Farm Credit Continues Their Support!

At the FFA State Convention in April, the Farm Credit Associations of California were recognized for their $120,000 pledge to the California FFA. Over 4,400 students were on hand for the giant check presentation and over 4,400 students, staff, faculty, and parents applauded their commitment to agriculture and their continued support of FFA.

Farm Credit West Senior Vice-President and FFA Foundation Board Member, Len Monaco, presents the Farm Credit Associations of California’s $120,000 pledge at the 2011 State FFA Conference.

Nothing “Funny” About CA FFA Alumni Brian Thiel

The worlds of agriculture, entertainment, and racing came together for the enjoyment of FFA supporters at Jessie’s Grove Winery in Lodi. On a pleasant July evening, FFA supporters enjoyed dinner, wine, and the sounds of the Cash Tribute Band led by former State FFA officer James Garner. An added highlight for event-goers was the opportunity to see alumni in action.

See Alumni in Action, page 4

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- Board Member Profile, Nasser Dean
- Donor Highlight, Farm Credit Associations of California
- Meet the New State Officers
- Toyota Give-Away
- La Quinta Inns & Suites Program
Meet the 2011-2012 State Officers

President: Nicole Billington, Secretary: Mary Steves and Sentinel: Chris Hudson

What has being in FFA meant to you or taught you? The FFA has provided me with a second home and family. Through this organization, I have learned servant leadership, the worth of relationships, and a strong work ethic. I have made lifelong friendships through the FFA that have taught me how to value, respect, and love others.

State President
Nicole Billington
State FFA Chapter: Kingsburg FFA
FFA positions held: Greenhand Treasurer, Chapter Historian, Chapter Vice-President, Sectional Secretary, Chapter Vice-President
Favorite SAE or FFA Activity: Parliamentary Procedure
Reason you wanted to become a State Officer: The opportunity to form real relationships with members and make a difference, however big or small, in their lives is what drove me to run for State FFA Office.
Your goal as a State Officer: This year, I will focus on giving fully of myself and the opportunity to help others, whether it was to help with some kind of project or just some words of encouragement. The FFA Organization has taught me more than I could have ever imagined. Whether it was sitting in a classroom, taking care of my pigs, or the endless hours spent on CDE teams and agriscience research, I have had the opportunity to learn perseverance, dedication, time management, teamwork, communication skills, speaking skills, and much more. This Organization has helped shape me into the person I am today and is a vital part to my successes in life up to this point.

State Secretary
Mary Steves
State FFA Chapter: Escalon FFA
FFA positions held: Chapter President, Chapter Vice-President, Sectional Vice-President
Favorite SAE or FFA Activity: Raising swine
The FFA Organization has taught me that creates jobs, trains leaders, and produces solid citizens. Thank you for all you have done, or will accept to do, on behalf of the FFA!

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La Quinta Inns & Suites partner with the California FFA Foundation

Do you travel for business? Are you planning a family vacation? If so, why not let your hotel stay help the California FFA Foundation? La Quinta Inns & Suites has partnered with the California FFA Foundation in a discount and giveaway program. Travelers will receive a 10% discount and an additional 9% of your hotel stay will benefit the FFA Foundation quarterly when you use the promotional code “CAFFA”. This program is available nationwide at all La Quinta Inns & Suites. Simply mention or enter the promotional code, “CAFFA”, when making your reservation. By participating and sharing code with family, friends, and business associates, you can help support the California FFA Foundation which, in turn, supports agricultural education in California.

Find us on Facebook!
Are you on Facebook? Want to get the latest news from the California FFA Foundation? “Like” the California FFA Foundation Facebook page and become one of our growing number of online supporters!

Visit our Facebook page in late September and learn about National FFA’s CONNECT campaign for FFA alumni and supporters. FFA enthusiasts will be able to share their most memorable FFA experiences, what they’re doing now, and how FFA has impacted their lives. By connecting and sharing this opportunity with friends and family who were in FFA, or just love it, participants can earn a chance to win their choice of attractive rewards. And to really turn up the heat, there’s going to be a contest to see which states connect with the most FFA supporters!
Toyota sponsors truck giveaway to benefit local FFA chapters

FFA chapters are doing their part to supplement ag education funds by selling tickets to win a Toyota Tundra. Over the summer months, representatives from the World Ag Expo contacted the California Association FFA and presented a new statewide truck giveaway program to be sponsored by Toyota. With the purpose of generating much-needed revenue for local chapters, an agreement was reached by all parties to sell the giveaway tickets for $5 each with $3 of each ticket sold returned to the local chapter and $1.25 going to the state FFA Association.

The Toyota truck giveaway was launched on June 21, 2011 at the California Ag Teachers’ Association conference held at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. Tickets will continue to be sold at local FFA chapters through January 13, 2012. The drawing for the truck will be at the World Ag Expo held on February 14-16, 2012.

Nasser Dean
Willows FFA
Occupation: State Government Affairs Manager for Bayer CropScience LLP
FFA position held: Chapter Reporter

Favorite FFA Activity: Parliamentary Procedure
Highest FFA Degree earned: Golden State Farmer Degree

I believe my goal as a board member is to fully support the Foundation’s primary mission of promoting Ag education, generate enthusiasm from internal and external stakeholders to participate, and identify sustainable ways to meet and exceed the critical financial objectives that we have set as a board. Accordingly, I believe that achieving these goals will advance our collective investment in supporting parties to sell the giveaway tickets needed revenue for local chapters, board. Accordingly, I believe that achieving these goals will advance stakeholders to participate, and enthusiasm from internal and external promoting Ag education, generate and exceed the critical financial objectives that we have set as a board. According to those many objectives the FFA has to give, I enjoyed raising my market swine and going to the county fairs. I also enjoyed all the many different conferences because I got to meet many different people. I didn’t want to become a state officer by watching other state officers or to be like them. I did it because during my senior year, I felt like I had something to offer and I could connect with many members across the state and help inspire them.

Your goal as a State Officer: I want to learn as much as I can about the entire state and everything it makes. I want to see the great diversity that this state has and come away with a better understanding of that diversity. I also want to help all members achieve all they can, in all they do, and show that a normal person can do great things.

What has being in FFA meant to you or taught you? The FFA has shown me that everyone can do something with their life. Through the FFA, you are given so many opportunities to find what you like to do and what you’re good at. But the great thing is that you only do it if you want to. It also becomes a great support system to encourage you whenever you need it. It’s your family-away-from family and you’ll make friends that will stand by your side through thick and thin.

State Sentinel
Chris Hudson
FFA Chapter: Hemet FFA
FFA positions held: Riverside Section Sentinel, Southern Region President, Hemet Chapter President, Southern Region President, Hemet Chapter President

Reason you wanted to become a State Officer: Out of everything the FFA has to give, I enjoyed raising my market swine and going to the county fairs. I also enjoyed all the many different conferences because I got to meet many different people. I didn’t want to become a state officer by watching other state officers or to be like them. I did it because during my senior year, I felt like I had something to offer and I could connect with many members across the state and help inspire them.

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State Officers, continued from page 3
When you show your support for California agriculture with the purchase of a special interest license plate you are investing in the next generation of our ag industry’s innovators, entrepreneurs, and leaders. Your purchase directly supports youth agriculture programs that have an established record of success. Invest in your future today!

Program Proceeds Support...
- Agricultural Education
- Agricultural Career Awareness
- Agricultural Career Training
- Youth Leadership Development

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Show your Support for California Agriculture

www.CalAgPlate.com

California FFA Foundation
Post Office Box 834
Elk Grove, California 95759

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