



# THE GOLDEN SLATE

The official newsletter of the California  
Agricultural Teachers' Association

## Key Actions from CATA's Governing Board and Executive Committee

*By Matt Patton, CATA Executive Director*

The following are actions taken by the California Agricultural Teachers' Association (CATA) Governing Board and CATA Executive Committee on behalf of the membership during and after the CATA Summer Conference in June 2024.

### *Careers Development Events*

The Governing Board took action to reinstate the Food Science Career Development Event in 2025. Five schools submitted letters of intent to participate in the contest during the 2024-25 school year. State Finals for the event will be held at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo in May.

Due to low participation in 2023-24, the Governing Board placed the Fruit Tree Pruning Career Development Event on probation. Less than five teams participated in the state finals contest, and in accordance with the CATA Curricular Code, the contest will be placed on probation for the 2024-25 academic year. If participation remains low, the contest may be suspended.

### *Accounting*

The Governing Board approved moving CATA's accounting from cash-basis to an accrual system. In accrual accounting, payments and expenses are recorded when earned or incurred, unlike cash accounting, where transactions are recorded when payment is made or received.

### *Awards*

The Executive Committee introduced the "Ideas Unlimited" award for CATA members. This award aims to facilitate the exchange of classroom and teaching ideas among members. Open to all CATA members, the award's winner will represent California at the regional level of the National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE). The motion to implement the award passed unanimously by voice vote.

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### *CDE Recommendations*

The CATA Executive Committee presented the following recommendations to the California Department of Education (CDE) agricultural education staff, based on input from the membership, regarding the operation and procedures of State FFA Officers and California FFA representatives:

1. Conduct more thorough background checks on candidates, including a social media review, potentially utilizing the same company contracted by the National FFA.
2. Collect updated transcripts from all candidates, including those in College in February, to ensure complete fall semester transcripts.
3. For State Officers leaving office who may become National Officer Candidates, serve as delegates at the National Convention, or as the Chairman of the Nominating Committee at the State FFA Leadership Conference, provide and articulate clear guidelines and have them sign a code of conduct outlining expected behavior leading up to those roles.
4. In the event of incidents, conduct a comprehensive investigation involving all parties, following a prescribed protocol to ensure a fair and unbiased outcome.

CATA is a member-run organization guided by its 1,094 paid members. The Executive Committee and the Governing Board welcome input from the membership and encourage members to reach out with concerns or suggestions. This collaborative approach supports CATA's mission of promoting and improving the teaching of agriculture in California and fostering the welfare of those engaged in that work.

