

# AGGIE ANNEX

JANUARY 2017

## NORTH COAST REGION NEWS

BY DONELLE MCCALLISTER

Breathing room.... “sufficient time to prepare for or recover from the pressing difficulties of a situation.” Thanks to the dedicated efforts of CATA, State Staff and agriculture instructors throughout the state, there has been an infusion of money that our agriculture programs have not seen for years. The North Coast Region is no exception thanks to career tech grants and \$4.65 million earned through the North Coast Agriculture Partners Consortium led by Sandy Dale. Serving as the NCAP administrator for this consortium, Sandy is working with the 16 Ag departments in our region to meet the needs of each of their programs. New trucks and vans are great additions, but what really is making impacts in these programs are the inservice opportunities provided to instructors to develop and implement the new agriculture science curriculums, computer training on the AET system, and relationships developed between instructors and other programs. Sandy said, “this grant is allowing us to recognize the strengths of the different instructors through inservice and education and implement these changes into our programs.”

Breathing room...rest and relaxation. During the 2016 State CATA Conference, the North Coast region hosted a wonderful CATA Banquet. Highlights of the evening included recognition of our Hall of Fame recipient Jim Porter (retired - Santa Rosa Junior College) and Outstanding Single Department Award Winner Megan Tunzi (Fort Bragg High School). We thank Wesley Hunt, Heidi Mickelson, and Sarah Herdell for spearheading the activity along with our Captain Hugh Mooney as special greeter, and Jake Dunn along with Randy Mendes as shipboard hosts.

Breathing room...revitalization. Our region is achieving revitalization through hiring of young Ag professionals. We welcome Jennifer Clark (El Molino), Cara Parlato (Petaluma), Trisha Wiggen (Livermore), Hannah Lovfald (Fortuna), Cody Beus (Del Norte), Steve Shields (Ferndale), Lori Porter

(Livermore), Miranda Will (Dixon), Natalie Oelsner (Dixon), Holly Chesnut (Rio Vista), Gina Cunningham (Liberty – Brentwood), Victor Evans (Elsie Allen), and transfers Heidi Mickelson (from Petaluma to Analy), and Sadie DeMarta (from Analy to Ukiah).

Breathing Room – rejuvenation. Many North Coast chapters had the opportunity to attend the National FFA Convention. The Humboldt/Del Norte section took 82 students/staff to the convention and also traveled through Louisville and Nashville. While at the convention North Coast FFA region members were honored as American Degree recipients, competed in CDE’s and proficiency programs, and honored Jake Dunn (Petaluma) for receiving his Honorary American FFA Degree. Congratulations Jake!

Breathing room....positive thoughts. When asked what their best memory or thought our instructors had about their job. Judy Aschwanden (St Helena) – “Ag teaching, not only a career but a lifestyle.” Sarah McMaster (Santa Rosa) – “seeing the light bulb moments – where a kid’s hard work pays off.” Kim Arntz (Petaluma) – “competing in Royal Highland Show in Scotland and students placed first among all US Teams, also her son tied for first in contest as a freshman – proud mom moment!” Sandy Lovfald (Eureka) - “when I received my Agricultural Teacher’s Code of Conduct and when her daughter put on the FFA jacket for the first time.” Eric Wade (Napa Valley College) - “having my students get that first welding certification.” Sadie De Marta (Ukiah) - “when my student told me he wanted to be an Ag instructor so he could influence and help students like I have.”

North Coast Region...we out!

## SOUTH COAST REGION NEWS

BY LAUREN FONTES-PETERSON

### Ventura Section

*Santa Paula FFA* - COLC weekend started with two industry tours. Their first tour was at Westland Floral in Carpinteria. Westland Floral grows orchids, butter head lettuce, cut flowers, avocados, Gerber daisies, and watercress. Case Van Wingerden, the owner, personally gave them the tour with the help of a former parent and FFA Alumni. An amazing diversified agriculture operation! Their second tour was at Teixeira's Thousand Hills Ranch. They attended their angus/steer sale where John Teixeira shared his words of wisdom. Another great agriculture leader who took the time out of his busy schedule to teach the kids about his operation and emphasized that future agriculture begins with them! He also hosted their lunch. They arrived early to Gilroy, so headed up to San Francisco for an adventure! They ate at GOTT's Burgers on Embarcadero - best burgers in town! When the weekend was all said and done, they had travelled over 600 miles! Thank you to Alondra Valle, former Regional Officer who came to help out for the weekend and her mom who helped chaperone.

*Fillmore FFA* is looking forward to passing a bond in November that will fund construction for CTE facilities. Using grant money to update equipment for science, technology, animal and plant sciences. They hosted A Day at the Farm for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders to help with recruitment. They took more than 20 people to National Convention, with four American Degree recipients. They hosted their sectional Opening/Closing and BIG contest with over 100 students.

*Camarillo FFA* welcomes John Avila as a replacement for Bruce Ritchey who retired. They have a brand new welding shop, thanks to their very supportive district.

*Ventura* - All classes are now A-G approved and in an agribusiness pathway. We are anticipating Ventura College restarting their agriculture business and plant science based Ag program. Their ag business floral design program has already completed two weddings and one bridal shower and their ag business landscape class is rebuilding their greenhouse.

### San Luis Obispo Section

The *Atascadero FFA* had a successful BBQ and did well at Opening & Closing Competition. This year *Shandon FFA* had six teams at Opening and Closing, every freshman student in the program competed this year! They are excited about their new storage area! The *Morro Bay Agriculture Department* is working with Cal Poly to redesign and update their school farm! *Templeton FFA* is working on getting their CDE teams together. They took seven teams to Opening & Closing! Students at *Paso Robles FFA* are participating in a Hog and Feed Trial which is really exciting for them. At their sectional Opening and Closing competition Paso Robles had eight teams compete. *San Luis Obispo FFA* was busy with a Creed speaker, Parli-Pro, and Job Interview all competing at National Convention. Congratulations to the 13 teams who competed at Opening and Closing. Members of *Coast Union FFA* are expanding the school farm, with the expansion the students will be able to utilize the swine facilities. This year they are adding a new vet science class which allows for the students to have more hands on classes. They took 16 freshman students to Greenhand Leadership Conference.

### Santa Clara Section

*Sabrato FFA* just hosted state officers, Andrew and Sam and had an amazing time. A few of their students competed in the Resource Conservation District Speak Off and one student made it to the regional level. *Morgan Hill FFA* is excited to hire a new teacher – Ms. Kayla Mulch. Members of Morgan Hill FFA were excited to host two of the state officers, Lauren and Conner. This year they are starting a Meats, Soil and Land Evaluation, and Floriculture judging teams, the students are excited to participate in those CDEs. *Gilroy FFA* was thrilled to hire Chelsi Faria. They were also excited to have hosted the state officers, Amanda & Jace. *Campbell FFA* is currently in construction building a horticulture lab, rabbitry facility, demonstration room, material storage area, and a covered arena. They will also have their commercial hog project again. *Hollister FFA* is extremely excited to be moving into their new AG-CTE building in August 2017! Watch for a ribbon

## SOUTH COAST REGION NEWS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

cutting announcement in the spring. They had a very successful county fair with numerous champions and 95 plus exhibitors.

### Santa Barbara Section

*Righetti FFA* hosted a successful Greenhand Boot Camp with close to 100 students participating. They took 16 students to Nationals and will host their 22nd annual kinderpatch with potentially over 1,000 students attending. They had a great grape and olive harvest.

*Cuyama Valley FFA* recently upgraded their irrigation systems to the school farm and hosted their annual pumpkin patch for the elementary school. *Santa Ynez FFA* was rockin and rollin with selling tri-tip sandwiches at home football games. They are excited to start a welding team. *Nipomo FFA* hosted a drive through BBQ and a BIG contest. *Arroyo Grande FFA* held their annual pumpkin patch. *Santa Maria FFA* finished up their drive through BBQ with over 350 meals, they attended Nationals with a Horse Judging Team and National Proficiency finalist, and they also had American Degree recipients. They are cooperating in the efforts of the district wide school farm. *Pioneer Valley FFA* participated in the Community Service Heart walk.

### Monterey Bay Section

*Soledad FFA* welcomed their student teacher Jose Vargas to the program, they are excited to have him. In September, they held their first Greenhand Lock in Leadership Development. The chapter officer team put on workshops that the freshman students participated in. They had a fantastic turnout. Spending the night in their classroom was a lot of fun and they are excited to do it again next year. *Soledad FFA* participated for the first time at the San Benito County Fair the students did great and had a blast. *Gonzales FFA* kicked off the school year with a successful Monterey County Fair with over 50 participants exhibiting their market hogs, lambs and steers. We are proud to have nine graduates receiving their American Degree this year. Classes are full, and students are excited for their agricultural classes and activities!

*King City FFA* -The school year is off to a great start down in King City and looking forward to much student success throughout the year. This year they had

nine American Degree recipients as well as a National Delegate. They were also excited to have Alex Zapulla join their team as a fall student teacher from Cal Poly.

*Greenfield FFA* welcomed Kelsey Councilman into their department. They have a new FFA parent booster club up and running, a new greenhouse that is full of projects, many meat rabbit projects that are starting, as well as four different judging teams. They are proud to announce that they have their largest enrollment yet - of over 500 members!! *Everett Alvarez FFA* had a successful fair - Monterey County Fair-FFA Grand Champion Hog and 1st Place FFA Hog Showmanship. Their produce store sold pumpkins and the horticulture area is making great progress!

*Watsonville FFA* welcomed Brian Kantner to their school this year and he has been a great addition to their program. They also welcomed Mateus Correia to their Wildcat Family in early September. Congrats to Paulina and her husband. We had a great Santa Cruz County Fair - Heritage Hog, Champion FFA Hog, Reserve Supreme Hog, Reserve Champion FFA Lamb and their students all made great profits from the auction. They are starting the FARMS Leadership Program and have a group of students who are really excited.

*Salinas FFA* kicked off farm construction this fall. They will be making improvements to the farm in preparation for Salinas Valley Fair. The plant science class installed two raised garden beds and will be using them for a winter vegetable garden and for Ag Science Fair projects.

*North Salinas* - Classes being taught are Ag Biology, Welding, Ag Mechanics, and Ag Leadership. North Salinas FFA members are participating in the FARMS program with four other schools. The students where successful at MCF.

*Soquel FFA* - all ag classes are full and enthusiastic. Members have participated in the Corsage Demonstration at Santa Cruz County Fair, Opening and Closing competition, back to school night, and starting campus wide food waste to compost! Thrilled to have state officers, Sam and Andrew visit Soquel!! Truly inspiring!!! Thank you to the district for their support to help update and repair their farm!

## CENTRAL REGION NEWS

BY COLLEEN LAWSON

The Central Region has been rocking and rolling this fall and winter. We wish a very Happy New Year to our colleagues and families across the state. This year the Central Region had a tremendously successful National Convention trip. Here are just a few highlights:

### National Convention Results

#### *Career Development Events*

- Ag Issues - Galt FFA: National Winner
- Extemporaneous Public Speaking - Atwater FFA:  
Andrew Skidmore, National Winner
- Marketing Plan - Atwater FFA: National Winner
- Milk Quality - Atwater FFA: Daryl Dorsey, 1st High Individual
- Poultry - Galt FFA: 2nd
- Livestock Judging - Oakdale FFA: 4th
- Dairy Cattle – Hilmar FFA: 4th
- Ag Sales – Elk Grove FFA: 7th

#### *Agriscience Award Program:*

- Elk Grove FFA – 2<sup>nd</sup> place Plant Systems

#### *Honorary American Degree:*

- Nikki Maddux

#### *American Star Farmer Finalist:*

- Tony Lopes, Gustine
- \* Tony is the only 5<sup>th</sup> Star Finalist American Farmer in California FFA History.

#### *Hall of States: Liberty Ranch FFA*

#### *National Chapter Award Program:*

- Galt–3 star
- Clarksburg –Delta –2 star
- Lodi –2 star
- Merrill West –2 star
- Winters–2 star
- Livingston –1 star
- Newman –1 star
- Florin –1 star
- Tracy –1 star
- Woodland –1 star

# 2017 CATA CONFERENCE

## JUNE 25-29

## AGRISKILLS

## JUNE 29-30

## REGISTER ONLINE AT

# WWW.CALAGTEACHERS.ORG