It's November, and as I draft this report on behalf of the Southern Region, I find that my thoughts are distracted by upcoming events like New Professionals Institute (#greatteaching) and Thanksgiving plans (#givethanks) and recent events in our world which will most likely be distant memories by the time this article is read by the association (#prayforParis). There have been a lot of great happenings locally in the Southern Region since the last report and in no way do I wish to belittle those achievements. (Southern Region FFA membership grew by over 900 members in just one year.) It's not that the regular events of our programs are unimportant. These regular happenings prove that life keeps moving and that we all keep pushing ourselves and others to new levels of greatness. (Congrats to Norco FFA when they were named a National Finalist as a Model of Innovation.) But this author finds herself in a juxtaposition as this article won't be published until January when most all of us will have put Fall semester or quarter behind us, posted final grades, stuffed turkeys (or not), sold holiday items to fund the trips we will be making in the Spring, wrapped presents, unwrapped presents, and rung in the new year full of new personal and professional possibilities.

So, what does a reporter report that represents the present but will be read in the future?

The logical conclusion in this author’s mind is to bring together the past and the present in the hopes of a clear and meaningful future, in the form of wishes to all members of the California Agricultural Teachers’ Association sprinkled with good news about what is happening in 'So. Cal. Ag':

- May you try new things this year, just like Grove, Orange, Littlelock, Sunny Hills, Covina, Coachella Valley, Mission Viejo, San Jacinto, Hemet, Heritage and Don Lugo.
- May you find new groups of enthusiastic individuals to serve and collaborate with, just like San Pasqual, El Centro, Holtville, and Ramona.
- And when the days get too long and things get too crazy, may you find a quiet place to write an inspirational thought to help you stay focused. Two examples from Southern Region schools to get you started:

  From Perris: New year underway; Students and teachers anxious; We light the way.

  And from Norco: Merryment, rainbows, unicorn farts, butterfly's .... Norco has it ALL! 😊

Amidst the triumphs and tribulations you have already faced and are prepared to tackle at any time, this author hopes that everyone is able to take some time to enjoy whatever it is that, to your core, makes you truly happy. As we all do, every day, continue to find success in each and every moment.

Cheers to everyone for a blissful, safe and healthy 2016!
The Central Region has been full of excitement this fall and winter. Happy New Year and hope you all enjoyed your Holidays!

With a successful trip to the National FFA Convention, the Central Region should be very proud. Here are a few highlights:

- Matt Patton (Elk Grove) and Mark Nower (Gregori) – Honorary American Degree Recipients
- Mark Borges (Hughson) National Job Interview Winner
- Jean Landeen – National FFA VIP Award

**Delta-Cal Section**

**Ripon Christian:** The Ripon Christian FFA Chapter is officially in motion – with blue jackets in tow! After receiving its Charter in September, RC FFA hosted its first ever Kick Off and Ice Cream Social on Monday, October 26. Over 150 FFA members, parents, and supporters were in attendance to celebrate the official chartering of the Ripon Christian FFA Chapter. The evening included a time of fellowship over ice cream sundaes, Opening and Closing Ceremonies by the FFA officer team, and the Greenhand FFA Degree ceremony where 40 FFA members achieved the degree. To close the evening, FFA members zipped up the official Ripon Christian Blue corduroy jacket for the first time – recognizing them as a part of something much larger than themselves.

This event was an excellent moment to reveal to the Ripon Christian community how significant of a role Agricultural Education and FFA can play in the lives of these students. The wheels are now turning and great things are expected to happen in the program.

**Stanislaus-Tuolumne Section**

**Turlock HS** – Randee Prada wed Art Vitorino on October 24. Congratulations to the newlyweds!! Turlock FFA would also like to recognize Jonathan Moules for placing 5th in the National Agriscience Fair. Well done!!

**Hughson HS** Kelly Larson welcomed her new baby girl on September 10! Little Reagan Marie Larson was a week early, but weighted in at 11lbs 6oz.

**Sacramento Section**

**Galt HS** would like to recognize Dane White on his victorious year as Varsity Boys Soccer Team Head Coach.

**Elk Grove HS** would like to congratulate Warren and Patty Weaver, who were honored as Elk Grove’s Citizens of the Year. Elk Grove would also like to congratulate Brittany Whyler and John Gladman (Joseph Kerr Middle School) on their marriage in November.

**Ponderosa HS** Andrea Adams wed Jason Sawyer in October! She also became a stepmom to seven year old, Faith, and is excited to begin this next chapter of her life.

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**2016 CATA Conference**

June 19 - 23

CATA Farm Show and Idea Show

June 21

Agriskills Classes

June 23 - 24

Online registration available soon!
Congratulations to all our Superior Region participants at the National FFA Convention in October. Tulelake HS was third in the Agronomy Contest. Nevada Union HS - Grass Valley was fourth in Natural Resources. Lassen HS was third in the Vet Practices contest. Bear River HS - Grass Valley had the National Winner in Prepared and West Valley HS was second in Extemporaneous. Red Bluff HS received a bronze in Forestry. George Wold also received his Honorary American FFA Degree.

The Willows High Agriculture Department is excited to be constructing a new 30x36 commercial greenhouse this year. This greenhouse is a grant funded community project. Willows has received a USDA Rural Community Development Grant, Specialized Ag Incentive Grant, Barceloux-Tibessart Foundation grant, and a $5,000 donation from Wilbur-Ellis. Soon the footings will be poured, and they will host a "Greenhouse Raising" event asking community members to help with putting the greenhouse together.

The first ever olive harvest of Red Bluff FFA's five acre olive orchard kicked off early this October. The orchard was planted in 2011 thanks to many gracious donors and was planted by many excited and dedicated FFA members. Whether it be after school, weekends, summer workdays, and most recently the newly formed Farm Class, the orchard was tended to with the hopes of getting a humble first crop in the Fall of 2015. To the Ag department's great surprise, more than 2,800 ounces of olive oil was harvested and processed! The five acres was hand harvested by the Farm Class with some help from the freshmen Ag Earth classes. In order to spike student interest in helping to harvest, a contest was held in which the FFA member that picked and filled the most buckets overall walked away with a cash prize! The oil will be bottled and labeled and Red Bluff FFA members will be selling it throughout the rest of the year as a perfect holiday gift. The Ag Department hopes that this will be just the start to a successful project that will continue to produce as well as provide countless learning opportunities for agriculture students and FFA members for many years to come.

The Butte College Ag Ambassadors have had a busy fall season by hosting and attending several events on and off campus, and made approximately 3,000 contacts in the last few weeks! Their theme for the year of Start Here, Grow Anywhere! was kicked off on October 23, when they sponsored their first annual PCA Camp for 80 high school FFA members and their ag teachers who traveled from 17 high schools as far south as Atwater and as far northeast as Susanville. This event was a mini-field day to highlight career skills and lab workshops in ag science, soil science, weed and pest identification labs as they relate to PCA (pest control advising) careers and FFA career development event judging contests. PCA Camp participants enjoyed part of a day with professional PCAs who came for a Q&A session at lunch, and also learned how to use their new insect and weed collection lab kits they were provided. The PCA Camp was partially sponsored by a SB 1070 grant obtained by club advisor Carrie Monlux and was also funded through generous ag industry donations and sponsorships by local ag advisory committee members. Workshop instructors included ag faculty Bruce Hicks, Shannon Douglass, Robert Landry, Tip Wilmarth, Toby Leonard, Dr. Carrie Monlux, and CSUC ag professor Dr. Betsy Boyd. After receiving rave reviews, they look forward to hosting the event again next year!

The Ag Ambassadors also hosted a BBQ lunch during the Fall Harvest Festival on October 27 down in Boyer Glen. The event was sponsored by the Office of Student Life, and over 250 students and staff were served lunch and enjoyed a special pumpkin carving demonstration by local carving artist John Rubino, in addition to several booths and entertainment. It was a great opportunity to get students and staff down to the Ag Department, learn about its programs, and get a chance to see their students in action. Ag club booths included Friends of the Refuge, Hort Club, and Ag Ambassadors.

The annual Farm City Week Celebration was held the week of November 4-7 and sponsored numerous events attended by Butte College Ag Faculty and Ag Ambassadors members. On Wednesday, Butte College was a site of the Agri-Business Bus Tour, and they hosted five bus tours of local community members of ap-
proximately 250 participants. The most heard comment made by visitors was “I had no idea!” and it was followed by many smiles, hugs, and handshakes, and they were proud to show off their Ag Department and student successes to their community! On Thursday, the Ag Ambassadors club set up an ag learning station at the CSU, Chico University Farm in conjunction with CSUC ag student groups for a fun day of teaching 650 third graders about agriculture and farm life. Their Ag Ambassadors’ booth quizzed the students on their ag knowledge with quiz show-style questions and gave away free winter vegetable starts to each of the kids. On Saturday, the Annual Farm City Harvest Festival was held at Bidwell Mansion and the Ag Ambassadors held another learning station for the general public, giving away vegetable and hardy flowering starts to over 2,000 people, while testing visitors’ ag knowledge and fun ag facts. That evening, several Ag Ambassadors were also responsible for the Farm City Dinner Dance and Awards Reception at Butte Creek Country Club with the Butte County Farm Bureau Young Farmers & Ranchers group. They were responsible for setting up the meal, ticket sales, entertainment, advertising, and promotion. It was a huge success and a great time, and sold out of tickets early. Be sure to get your tickets early next year!

If you’re interested in any Ag Ambassadors activities or want more information about ag careers, please contact Carrie Monlux at monluxca@butte.edu.

2015 NEW PROFESSIONALS

North Coast Region
Seated: Kyle Shamp - Eureka

Southern Region
Seated (L-R): Maggie Maratsos - Heritage, Stephen Daly - Heritage, Ashley Salsgiver - Hemet
Standing (L-R): Robin Dick - Sunny Hills, Jenna Proxmire - Elsinore, Ashley Doyle - Don Lugo, Rachel Maryanski - Grove, Kaylene Maize - Serrano
NEW PROFESSIONALS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

Central Region

Superior Region
Seated (L-R): Sierra Meyers - Yuba City, Trevor Airola - Princeton, Laura Barnes - West Valley
Standing (L-R): Courtney Champlin - Chico, Chloe Smith - Nevada Union, Kayla Taylor - Yuba City, Morgan Perry - Lincoln, Whitney Medley - Shasta District Farm, Devin Munro - Red Bluff, Jenny Kaslin - Gridley, Laura LaFayette - Las Plumas, Maigen Matteucci - Surprise Valley, Amber Hofer - Modoc
NEW PROFESSIONALS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

South Coast Region
Seated (L-R): Samantha Lima - Sobrato, Elida Moore - Gilroy, Genevieve Bishop - Santa Ynez

San Joaquin Region -
Seated (L-R): Ellen Renick - Ridgeview, Robbie Richards - McFarland, Jessica Cavalla - Orosi, Christy Bennett - Monache, Gene Lieb - Firebaugh