

California FFANEWS

SPRING 2016

VOL. 4 • NO. 3

CONTENTS



3 Greenhand Leadership
Conferences Inspire



6 Outstanding Chapter:
Lucerne Valley FFA



11 Chance of a Lifetime:
Reflecting on DC Trip

+ FFA Center Adds Offices
Ag Plate Funds Arrive
Social Media Q & A
State Officers on the Go
Chapter Scoops

4

California Success at
2015 National FFA Convention



Spring 2016
Volume 4 • Number 3

The CA FFA News is published quarterly by California Association, FFA.

California Association, FFA
Post Office Box 460
Galt, California 95632
(209) 744-1600
inbox@californiaffa.org
www.CalAgEd.org

Editor and Graphic Design:

Jennifer Luiz Patton
Twisted Twig Design & Print
news@californiaffa.org

We want to hear from you...

We are always looking for great stories about members and alumni around our state. Know of a story that we should feature in CA FFA News? Please email news@californiaffa.org.

Submission deadlines:

Fall..... June 1st

Winter..... September 1st

Spring December 1st

Summer..... March 1st

Stay in touch...

"California FFA"



ADDITION OF NEW OFFICES AT FFA CENTER NOW COMPLETE

With the decision to bring additional entities involved in Ag Education into the FFA Center, additional office space was needed to accommodate staff from the California FFA Foundation and the California Agricultural Teachers' Association. Officials from McCarthy Construction worked with the California Association, FFA in designing and constructing additional office space to meet those needs. While

donating a substantial portion of the renovation costs, McCarthy Construction completed the work in record time and with minimum disruption of Center activities. The California Association, FFA is extremely grateful to McCarthy Construction for both their support and for the beautiful job they did in creating this new office space! Feel free to stop by and check it out. •

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY • 6 Fresno State Mid-Winter Field Day, CSU

Fresno • 9-11 World Ag Expo, Tulare • 12-13 MFE/ALA,

Modesto • 19-20 & 21-22 MFE/ALA, Visalia • 21-27 National

FFA Week **MARCH** • 8-11 Sacramento Leadership Experience,

Sacramento • 16 Capitol Ag Day **APRIL** • 22-23 Fresno State

Field Day, CSU Fresno • 23-26 State FFA Conference, Fresno

For a list of current FFA events please visit

www.CalAgEd.org

GREENHAND LEADERSHIP CONFERENCES INTRODUCE FRESHMEN TO THE OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN FFA

This year the California Association, FFA hosted a record-breaking 5,400 freshmen at 31 different Greenhand Leadership Conferences (GLC) that spread from Redding, located in the Superior Region, all the way to Imperial, in the Southern Region. GLC aims to introduce students to the benefits and opportunities in Agricultural Education, including SAE and FFA. GLC is no ordinary leadership experience; conference attendees are granted their "All Access Pass" which allows them to move through sessions and take an active role in learning how Agricultural

Education and FFA can have a positive, meaningful impact on their life. Throughout the day, students learn about the three ring model, the benefits of Agricultural Education, the leadership development continuum (GLC, MFE, ALA, SLE, and WLC), and leave the conference with a personal plan for success. For many, that plan also includes going back to their chapter to enhance their knowledge on FFA and ultimately pursuing their Greenhand Degree.

Wasco FFA brings GLC inspiration home to their chapter

Submitted by Noemi Esquivel

Each year, Wasco FFA welcomes over 100 new Greenhands into the chapter. This year, chapter officers and advisors decided to put on the first-inaugural "Greenhand Week" to celebrate their installation at the Greenhand ceremony. The officers wanted to bring back some aspects from the Greenhand Leadership Conference (GLC) to get more Greenhands involved in the Wasco FFA Chapter. During the week of November 9th, Wasco FFA held various activity and involvement days for Greenhands to participate in. They used a promotional video to advertise the new tradition. Starting on Monday, Wasco FFA chapter officers hosted mini-workshops within freshmen classes. One activity included a "What does FFA mean to you" mixer. On Tuesday, they held a relay race in the quad at Wasco High for all interested Greenhands. Retaining freshmen is an important part of a growing FFA program. We hope to continue this tradition in the future.

Lizbeth Garcia says: "I really enjoyed participating in the first-ever Greenhand Week with the FFA, I liked how they integrated leadership and involvement ideas from the GLC into the activities that they planned throughout the week. The most memorable part of Greenhand Week was when the officers came in and talked to us about what exactly FFA means to us. The Greenhand Conference made me want to be more involved with FFA and so did Greenhand Week." •



GREENHAND
Leadership
CONFERENCE

FFA Street Beat

Include #FFANews to be noticed for the next edition



lavffa The Greenhand Conference was a whole lot of fun. It was the first conference for the majority of the people who attended from our chapter. All participants learned what FFA can do for them and how to get involved be it hands-on activities, SAE, Conferences, Conventions, competitions, etc!!! **#FFAGLC #FFA #GREENHAND**

rc.ag.ed The Greenhand Leadership Conference was a success! From team building games to learning about opportunities in **#AgEd** and **#FFA**, these **#RCFFA** freshmen had a blast! **#FFAGLC @californiaffa**

woodlakeffa 50 of Woodlake FFA's best Greenhands traveled to the International Agricenter today for an unforgettable experience. They developed a better understanding of why FFA is the most elite youth organization and what opportunities they will be offered throughout their four years in the organization. Thank you **#ffaglc** for changing the lives of these future leaders in America. **#winlake**

CALIFORNIA SUCCESS AT 2015 NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION

The 88th National FFA Convention was held on October 28-31, 2015 in Louisville, Kentucky. The convention set an all-time attendance record with 65,357 members, teachers, and guests in attendance.

Below are the achievements of California members, chapters and educators. **National Champions are pictured.**

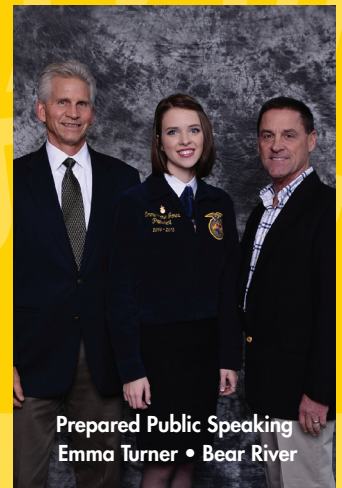
NATIONAL CONTESTS:	TEAM PLACING	CHAPTER
Agricultural Issues	2nd	Gold
Agriculture Mechanics	National Champions	Golden West
Agricultural Sales	7th	Gold
Agronomy	3rd	Gold
Creed Speaking	2nd	Gold
Dairy Cattle Judging	10th	Gold
Enviro & Natural Resources	4th	Gold
Extemporaneous Speaking	2nd	Gold
Farm Business Management	–	Silver
Floriculture	8th	Gold
Forestry	–	Bronze
Horse Judging	4th	Gold
Job Interview	National Champion	Hughson
Livestock Evaluation	10th	Gold
Market Plan	–	Silver
Meat Judging	8th	Gold
Milk Quality & Products	National Champion	Santa Maria
Nursery/Landscape	5th	Gold
Parliamentary Procedure (N)	2nd	Gold
Parliamentary Procedure	National Champion	San Luis Obispo
Poultry	4th	Gold
Prepared Public Speaking	National Champion	Bear River
Veterinary Science	3rd	Gold



Agriculture Mechanics • Golden West



Job Interview
Mark Borges • Hughson



Prepared Public Speaking
Emma Turner • Bear River



Milk Quality and Products • Santa Maria



Agriscience Fair, Animal Systems • Talie L. Cloud • Sanger



Advanced Parliamentary Procedure • San Luis Obispo

AGRISCIENCE FAIR:

One California National Agriscience Fair Winner from 18 Finalists:

Animal Systems **Talie L. Cloud** **Sanger**

AMERICAN STAR AWARDS:

Star in Agriscience Finalist **Jillian Ann Drake** **Fallbrook**

VIP CITATION AWARD:

Jean Landeen CDE Consultant, Central Region Retired
Dr. William Kellogg AgEd Teacher Educator, Cal Poly, SLO Retired

(Continued on page 5)



Specialty Animal Production • Victor Elias Johnson • Lemoore



Wildlife Production & Management • Logan Douglas • Oakdale

NATIONAL PROFICIENCY AWARDS:

Two California National Proficiency Winners from 16 Finalists:

- Specialty Animal Production** Victor Elias Johnson Lemoore
- Wildlife Production & Management** Logan Douglas Oakdale

AMERICAN FFA DEGREE RECIPIENTS:

California had the third largest state total of degree recipients with 272 total recipients. Nationwide there were 3,434 American FFA Degree recipients awarded.

HONORARY AMERICAN FFA DEGREE RECIPIENTS:

Matt Patton	Ag Teacher	Elk Grove	Central Region
Mark Nower	Ag Teacher	Modesto-Gregori	Central Region
Darol Fishman	Ag Coordinator	Merced JC	Central Region
Kimberly Arntz	Ag Teacher	Petaluma	North Coast Region
Michael Mederos	Ag Teacher	Tulare	San Joaquin Region
Scott Duffin	Ag Teacher	Fallbrook	Southern Region
Clemente Ayon	Ag Teacher	Santa Maria	South Coast Region
George Wold	Ag Teacher	Anderson	Superior Region

NATIONAL MODEL OF INNOVATION:

Norco FFA was a finalist in the Student Development category within the National Chapter Award program.

NATIONAL CHAPTER AWARDS:

California had 27 chapters recognized as National Award winners, with sixteen of those awarded one star. Two and three star chapters are listed below:

Three Star	Exeter	Littlerock	Norco
	Lodi	San Luis Obispo	
Two Star	Butte Valley	Holville	Pleasant Grove
	St. Helena	Santa Maria	Strathmore •



suitup_khan_j
Washington, Distric... FOLLOW

180 likes 8w

suitup_khan_j God has blessed me. He has given me this opportunity to travel with an awesome group to the 88th National FFA Convention and Expo in Louisville Kentucky. The convention was experience I'll never forget, I met people from all around the country and learning how different we lived but we had a strong similarity, which was being a part of the FFA. The National Officers were amazing speakers and really have touched me with their Retiring Addresses. Andy Paul is truly a role model and someone to really follow as well as all the other officers. After meeting so many people in Louisville, We took our trip to DC with all California FFA who attended nationals. I am grateful to have California FFA allow us to explore the historical monuments and land we were blessed to walk on. The state officers really made the experience even more enjoyable!! look forward to coming back next year and meeting more members

❤️ Add a comment... ⋮



beccomariebb13 FOLLOW

20 likes 6w

beccomariebb13 Take me back 😭 Really missing Kentucky...Love that FFA life Nothing feels better than wearing that jacket 🍷 #ffa #californiaffa #blueandgold

❤️ Add a comment... ⋮



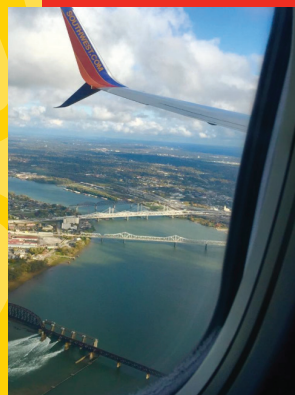
oakdaleffa FOLLOW

97 likes 8w

oakdaleffa #californiaffa @californiaffa with @repostapp.

These CA National Delegates worked on committees and voted on amendments that will affect our National Organization & ultimately our local chapters. As we head into the last session of the 88th National FFA Convention & Expo tomorrow, we would like to thank them for their commitment, passion, & enthusiasm this week on behalf of our membership. ❤️ #amplifyffa #illuminateCAFFA

❤️ Add a comment... ⋮



centralcatholic_ffa FOLLOW

78 likes 8w

centralcatholic_ffa Goodbye Louisville! Thank you #nationalffa and Kentucky for all the memories. #amplifyffa #centralcatholicffa #californiaffa

❤️ Add a comment... ⋮

OUTSTANDING CHAPTER

Lucerne Valley FFA

Resting in the beautiful High Desert Section of the Southern Region, Lucerne Valley is a small scenic town of just under 7,000 people who are spread over 150 square miles. Our high school population is small, hovering around 215 students, but the Agriculture program touches nearly half, at 105 students. Lucerne Valley FFA was chartered in 1994 and since then we have had our one advisor and teacher, a Canadian transplant, Mr. Troy Van Bavel. Locally, we have many small livestock farms and the main crops are alfalfa and pistachios, with a few other varieties of specialty crops. There are three major mines that hug the surrounding mountains. Lucerne Valley FFA has thrived throughout these years largely due to the administration and community support, and the dedicated hard work of chapter members, past and present. The continued dedication, loyalty, and support by a variety of people, businesses, and community groups in our little town have played a major role in the success and reputation of our chapter.

Our chapter is smaller in terms of numbers, yet our membership is large within our



total population. Lucerne Valley agriculture department is able to offer the incoming freshmen earth science as a starter class, and then continue with a variety of classes in leadership, agriscience, landscape, and agriculture mechanics. It is in the earth science class where students receive the “eye-opening”

Lucerne Valley's FFA Chapter includes nearly half of the high school's population

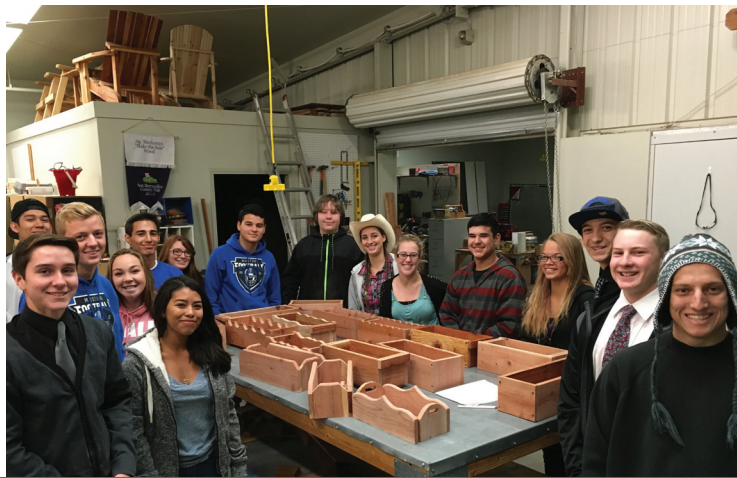
unit on FFA, with every student earning their Greenhand degree and starting their SAE projects.

We have developed many traditions over the years. Every year, like other chapters, the Greenhands paint their hands green to develop team spirit and induct these members

into a storied and passionate group of young people. We also have administrative and staff support as the day is transformed around the Greenhand recipients. The chapter officers are able to present a leadership workshop during a class period filled with fun, challenging, and leadership focused activities. During the final period of the day, the entire freshman class is released to the auditorium where they all are presented the Greenhand Degree during an official ceremony. This is a great way to ensure that nobody misses out on the importance of this degree and all that entails being a FFA member. The second year members are geared to give their “Chapter Degree Presentations”; presentations that are student focused.

FFA Week activities have become a favorite to watch and indulge in as the students really enjoy themselves and the involvement from

{ Continued on page 7 }





staff. All week the classes participate in events that accumulate into a final competition where the entire FFA program is released for a half day to compete. Events include the a-frame, log ski, hay and straw stack, tractor pull, seven-legged race, strong man and woman, egg toss, pepper eating, and team tug-of-war.

The Chapter meetings we host are always huge events with students, staff, and families alike. With a committed officer team, we hold many unique activities to engage all our students. Events can range from capture the flag, to a huge Call of Duty "gamer"

tournament. Our chapter has been home to plenty of sectional officers, regional officers, and even a state officer back in 2001.

The members of the Lucerne Valley FFA Chapter are very dedicated to their SAE projects of various levels. Our chapter has a unique relationship with the local mining sites and students therefore are engaged in reclamation projects within the mining sites. Students collect, grow, care, and revegetate the mined areas in the rugged landscape surrounding our beautiful desert location. Students share their knowledge by working

with the elementary school to host "Ag Days." At this event fourth graders come to explore what a day on the school farm consists of, including animals, building a shop project, and planting in the greenhouse. Within the community, we give tractor and hay wagon rides at the town fall festival,

give presentations and support to the local garden club, and provide assistance with family fun shooting days at the Lions Club Shooting Range.

The attitude we hold around here is that "We don't have to be in FFA - We Get To!" •

Photo captions

Opposite page, clockwise starting at top:

- Chapter meetings are well attended and combine business, fun and camaraderie for the chapter and the school.
- Landscape class completing planters ready to fill from plants grown in the greenhouse.
- FFA week activities are huge events for Lucerne Valley FFA. We celebrate with many different events like the tractor pull.

This page, clockwise starting at top left:

- Our annual chapter banquet highlights the members and supporters
- Ag mechanics projects
- Lucerne Valley FFA members gearing up to show their livestock projects at fair.
- Leadership Development is the main focus of Lucerne Valley FFA. Students are excited to attend the state conference.
- FFA week activities - tug-of-war



Cal Ag Plate

LICENSE PLATE FUNDS BENEFIT CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION, FFA

If you're like most of us, anytime you go to a FFA conference, field day, booster event or any other agriculture oriented activity there are a few unifying elements that always stand-out and let you know that you're in the right place. The school vans, boots, blue jackets and now the unifying agriculture license plate. Spotting a CalAgPlate at an FFA event, a livestock show or in any random parking lot is particularly exciting for those FFA members and advisors who can still recall the work that California Association, FFA members put into making the program a reality.

Five years ago at the State FFA Conference former CDFA Secretary A.G. Kawamura announced the CalAgPlate program, and 2015 marked the first year the FFA received funding for the program. Agriculture themed specialty license plates hit the road in 2013, following a tremendous campaign by California Association, FFA members to secure 7,500 paid license plate pledges. In 2015 the California Association, FFA received just over \$162,000 from the CalAgPlate program.

If you still haven't registered for your CalAgPlate, you can purchase a plate on the DMV website www.dmv.ca.gov and go to the "Online Services" link and then select "Special Interest Plates".

The program is funded with proceeds generated through the sale and renewal of specialized, agriculture-themed license plates through the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). The funding has allowed the FFA to enhance and restore programs that were previously reduced due to budget cuts. The printing and delivery of the CA FFA News is one of many programs that was restored because of CalAgPlate funds.

The funds received so far are just the beginning. As additional plates are registered funding to California Association, FFA will exponentially increase - imagine the possibilities! Show your pride for California Agriculture and register for your CalAgPlate today. •



culian_jarli

Julian Carli
Sacramento-Sheldon
FFA

Jamming to the latest country songs!



brenaeholbert

Brenae Holbert
Lodi-Tokay FFA

On our way to CDE's, our members usually quiz each other, whether it be BIG knowledge or Floral ID.

We tell jokes and talk about crazy moments in the Ag Department, while singing along to country songs. Some of our best moments have taken place on these car rides!!

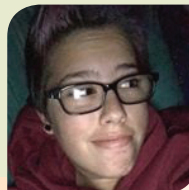


falfal_98

Fallon Hammon
Exeter FFA

My friends and I pass time in the van by listening and singing

along to hip hop classics. Or we can be found making up freestyle raps. We even video some of our rides for funny outtakes in our chapter and banquet videos. The Exeter FFA knows how to have fun!



huhgirl

Nicole Snyder
Covina FFA

My friends and I pass time by listening and dancing and singing along to music. We also get the

chance to listen to our advisor talk about the different fun facts about where we are, especially Ag related ones. Of course we also practice for the competition and we try to find fun and new ways to practice for it.

We asked...you answered!

"Spring field day season is right around the corner. **#FFANews** asks **@CaliforniaFFA** members, what is your favorite way to pass time in the ag van driving to CDEs?"



mairijojones

Mairi Jo Jones
Grass Valley-Nevada Union FFA

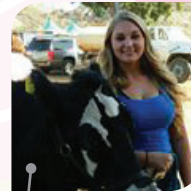
I introduced the animal game to our teams last year, and that always gets the brain thinkin' and the laughter goin'.



jordynn_rodriguez

Jordyn Rodriguez
Fullerton FFA

On our way to the competitions we constantly quiz each other and practice reasons. We laugh about past competition experiences and discuss what we can improve on and we always listen to Dixie Chicks!



mariemayhem6849

CJ Moore,
Menifee-Heritage FFA

We pass time during the van rides with singing old and new country music, oldies that our advisors listen to. Play games like holding signs to our teams in other vans to read as they drive past. Then getting serious and practicing for the competition.



lukeoleary

Luke O'Leary
San Luis Obispo FFA

We always play the game Connection! And of course, lots of great music play lists.

Attention members of California Association, FFA! Be sure to follow "California FFA" on Instagram, Twitter, Facebook and Snapchat.



CHINO- DON LUGO FFA Salute to Our Veterans for Veteran's Day

Submitted by Cody Armstrong

The Don Lugo Chapter officers and members assisted in Riverside National Cemetery's "A Flag for All Heroes" flag placement ceremony on November 7th. Members and officers placed flags on the markers of America's heroes in recognition of the service that they provided our country. Several families, friends and supporters were there and proud to be part of this event that promotes gratitude to our Nation's military families. One of the most rewarding parts of the day was being able to meet with the other community members and families that were also helping with the flag placement. This is an activity that we will not soon forget and hope to repeat next year.



JACKSON-ARGONAUT FFA Because of the Brave

By Brittany Gold

On November 7th our FFA chapter volunteered at a clay shoot in celebration of Veterans Day. Our members took advantage of this opportunity to make a difference in our community and to honor those who give so much for us. While our members were helping with score cards, raffles and decorating, some were delivering water to shooters on the course and helping serve lunch. A few of our members participated in Honor Guard. This was a fun and humbling event. Our members met and got to know the veterans of our community, and be part of a ceremony to honor our fallen soldiers. It was a learning event as well. We had the opportunity to learn about the POW MIA table and what it symbolizes. Argonaut FFA "holds an in-born fondness" for our members of the Armed Forces, and are glad we could help make a difference in our home town. We are excited to volunteer and participate at the Lone Veterans Memorial Walk this spring.



Your Chapter FFA

Let Us Know Your Chapter's Scoop! Here's how...

1) Submit a 100-150 word article about your chapter's recent activity.

- a. Please do not include members or advisors names within the article.
- b. The article should be about an interesting/unique type of FFA activity. This is an opportunity to showcase new and innovative chapter activities.

2) Attach a GREAT quality digital photo.

- a. Photos should be in color and help further explain the submitted article.
- b. Photos must include members with appropriate clothing & behavior.
- c. Photos must be sent as individual jpeg files.

3) Email the above information to news@californiaffa.org.

The subject of the email must include your chapter's name. In the email, please include the author of the chapter scoop and title of the article.

4) Please reference page two for CA FFA News Submission Deadlines

{ Continued on page 14 }

A chance of a lifetime...

One member's reflection on her National Convention experience and the D.C. Monuments that inspired her

Submitted by
Gabby Castillo,
Surprise Valley

I am Gabby Castillo, the Vice-President of the Surprise Valley FFA chapter, located in the upper northeast corner of California. I was one of the many people who had the opportunity this year to attend the National FFA Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. I come from a very small community with only 45 students in our high school, grades 8-12. **Growing up in a small community it was a chance of a lifetime to be one of only nine students who got to go from our chapter.** Not only did we get the chance to attend the convention in Louisville, but also Washington, D.C. Looking back, all of the hard work and time put into fundraising for this

trip was tedious, but definitely worth it. It was a trip that I will never forget! It truly was that trip of a lifetime for a small town kid like myself. For some of us it was our first time flying, for all of us we explored Louisville for the last time as FFA members; we met-up with long lost friends and made new ones; visited some of the most memorable monuments and memorials, and experienced **pride from the impressed looks others gave us when they asked what "FFA" was** and when we explained why we wear the national blue corduroy.

Out of all of the remarkable things I got to experience, I loved seeing all of the memorials the most. They are absolutely stunning, and hold so much important history behind them. **Being able to see and experience the places dedicated to some of the most inspirational and brave people in our country's history, those who have made such changes for our lives, to make them better, is something to truly value each day.** If someone were to ask me if I would recommend for them to attend National Convention, I would say yes, in a heartbeat. •



STATE OFFICERS ON THE go

START Indio FFA, thank you for introducing Bre and Dani to Indio-famous Date Shakes - they are delicious!!

The excitement was alive at **Shasta Lake-Central Valley FFA** as Sydnie and Dani saw the growth of their program!

Tim and Dani met amazingly motivated students as were introduced to the charter members of the **Porterville-Summit Charter FFA Chapter!**

Bre and Syd felt incredibly welcomed at **Hollister FFA!** From s'mores, stories and our very own pillows...we were not ready to go!

STATE OFFICERS SHARE

At the **Bakersfield-North FFA Chapter**, all officers enjoyed a homemade spaghetti dinner as we played Apples to Apples and chatted over our most embarrassing stories.

Woodland-Christian - Where Syd and Tim enjoyed a rockin' band, exotic burgers and a photo scavenger hunt... We couldn't have asked for a better time!

Oakhurst-Yosemite FFA + ice cream + late night chats in a camper = the priceless experience Sydnie and Joelle received!

Sydnie and Tim played ultimate frisbee and danced in the rain with the members of **Calipatria FFA!** A little storm can't ever darken these folk's day!

Woodland-Pioneer FFA, Bre and Dani felt that their time with you was unforget-a-bowl!

Riverdale FFA showed Dani and Trevor their passion for advocating agriculture!

Dani and Trevor enjoyed playing pool & the small town pride at **Tollhouse-Sierra FFA!**

Bre and Danielle with Indio FFA

Woodland FFA - From wearing nylons on our head to getting way too competitive while decorating pumpkins, Trev and Tim will always remember our visit to Woodland!



Joelle & Trevor with El Centro FFA

At **Menifee-Heritage**, Sydnie and Tim enjoyed sushi, froyo, and awesome conversations by the fire! The Arc (barn) and people at this place are unforgettable!

Alturas-Modoc FFA - From bonfires to tire swings, there's no doubt that you made Joelle and Tim feel right at home on our visit!

Foothill FFA - "OMG Joelle and Bre so didn't go here?!" With their awesome selections of Mexican food and enjoying some good old Netflix movies, Foothill sure rubbed some of their flare on us!

Danielle and Sydnie felt the comfort of small town USA with a warm and unbelievably friendly visit to **Bieber-Big Valley FFA!**

Not even a camel attack could knock down the time Trevor and Danielle had with **Chowchilla FFA!** Thank you for showing us the heart in your program.

Disneyland truly became the 'Happiest Place on Earth' when Syd and Trev got to experience its magic with the individuals of **Norco FFA**. We can't begin to express what an incredible time we had!

ON THE ROAD VISITING CHAPTERS

With the **O'Neals-Minarets Chapter** Syd and Jo jumped for joy (literally) and we were overjoyed getting to spend the day with some of the best people out there!

At **Visalia** Trevor and Sydnie felt like family-surrounded by great people and an incredible farm. Nobody is stopping these individuals from their mission of creating tradition

From sweet treats to even sweeter people, We had a day full of random acts of kindness and Sydnie and Joelle left **Laton FFA** with full hearts and tummies!

Danielle & Breanna enjoyed a night full of pizza, popcorn, giggles, and all things girly at a sleep over with the ladies of the **Imperial FFA Chapter!**

Lake Isabella-Kern Valley FFA - Ultimate Lip Sync Battle! Kern Valley FFA versus State Officers Tim and Bre! Even though we received second, we sure let loose and had a blast!

At **Modesto-Gregori FFA**, Trevor and Sydnie met some of the sweetest and most genuine members in the state! You guys rock.

You know when you're greeted by students in bow ties, the BEST Mexican food and dressy shoes, you're in for quite the time too! **Caruthers FFA** showed Syd and Joelle a class act!

Gridely FFA - Killer pizza and an even more killer volleyball game! Trevor and Bre were ecstatic to watch them play and hang out with awesome company

Sydnie and Danielle felt privileged to be a part of **Hayfork's** Homecoming, ya'll were quite the characters!

Dani and Bre loved the genuine conversations and half gallons of chocolate milk with the **Wildomar-Elsinore Aggies!**

Lone Pine FFA - YEE-HAW! Home of old westerns and billboard classics, Lone Pine sure rolled out the red carpet and showed city slickers Bre and Tim how to have a real good time!

At **Half Moon Bay**, Danielle and Joelle enjoyed trying 100% locally grown products and getting lost in an insane hay maze with you all!

Hemet FFA filled Sydnie and Trevor's bellies with food, the GREATEST cake and a multitude of laughs!

Biggs FFA - It was RICE to meet you! Thank you for taking us on an industry visit that we will never forget, you made our stay very memorable!

Merced-El Capitan FFA swag, a home-cooked meal, and funny stories made for a great experience for Dani and Trevor!

Livermore FFA, Sydnie and Bre had a shootin' good time playing laser tag and enjoyed the 'mini' (golf) experiences! Thanks for all the laughs and kindness.

Dance battles on DDR, and an epic bumper car battle made for a great night with the **Perris FFA** Chapter, Tim and Danielle enjoyed their time with y'all!

Bishop FFA - Out of this world sandwiches and extreme bowling consumed Tim and Bre's interest! But even more, the students were stars that shined the brightest!

Westwood FFA - These lumber jacks know how to snack on some good pizza while Bre and Trevor hung out and watched volleyball!

Macarthur-Fall River FFA - Trevor and Bre had a great time exchanging stories while watching the game! Macarthur FFA sure knows how to build connections

Kingsburg FFA - Ummm...Tim and Bre took awkward family photos to the extreme! Thank you for late night chats and even greater connections!

Just as Sydnie and Breanna bleed blue and gold, so does the **Salinas Everett-Alvarez** Chapter! They've got the best spirit, rallies and school colors!

Redding Mt. Lake - Joelle and Tim had a stellar time walking the Sundial bridge and chowin' down with ya'll!

Jurupa Valley FFA - Friends, all you can eat, and fun?! Where else but John's?! Enjoyment level was "high key" through the roof when Joelle and Bre visited Jurupa Valley FFA!

MEMORABLE MOMENTS

Weaverville-Trinity FFA - From the town that brought us authentic Mexican food and genuine students, Joelle and Tim had a blast hangin' with all of you!

Cedarville FFA - Food, fun and volleyball? Bre and Trevor really couldn't ask for "s'more"!

Who can successfully eat 30 scoops of ice cream? Bre, Dani, and **Rubidoux FFA**, of course...we had a sweet time!

Bakersfield-Golden Valley - Thank you for welcoming Tim & Syd and showing us a "Golden" time!

At **Wonderful College Prep Academy**, Trevor and Sydnie played paintball, took radish selfies and felt like lifelong friends. Thanks for showing us a "Wonderful" time!

With **Upper Lake FFA**, three chapters united to help with donations for those affected by the Valley Fire in Middletown. Bre, Dani, and Jo loved seeing the strength in community.



Tim and Danielle enjoyed meeting the entire FFA family at **Chino-Don Lugo FFA**, including the countless pigs, sheep, and horses on the farm!

Thank you, **Salinas FFA**, for giving Dani and Jo a night full of laughs and a day full of smiles as we rocked out to High School Musical and Hannah Montana!

The Mighty Mustangs of the **Hemet-West Valley** FFA Chapter showed us their strength as they worked on their exciting and developing farm!

At **Brawley FFA**, the people and program are just stellar! Tim and Syd had a jammin' time with these guys!

Kelseyville FFA - Trev and Tim had a blast with you all, thank you for dancing with us!

Middletown FFA - Good pizza, great people, and an even better experience getting to know you! Thank you for teaching Trevor and Tim what it truly means to be #MiddletownStrong!

Madera FFA - Where the farm, heart, and spirit is so large you can't help but feel welcomed! Joelle and Sydnie cannot wait to see members step-up to their opportunities in this chapter!

THROUGHOUT THE STATE

Live Oak FFA, thank you for naming your lizards, "Dani" and "Sydnie", as well as sharing with us your FFAfamily!

Bakersfield FFA - Explosive energy, floral montages, and late night chats! Bakersfield sure knows how to take care of us! Bre and Tim had such an amazing experience!

Bakersfield-Ridgeview FFA surely showed us an American-Ninja worthy time as Dani and Bre conquered the mock-course at a trampoline arena!

Lakeside-El Capitan was full of homemade pizza, puppies, a picture perfect sunrise and personable people! Syd and Tim could not have asked for more.

Corcoran FFA - Yummy food, and even more lovable company! Bre and Joelle thought the enthusiasm level was exciting!

North Salinas FFA showed Joelle and Danielle their awesome pumpkin SAE projects!

FINISH



FULLERTON-SUNNY HILLS FFA Fall Festival

Submitted by Emily Colby

On October 24th, the Sunny Hills FFA Chapter had our annual Fall Festival to help raise funds for our chapter. This event was held on our farm and included many games and

activities. By attending and volunteering to work shifts, members earned FFA participation points. At our festival, we had vendors such as henna tattoos, a craft booth, and a farmers' market where we sold merchandise and fresh produce from our school farm. We offered food that included tri-tip, hot dogs, and different festival foods. Games for the younger children along with activities like pie-eating contests for students were offered. Over 700 people attended this event, including families and school administrators. Overall, the festival was a success, providing a family friendly environment, and resulting in a successful fundraiser for our chapter!



MENIFEE-HERITAGE FFA Operation Gratitude

Submitted by Karla Monroy

This Thanksgiving, the Menifee-Heritage FFA chapter gave thanks and love to those who may not receive it. For our November meeting, members created personal placemats expressing their gratitude, care, and warmth for the elderly. Not only were FFA members invited, but their family also had the opportunity to participate in creating their own too. Operation Gratitude was a time for students to serve the community and be thankful while bonding with other members, the officer team, family, and advisors. Afterwards, the officer team gladly sent the placemats to a local nursing home where they were used by the elders for their Thanksgiving dinner. Giving is better than receiving and this year our chapter served the community with a recognition of our appreciation. FFA members learned no matter how small the giving is, it is the thought and love put into it that makes it greater. Operation Gratitude was a success!



YUBA CITY-RIVER VALLEY FFA Making Spirits Bright

Submitted by Genesis Becerra

River Valley FFA is a program that looks for ways to do things helpful to the school and community. For the last few years members have donated all the fixings for a Thanksgiving Dinner we then choose needy families from a nearby elementary school to donate the food to. This year we were able to supply over 10 bags of groceries to each of five very lucky families. Our program loves to give to those families that are in

need of a little extra Christmas cheer. This year our members donated Christmas decorations and lights to decorate five Christmas trees. The decorated trees were then delivered to five families in our community that needed a little extra help during the holiday season. Our officers were able to see the smile in children's eyes as they walked up to the front door with a completely decorated tree with lights and all. What a great gift!

TEMPLETON FFA Motivating Freshmen

Submitted by Brent Hill

During the month of November, the Templeton FFA Chapter decided to educate the freshmen in the Agriculture Biology and Introduction to Agriculture Mechanics classes. The FFA Leadership class wanted to incorporate agriculture experiences for these students during Greenhand week. The leadership class took the freshmen classes to the school farm to give them a hands-on approach to agriculture. This involved teaching students how to raise livestock, show livestock, how to properly plant seeds, tractor safety, and how to rope a dummy animal. The freshmen all enjoyed this experience and are excited about agriculture and motivated to get involved in the Templeton FFA program.



{ Continued on page 15 }



RIPON CHRISTIAN FFA Inaugural Ag Day

Submitted by Bailey Silveira

Ripon Christian FFA was chartered in September 2015. On November 13th, the chapter hosted an Ag Day event for all 430 of the K-8 students at Ripon Christian Schools. In the morning, over 20 representatives from the agricultural community gave presentations about different agricultural topics, ranging from aquaculture to almond production. Some presentations, run by our FFA members,

focused on Agricultural Education and the FFA. In the afternoon, kindergarten through 3rd grade had a reading of the book "The Big Red Tractor" by FFA members. Grades 4th and 5th watched a sheep shearing demo. The biggest afternoon hit was the "Ag Olympics" for 6th through 8th graders. Led by FFA members, the middle school students competed in a straw bale relay, sack races, tug-of-war, and other team building games. All in all, Ag Day 2015 was a great success to kick off Ripon Christian FFA!



GALT-LIBERTY RANCH FFA Classes Unite

By Alyssa Snow

Liberty Ranch FFA has united our science, floral, economy and government, and Farm to Fork classes to develop a "farm", in which we plant, harvest, market, price, advertise, and sell different products each week. Our Biology classes plant, transplant, and harvest seedlings for each season using our greenhouse and community garden. Our economy and governments classes research competitor prices to make our products more suitable to the consumers in our community and advertise each week's product in an insert we post on our website. The floral classes craft and sell seasonal floral arrangements, and the Farm to Fork class tests and releases recipes, ways to prepare each item, and cooking tips for our buyers. Some of our top selling products include lettuce, garlic, pumpkin, floral arrangements, and lavender. This farm has integrated the agricultural aspect into our curriculum even more and has allowed us to make a difference in our community by working together.



GRIDLEY FFA Seeds of Hope for Our Community

Submitted by Mikayla Schnepel

Beginning this year, Gridley FFA has started a new tradition, one that gives back to our community, just in time for the holidays! On November 23rd, we held our November

meeting, but with one request from our members, to bring in at least one canned food item, if they could spare. And we were truly astounded with how many cans were brought in! With almost everyone of the approximate 160 members that came to the meeting bringing a few cans, Gridley FFA chapter filled a large shopping cart with canned goods, all the way to the brim! The local food bank was overjoyed to receive such a large donation in time for the holidays. We plan to continue this tradition for many years to come, because we are "planting the seeds of today, for the future of tomorrow", believing these seeds of hope and good deeds will enhance our community's future.



FORTUNA FFA Not Your Average Food Drive

Submitted by Haley Benbow

In early November, 90 members of Fortuna FFA took part in the chapter's annual door-to-door canned food drive. Despite the rainy weather, members hit the streets of Fortuna equipped with shopping carts and asked for donations of canned items to benefit the Fortuna Pantry Shelf. To make things more interesting, we turned this into a friendly competition and offered a prize to the team that brought in the most goods. Thanks to the generous support of the community, we collected a grand total of 462 items in less than thirty minutes! The holiday season is a very busy time for organizations such as the Fortuna Pantry Shelf, so Fortuna FFA was more than happy to contribute to such a great cause. •

COMING SOON...

CALIFORNIA STATE FFA LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



ELECTRIFY

APRIL 23-26, 2016 • FRESNO, CALIFORNIA

Thank you to the James G. Boswell Foundation for their continued support through the California FFA Foundation. Their donation provides a \$25 discount per attendee.

• **KEYNOTE SPEAKERS** •

BRAD MONTAGUE is a writer, director, and father who believes that if kids and grown-ups work together, we can change the world. He loves old movies, burritos, and meowing the words to his favorite songs. As creator of Kid President, he developed the idea after being inspired by a group of young people at GO! Camp, an annual summer program he and his wife run.



BROOKS GIBBS is an author, speaker, and social skills educator. He's spoken to over one-million students, hosted national radio/tv shows, and has been featured as an expert in publications like the Huffington Post, Fox News, and the New York Times. He is an expert at helping student leaders to become emotionally resilient against negative criticism and empowering them to remain positive in the midst of any negative circumstances.



• **NATIONAL OFFICER ADDRESSES** •

National President, Taylor McNeel and National Secretary, Nick Baker

STATE CONFERENCE APP WILL BE RELEASED IN FEBRUARY