has been busy with record numbers at all their events! The annual Welcome back breakfast was a huge event in the center of campus! Then the first meeting of the year had over three hundred FFA spirited members participating in dodge ball! Then it was off to the Dodger Stadium for the FFA DAY at the Park! Now they are getting ready for the conferences in the weeks and months to come! FFA is in the air at Pioneer Valley!! GO DODGER BLUE!

Monterey Bay Section

North Salinas is doing well. They had a successful sale of their chapter grown pumpkin fund-

raiser. Excited to get their two existing greenhouses re-paneled thank you to the Salinas Valley High School Foundation!

Salinas is doing great! They recently finished their Lettuce Gleaning Community Service Event; the kids had a great time and they packed 40 boxes. Salinas High is also excited to announce that Kaylene Maize has joined their team!

Everett Alvarez FFA is proud to add Lauren Carminati as a new adviser to their team. They are excited to have the first production round of plants coming out of their new greenhouse this year. Last year was the first year EAHS competed in CDE competitions and already students are clamoring back to compete in Parliamentary Procedure, Vegetable Crop Judging, Nursery/Landscape, and Floriculture contests. Go Eagles!!

Gonzales FFA would like to introduce their newest addition, Cecilia Birmingham to their department. Gonzales FFA had two extremely successful fairs last fall and chapter meetings have been a big hit, having over 200 FFA members in attendance at each of them. They held a drive though chicken BBQ.

Greenfield FFA started this

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new year with a new teacher, Michelle Côté, being added to the program that had been run by Daniel Villaseñor for the last two years. This has allowed them to increase their program and now teach four floral design classes, two ag biology classes, three ag mechanics 1 classes, one ag mechanics 2 class, and two Ag Earth Science classes; with a total of about 470 students. They are thrilled to be increasing interest in their program and getting their students excited about participating in FFA events and ag projects.

Exciting changing times at **Soquel FFA** from amazing new chapter officers, incredible visit from State Officers, new Ag Production and Ag Environmental Science programs, aquaponics almost ready to rock, new exciting SAEs working with Cal-Fire, USDA-NRCS, brides, brides, local vineyards, and eating kale! Kale Yeah!!!

King City is pleased to have added Patrick Smith to their department as the agriculture mechanics teacher. Ag classes are popular at King City HS with over half the school population enrolled in the agriculture program. King City is excited to have an overabundance of enthusiasm from their FFA members with over 400 members and parents attending the Greenhand/Chapter Degree banquet and FFA meetings crowding the meeting rooms. They are excited about their newest FFA member — Jessica Souza had a baby girl!

This year is a transition year for **Soledad HS**. They are currently

working on a grant that will transition their school into three different academies, with agriculture being one of the main ones. This will increase enrollment, and assist with specializing the students agricultural curriculum to fit their future goals of entering the industry or attending college.

Ventura Section

Fillmore FFA had a successful summer with a pancake breakfast, showmanship day, firework booth, and the Ventura Fair. Their students were tremendous!

Camarillo had a great summer with fair. They have had E-Waste events and working on native plant sales as well as their internship program is expanding with district support.

Santa Paula FFA has a new district superintendent and has purchased a new school farm of 29 acres! It has 15 acres of lemons, 3 acres of avocados, various fruit trees and two homes on the property (with their new superintendent living in one of them). They purchased a new school truck and had great success with their 72 students at the Ventura County Fair!

Carpinteria FFA has been cut to a one person program. They turned their farm into “the scary farm” for the month of October which was open to the public. Also, they have been working with the community with their tractor program, Avocado Festival and Canned Food Drive. Their chapter is also producing Ag videos about the value

agricultural education.

Santa Clara Section

Sobrato FFA is in full swing welcoming two new teachers, Adie Amador and Cherie Cohen to their department. Their program has been able to maintain all its courses and continues to grow strong and they are using their greenhouse and planting beds for winter crops right now. Community support has been thriving and they are excitedly working on all the upcoming contests and teams. In addition they will be having a visit from the WASC coordinators out at their farm as well as a CTE visit. Looking forward to great times!

Hollister FFA is extremely happy to announce the addition of Myndi Krafft to the program. It has taken ten years to hire a second teacher but it has finally happened and they can only hope to continue to grow! They had a successful fair with over 70 students. This is a very active group this year and they are ready for anything!

Gilroy FFA has a new Ag Booster program. They are very active and involved parents, beginning with hosting a fall BBQ. The program has doubled in size with a new teacher, Chloe Smith. They have barn renovations going on as well.

Campbell FFA worked hard on their poinsettia project fundraiser, and are preparing for their board presentation. Greenhands are a large group this year and look to be excited about FFA. They are look-

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ing at a record 11 steers for fair, and they also have 35 commercial pigs this year. They are in the process of updating their cattle unit.

Morgan Hill FFA is off to a great start. They had 86 students show at the Santa Clara Fair winning Advanced Showmanship in Beef, Sheep and Swine. They also had one

of their students win the Resource Conservation District Speak-Off.

Los Angeles Section

Canoga Park Update: On October 26th their Ag Boosters sponsored a Fall Harvest Festival with food, games, and plant and animal demonstrations. They are

working on forming a partnership with the 51st District Ag Association, which will give them \$30,000 over three years to bring a youth livestock show back to the San Fernando Valley.

A new chapter, **Verdugo Hills**, has been established.

NORTH COAST REGION NEWS

BY ERICA BOOMER

Mendo-Lake Section

Former Anderson Valley FFA Student, Mike Zini, has taken over the ag mechanics program at **Kelseyville HS** to replace Mike Jones who is now the new assistant principal there. It is great having products of our programs returning to keep Ag Education growing strong in our local communities. Both are doing a great job in their new positions. Megan Schmitt reports that things are going well at the newly reinstated **Fort Bragg FFA** program and Mike Moore at **Potter Valley** says, "Life is great, classes are full and I'm happy." Things also seem to be going well for the three schools in the section who have new administrators; **Anderson Valley**, **Round Valley - Covelo**, and **Willits**. **Lower Lake HS** is making a lot of positive growth with the addition of Kimi Jo Olsen teaching Intro Ag and Horticulture. They also have a new greenhouse and have remodeled one of the shops into a classroom to accommodate more students. **Ukiah** has added articulation agreements with Mendocino College for Horticulture

and **Middletown** has added Welding and Floral Design to their agreements with Yuba College. **Upper Lake HS** is into their second year with a new CA Partnership Academy called "Alternative Energy & Sustainable Agriculture" (AESAs). New lab equipment, developments at the school farm and more funds for field trips have been some of the many added benefits.

Sonoma Section

Lots of new construction is taking place in the Sonoma Section. **Forestville** is restructuring their facilities to include a new greenhouse and adding pens for 20 hogs, 20 sheep/goats and steers. **Sebastopol** is adding a water catchment system to their ag building in addition to building a new barn. **St. Helena** had a floral team that competed at Nationals and **Santa Rosa** had two National finalists; one in Vegetable Production and one in Agriscience-science Animal Systems. Several schools have a lot of great fundraisers in their communities including Barn Dance/Dinners, Pumpkin Patches, Golf Tournaments, and

winery events. There are some new additions in the Ag Ed family and we would like to congratulate Danny and Judy Aschwanden with the birth of their first child and also Sierra Bruhn and her husband Chet with their first child.

Humboldt-Del Norte Section

Del Norte HS has a great opportunity to experience life-abroad as they travel to Japan with 3 FFA Officers, their advisor and administrator to return a boat that washed up on their beach as a result of the March 2011 tsunami! This trip will take place sometime in January or February. **Eureka HS** would like to mention that Kyle Schamp is doing a great job with the Ag Mechanics program and they had over 400 students and parents attend their annual Back to School BBQ. All report that school is off to a great start and fall fundraisers have been a success. This section hosts their own GLC and over 150 freshmen attended. **College of the Redwoods** continues to be a great resource for the North Coast and their annual field day is February 8th and a special

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congrats to Noah Corp of CR for getting hitched!

Solano-Alameda Section

Napa-Vintage HS is excited to begin construction on their new sheep/goat barn and all of the campus projects are being run as enterprises with the goal of the projects being able to pay for them-

selves. *Dixon HS* is hoping that the sale of the old school farm will mean that the District will invest ALL of the proceeds towards the construction of a new farm on campus. Community partners have played a big part of the fundraising for the school farm at *Half Moon Bay* and they hope to finalize barn plans soon. *Liberty-Brentwood* is busy renovat-

ing their facilities as well and have also added a new companion animal care class to their curriculum. *Livermore* added another teacher, welcome to the North Coast, Paulina Pinherio. All other schools report that the summer/fall has been busy with fairs, shows, and competitions but student involvement and community support make it all worth it!

SUPERIOR REGION NEWS

BY ELIZABETH AMMON

Marysville FFA sent seven teams to the Sierra Buttes Sectional Opening Closing Contest. They love to give as many students as possible the opportunity to participate in a speech contest that is a little less threatening than traditional FFA speech contests. They received a Gold Award this summer for their Yuba County exhibit at the California State Fair in the counties build-

ing. They will be doing quite a bit of Ag Literacy outreach this year with their district K-8 schools, as they received a \$13,000 grant to promote Ag. Literacy in the K-8 grades! They took 18 students to the National FFA Convention this year with side trips to the Grand Ol' Opry, Mammoth Caves, University of Kentucky and Kentucky Horse Park.

The *Alturas FFA Chapter* has once again participated in the "Holidays for Heroes" program through the American Red Cross. FFA members filled out and mailed over 40 Christmas cards for recovering wounded American soldiers. In addition, members filled out and sent cards to Alturas FFA alumni who are also serving in the armed forces.

Enter your great teaching ideas in this year's Idea Show at CATA Summer Conference.

There are eleven areas to enter:

1. Ag Production/Processing & 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 (i.e. Ag Advisory, Ag Boosters, etc.)
10. Floral Design
11. Ag Business

Bring your entries to the Farm Shop (Building 09) on the Cal Poly San Luis Obispo campus between 7:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Remember a lot of demos and class activities are based on handouts or displays. All of these would make great entries for the Idea Show. You can't win if you don't enter!