

# California FFANEWS

SPRING 2019

VOL. 7 • NO. 3

## CONTENTS



- 6 National Convention & Expo Reflections



- 8 National CDE and LDE Champions



- 9 Honorary & American Degree Recipients

- + Alumni in Action  
Chapter Scoops

Street Beat: #ffaGLC  
Greenhand Leadership  
Conference Recaps



4

Featured Chapter: Santa Maria

# California FFANEWS

Spring 2019 | Volume 7 | Number 3

California FFA News is published quarterly by the 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](mailto:news@californiaffa.org).

Submission deadlines:

Fall..... June 1st

Winter ..... September 1st

Spring ..... November 15th

Summer ..... March 1st

## *Stay in touch...*

*"California FFA"*



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**MARCH • Various** Field Days - Statewide  
**5-8** Sacramento Leadership Experience

**APRIL • Various** Field Days - Statewide **24** State LDE  
Speaking Finals - Anaheim **25** State Parli Pro Finals -  
Anaheim **25-28** 91st State FFA Convention - Anaheim

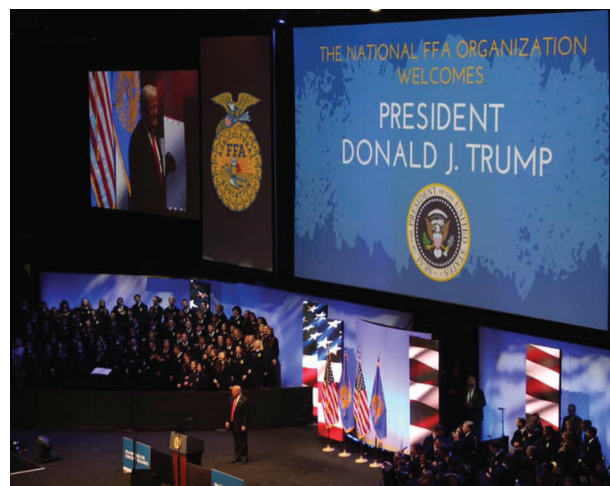
**MAY • 4** State CDE Finals - San Luis Obispo  
**24** American FFA Degree Applications Due

For a list of current FFA events please visit [www.CalAgEd.org](http://www.CalAgEd.org)

# NATIONAL FFA *Convention & Expo Recap*

**CALIFORNIA FFA ONCE AGAIN TOOK PLACE AMONG THE BEST OF THE BEST DURING THE 91ST ANNUAL NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION AND EXPO.**

The 91st National FFA Convention and Expo drew a record 69,944 attendees to Indianapolis. Highlights included a special address by sitting U.S. President, Donald J. Trump, and the election of California's former State President, Luke O'Leary, to the office of National FFA President. His term will succeed National President and former California State Secretary, Breanna Holbert. We are also so proud of our Career Development Event (CDE) and Leadership Development Event (LDE) contestants and National Champions, featured beginning on page three.



## *Congratulations*

**TO CALIFORNIA'S  
OWN LUKE O'LEARY,  
ON BEING ELECTED  
2018-19 NATIONAL  
FFA PRESIDENT!**

(O'Leary pictured far left)

# NATIONAL AGRISCIENCE FAIR RESULTS



**PLANT  
SYSTEMS  
DIVISION 3**  
National  
Champion  
Mackenzie  
Camacho,  
of O'Neals -  
Minarets FFA

## FOOD PRODUCTS AND PROCESSING SYSTEMS DIVISION 4

3rd Place, Gold..... Lakeside - El Capitan FFA  
Emma Thorpe and Drew Niccum

## FOOD PRODUCTS AND PROCESSING SYSTEMS DIVISION 6

5th Place, Gold ..... Elk Grove FFA  
Delaney Sarantopoulos and Kylie Applemun

## PLANT SYSTEMS DIVISION 1

2nd Place, Gold ..... Lakeside Middle FFA  
Blake Coleman

## PLANT SYSTEMS DIVISION 3

1st Place, Gold.....O'Neals - Minarets FFA  
Mackenzie Camacho

## PLANT SYSTEMS DIVISION 4

4th Place, Gold ..... Sanger FFA  
Thomas Zumkeller and Andrew Cardoso

## POWER, STRUCTURAL AND TECHNICAL SYSTEMS DIVISION 3

5th Place, Gold ..... Lakeside - El Capitan FFA  
Tylen DuFloth

## POWER, STRUCTURAL AND TECHNICAL SYSTEMS DIVISION 5

8th Place, Silver ..... Elk Grove FFA  
Taylor Hutchison

## POWER, STRUCTURAL AND TECHNICAL SYSTEMS DIVISION 6

5th Place, Gold .....Exeter FFA  
MaryJane Archuleta-Jensen  
and Zachary Giovani •

## ANIMAL SYSTEMS DIVISION 2

10th Place, Silver .....  
Wheatland-Bear River FFA  
Hayden Webb and Caleb Eberhardt

## ANIMAL SYSTEMS DIVISION 5

5th Place, Gold .....Exeter FFA  
Grace Jardon

## ANIMAL SYSTEMS DIVISION 6

10th Place, Silver ..... Elk Grove FFA  
Heather Deakin and Jacqueline Hackbarth

## ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES/NATURAL RESOURCE SYSTEMS DIVISION 3

3rd Place, Gold..... Sanger FFA  
Haidyn Washburn

## ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES/NATURAL RESOURCE SYSTEMS DIVISION 5

2nd Place, Gold ..... Sanger FFA  
Atticus Humphrey

## ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES/NATURAL RESOURCE SYSTEMS DIVISION 6

7th Place, Silver ..... Elk Grove FFA  
Lexy Vela and Abigail Goodheart

## FOOD PRODUCTS AND PROCESSING SYSTEMS DIVISION 3

3rd Place, Gold.....Woodlake FFA  
Alyssa Mendez

# PROFICIENCY NATIONAL FINALISTS

## AGRICULTURAL COMMUNICATIONS ENTREPRENEURSHIP/PLACEMENT

Jaryn Giampaoli .....Le Grand FFA

## GOAT PRODUCTION ENTREPRENEURSHIP/PLACEMENT

Willis Wolf .....Merced - El Capitan FFA

## OUTDOOR RECREATION ENTREPRENEURSHIP/PLACEMENT

Lance Santerre..... Gridley FFA

## SPECIALTY ANIMAL PRODUCTION ENTREPRENEURSHIP/PLACEMENT

Conner Hiatt .....Madera - Liberty FFA •







## FEATURED CHAPTER

# *Santa Maria FFA*

Santa Maria is located along the beautiful central coast and is home to a vast array of agriculture production including strawberries, broccoli, beef cattle, wine grapes and a variety of row-crops. Santa Maria High School (SMHS) has a deep rooted history and a tradition of success.

Beginning in 1931, the Santa Maria FFA Chapter was originally a home for the "farm boy" but today as the demographics and community have changed, the program serves students that are from urban non-farming backgrounds. Although the community is a large scale agriculture community, most of the students in the program live within the city

limits and have limited firsthand agriculture knowledge. While this poses some challenges for the agriculture department, the traditions of success and student achievement have not changed or waived over the 88-year history of the program which includes winning the 2017 NAAE Western Region Secondary Program of the Year. The traditions of the program are evident as four of the eight teachers (Marc DeBernardi, Clemente Ayon, Mark Powell and Amanda Rodriguez) are graduates of the Santa Maria FFA Program, and have chosen to teach at SMHS and to give students the opportunities they once had as Santa Maria FFA members.

Today Santa Maria FFA is the second largest



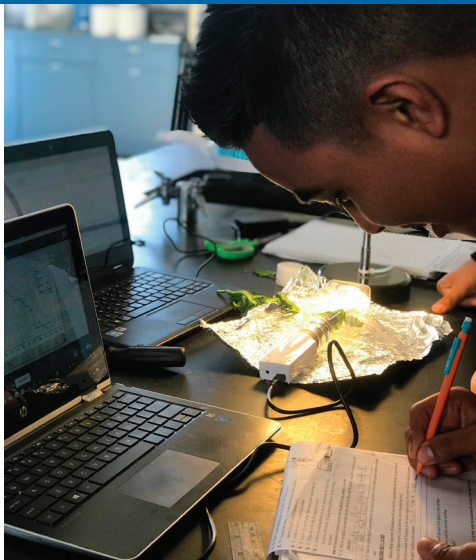
chapter in California and the third largest in the nation with 949 members. The success of the students is a reflection of the passion and dedication of all eight agriculture teachers within the program. Their approach to Agriculture Education has always been "hands-on" and "learn by doing" in all three circles of the FFA.

There is a great deal of diversity within the community and among the students of Santa Maria FFA. In order to create a program that is successful the department has worked hard to develop a diverse program which allows all students to have numerous opportunities to become involved. One of the ways that students become involved, includes being on one of the 12 different CDE teams. On any given afternoon during the spring you can walk the halls of the agriculture department and find over 75 students preparing and practicing for the upcoming CDE contests. The members

*{ Continued on page 5 }*







have found great success with ten State Championships and a National Championship Milk Quality and Dairy Products, in the past ten years.

Students in the program also have a diverse array of SAE projects to choose from including many options for work placement in the areas of vegetable, fruit, viticulture and nursery production, agriscience research projects, and livestock entrepreneurship, all of which are important forms of work in the community.

In 2018 the program had more than 50 state degrees which are attributed to the students' work placement and entrepreneurship projects.

Santa Maria FFA has a longstanding tradition of working closely with the community in terms of performing community service hours. While not a requirement, over half of our students have participated in some form of community service while in the agriculture program. The service projects range from working with the Food Bank and Toys-for-Tots to posting flags at

the cemeteries during Memorial Day. Annually, Santa Maria FFA students put in over 1,000 hours of community service with various community organization.

To maintain the traditions of the FFA, Santa Maria FFA has found it to be vital to develop outstanding academic courses and pathways, allow students to have a variety of leadership opportunities throughout the FFA and engage students with countless hand-on learning experiences in the field of agriculture. •

*Photo Captions (opposite page, upper left, rotating clockwise):* 2018 State Degree award recipients from Santa Maria; students help harvest grapes at Allen Hancock College; Sustainable Ag Biology Course students learn to use technology to collect and analyze data; Mr. Guerra helps a student learn about oxy-fuel cutting; in the summer of 2018 students attended the ground breaking for the 25-acre school farm; Santa Maria Agricultural Department instructors Marc DeBernardi, Luis Guerra, Shannon Powell, Sara Araujo, Amanda Rodriguez, Melissa Flory-Guerra,

Clemente Ayon, and Mark Powell; each month floral students make over 50 arrangements for the Flower of the Month Club; a winning group photo of students at the Cal Poly State FFA Finals; community service flag posting on Memorial Day; each summer 34 students show and auction turkeys at the county fair; students learn through hand-on projects in the greenhouse; and a student in the Agriculture Survey Course works on his electrical board.





# In their own words...

## FFA members reflect on attending the National FFA Convention and Expo

To say that a visit to National Convention is an unforgettable experience is an understatement. It is almost unexplainable just how much of an impact this trip has on your FFA experience. This year, I was honored to serve as a national delegate. The committee I was a part of and the business meetings I sat in on reminded me that the FFA truly is student-led. Our members were the ones reflecting on our organization's progress and were the ones giving recommendations to our adult advisors to help us grow toward our future. The power was in our hands.



Some of the most impactful moments of National Convention came from the experiences within the general sessions. The energy in the arena was contagious. We listened to motivational speakers, industry leaders, retiring National Officers, and even the President of the United States. Best of all, we were able to give recognition to the highest achieving and most deserving members of our organization and watch as another one of California's own was elected into National Office. I was lucky to experience these sessions while surrounded by the members who have the

most pride for FFA.

After the closing of the convention, we traveled to our nation's capital. During our time there, we toured some of the most historic places in our country with the blue corduroy on our backs. Every night, we visited monuments dedicated to the most influential people in our country's history. Each of the stops we made reflected the ideals that FFA holds dear: service, leadership, respect. This is the reason we use the eagle as a part of our organization's emblem. California FFA's trip to National Convention and Washington, D.C., positively influences your perspective and it is one that I hope every member has the opportunity to take.

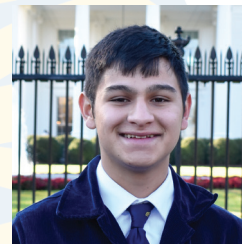
~ Kylie Farmer, Chowchilla FFA

On October 23rd my chapter and I left for National Convention. Even though National Convention is held yearly, our chapter only attends every three years. So, this really is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for a rural kid like me. Throughout the nine days, I experienced and saw many things that are out of the ordinary for me. I got a chance to visit many places that I've only ever read about.

Although the entire convention was a new experience for me, I enjoyed seeing National President and California member, Breanna Holbert on stage during the opening session. As an 8th grader she visited our school and it

is crazy that she was now a National Officer, and I was lucky enough to attend the year that she was President. Also, this year our chapter had an American Degree recipient. Although California was almost last to be called, it was so cool to see our own Bayley Fee up on stage with Breanna receiving her degree.

Some of the best moments on this trip were possible because I met new people: FFA members, chaperones and many advisors. This trip gave me the opportunity to meet



people from all over the U.S. I enjoyed talking to others from different states and seeing more than just "California" on the backs of jackets.

These were just some highlights from National Convention. I experienced and learned many things on this trip. This trip gave me a sense of how great my life really is in this tiny little town. Looking back, I would change nothing about convention, or the trip itself. I had the time of my life at National Convention.

~ Arturo Ledezma,  
Ceaderville FFA

Going to the FFA National Convention and Expo in Indianapolis, Indiana and then on to Washington, D.C. was awesome! I was reluctant to go at first, but my parents and FFA advisor encouraged me to do so, and for that I am very grateful.

After attending the 91st National FFA Convention and Expo, we flew to Washington, D.C. Seeing George Washington's home at Mount Vernon along with other memorials was very interesting as they represent our nation's history. My favorite destination was Arlington National Cemetery. I am a member of our school Color Guard



and I found watching the Changing of the Guard motivational and inspiring. The guards' precision in their movements not only showed their dedication but also honored our U.S. veterans and soldiers. I was proud to watch our California State Officers place a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Having a tour of the Capital was exciting because we were fortunate enough to meet our California Congressman Doug LaMalfa's staff in his office and speak with them about issues affecting Northern California, rural schools and agriculture. Afterwards, they gave the Big Valley FFA group a private tour

of the Capital and the House Floor. Although we did not get to go into the White House, we were able to take a impressive group photo with all California FFA members.

Wearing our official dress throughout the trip to Indianapolis and Washington, D.C. gave us the opportunity to talk to people we encountered and introduce them to FFA and agriculture.

I want to encourage my fellow FFA members to take advantage of this opportunity in the future; traveling outside of Big Valley was a real eye-opening experience and I had a fun and exciting time that will not be forgotten.

~ Cooper Albaugh  
Big Valley FFA •



## STREET BEAT

### CALIFORNIA MEMBERS EXPERIENCE THE NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION & EXPO



#### Ripon FFA

Having a blast in Indiana!!



#### sanluisobispoffa

Final four in the country for this team. Conduct of Chapter Meetings finals on the big stage tomorrow.



#### 00rusticoverhaul01

So proud of these kiddos...Such hard work & dedication, and it worked in their favor...Such an accomplishment - 6<sup>th</sup> in the nation, woohoo!



#### atwaterffa

Today is the first day of Delegate Operations for Kaya in Indianapolis at the National FFA Convention!

## Honorary American Degree Recipients from California

Individuals who have provided exceptional service on a national level to agriculture, agricultural education, or FFA are eligible for the Honorary American FFA Degree. Additionally, teachers who have created high-quality agricultural education programs that inspire and motivate their students to strive for success are eligible.

Honorary Degree recipients from California include:

Katie Otto, California FFA Foundation; Melissa Flory-Guerra, Santa Maria FFA; Stacy Ingalls, Sonora FFA; Karen Jones, Middletown FFA; Brenda Lacey, Lone Pine FFA; and Carole Lindsey, Norco FFA.



Pictured above, left to right: Melissa Flory-Guerra, Katie Otto, Brenda Lacey, National President Breanna Holbert, Carole Lindsey, Stacy Ingalls, and Karen Jones.

## V.I.P. Citation Recipients from California

The VIP Citation honors individuals who have dedicated 20 years of service to FFA and agricultural education on a national level.

V.I.P. Citation recipients from California include:

Jim Aschwanden, Galt; Greg Beard, San Luis Obispo; Dr. Brad Dodson, Chico; and Jack Havens, Brea

{ Continued from page 3 }

# National FFA Convention & Expo Results

## CAREER AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT EVENT NATIONAL RESULTS



### VETERINARY SCIENCE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM SUSANVILLE FFA

Kassie Sandborg, Carlene Simpson, Honesty Drake, and Waylon Miller

#### AGRICULTURAL ISSUES FORUM

Bronze Emblem Team ..... Santa Rosa FFA

#### AGRICULTURAL SALES

Silver Emblem Team..... Pierce FFA

#### AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY AND MECHANICAL SYSTEMS

2nd Place Team..... Selma FFA

Boyd Fransen, Dale Fransen, Francisco

Macias, and Jesus Hernandez

1st Place Individual..... Boyd Fransen

2nd Place Individual ..... Dale Fransen

#### AGRONOMY

8th Place Team..... Tullake FFA

Gabriela Gonzalez-Zuniga , Abigail Scanlan,  
Alex Danfort, and Leea Brown

Gold Emblem Individuals ..... Gabriela

Gonzalez-Zuniga , Abigail Scanlan,  
Alex Danfort, and Leea Brown

#### CONDUCT OF CHAPTER MEETINGS

3rd Place Team ..... San Luis Obispo FFA

Grace Greenelsh, Sophia Silacci, Camille  
Rowlandsrees, Andrew Prater, Avery Noblitt,  
Allison Dierks, and Sara McDonald

#### CREED SPEAKING

Bronze Emblem Individual.... Julianna Mueller,  
West Valley - Cottonwood FFA

#### DAIRY CATTLE EVALUATION AND MANAGEMENT

2nd Place Team..... Modesto FFA

Shianne Omlin, Sierra Omlin, Aspen Silva,  
and Emily Bavaro

6th Place Individual ..... Sierra Omlin

#### EMPLOYMENT SKILLS (JOB INTERVIEW)

4th Place Individual ..... Klyer Vernon,  
Nipomo FFA

#### ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Silver Emblem Team..... Sierra FFA

#### EXTEMPORANEOUS PUBLIC SPEAKING

Bronze Emblem Individual..... Orrin Jones,  
Live Oak FFA

#### FARM AND AGRIBUSINESS MANAGEMENT

5th Place Team..... Petaluma FFA

Kelsey Martin, Amanda King, Benjamin  
Forney, and Matt Forney

Gold Emblem Individuals ..... Kelsey Martin,

Benjamin Forney, and Matt Forney

Silver Emblem Individual ..... Amanda King

#### FLORICULTURE

6th Place Team..... Bret Harte FFA

Kaegen Moore, Madelyn Ruff, Zoe Hartsinck,  
and Jessica Goodspeed

Gold Emblem Individuals .....

Kaegen Moore, Madelyn Ruff, Zoe Hartsinck,  
and Jessica Goodspeed

#### FOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Silver Emblem Team..... Gustine FFA

Gold Emblem Individual..... Selina Lopes

Silver Emblem Individuals..... Camille Alamo  
and Marco Marsigli

Bronze Emblem Individual..... Nicole Moitozo

#### FORESTRY

Silver Emblem Team..... Trinity FFA

#### HORSE EVALUATION

6th Place Team..... Frontier-Bakersfield FFA

Riley Supertino, Caitlyn Long, Savannah  
Salters, and April Darling

4th Place Individual ..... Savannah Salters

Gold Emblem Individuals ..... Riley Supertino  
and April Darling

Silver Emblem Individual ..... Caitlyn Long

#### LIVESTOCK EVALUATION

2nd Place Team..... Oakdale FFA

Grace Verdegaa, Blake Morgan, Tavin Barry,  
and Kimber Tavares

9th Place Individual ..... Grace Verdegaa

Gold Emblem Individuals ..... Blake Morgan,  
Tavin Barry, and Kimber Tavares

#### MARKETING PLAN

3rd Place Team ..... Exeter FFA

Breanna Pike, Mia McCormick, and Brian  
Dreyer

#### MEATS EVALUATION AND TECHNOLOGY

8th Place Team..... Madera FFA

Gilberto Ortega, Amandeep Kaur, and Arthur  
Cuevas

Gold Emblem Individuals ..... Gilberto Ortega  
and Arthur Cuevas

Silver Emblem Individual..... Amandeep Kaur

#### MILK QUALITY AND PRODUCTS

3rd Place Team ..... Nipomo FFA

Ashlie Andrade, Julia Boersma, Kayla Zalesny,  
and Danika Flores

{ Continued on page 9 }



2nd Place Individual ..... Julia Boersma  
 Gold Emblem Individuals ..... Ashlie Andrade  
 and Kayla Zalesny  
 Silver Emblem Individual ..... Danika Flores

#### NURSERY/LANDSCAPE

6th Place Team .....  
 West Valley - Cottonwood FFA  
 Derek Adams, Paden Bear, Taylor Gallaty, and  
 Mira Reginato  
 7th Place Individual ..... Paden Bear,  
 10th Place Individual ..... Taylor Gallaty  
 Gold Emblem Individuals ..... Derek Adams  
 and Mira Reginato

#### PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

Gold Emblem Team ..... Bear River FFA

#### POULTRY EVALUATION

Silver Emblem Team ..... Righetti FFA  
 Gold Emblem Individual ..... Brooke Barredo  
 Silver Emblem Individuals ..... Jazzlynn Franco,  
 Maximus Guerra, and Sonora Robertson

#### PREPARED PUBLIC SPEAKING

2nd Place Individual .....  
 Haley Benbow, Fortuna FFA

#### VETERINARY SCIENCE

1st Place Team ..... Susanville FFA  
 Kassie Sandborg, Carlene Simpson, Honesty  
 Drake, and Waylon Miller  
 9th Place Individual ..... Kassie Sandborg  
 Gold Emblem Individuals ... Carlene Simpson,  
 and Honesty Drake  
 Silver Emblem Individual ..... Waylon Miller •

## California's American Degree Recipients

The American FFA Degree is awarded to members who have demonstrated the highest level of commitment to FFA and made significant accomplishments in their Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAEs). Less than 1% of FFA members receive the degree, making it one of the organization's highest honors.



American Degree recipients from Exeter FFA

*Recipients are listed in alphabetical order  
 based on their chapter name:*

Jacob Amsler, Arbuckle - Pierce FFA  
 Jessica Croxson, Arbuckle - Pierce FFA  
 Ashleigh Ehrke, Arbuckle - Pierce FFA  
 Devin Griffith, Arbuckle - Pierce FFA  
 Sydney Miller, Arcata FFA  
 Jessi Preyer, Arcata FFA  
 Alyssa Henry, Arroyo Grande FFA  
 Maria Lopez Castro, Arroyo Grande FFA  
 Joseph Morales, Arroyo Grande FFA  
 Eleanor Borba, Atascadero FFA  
 Wyatt DeBusk, Atascadero FFA  
 Russell Whitaker, Atascadero FFA  
 Courtney Creighton, Atwater FFA  
 Jasmine Desiree Flores, Atwater FFA  
 Madison Hall, Atwater FFA  
 Wyatt Pimentel, Atwater FFA  
 Gianna Pareira, Atwater - Buhach Colony FFA  
 Austin Sherman, Atwater - Buhach Colony FFA  
 Stephanie Stewart, Atwater - Buhach Colony FFA  
 Courtney Cederloff, Auburn - Placer FFA  
 Lara Macon, Auburn - Placer FFA

Jacob Richardson, Auburn - Placer FFA  
 Cheyenne Vander Schurr, Auburn - Placer FFA  
 Molly Yurdana, Auburn - Placer FFA  
 Zachary Colvin, Bakersfield - Foothill FFA  
 Andres Olvera, Bakersfield - Foothill FFA  
 Leonel Resendiz, Bakersfield - Foothill FFA  
 Alexis Sherwood, Bakersfield - Foothill FFA  
 Flor Yanez, Bakersfield - Foothill FFA  
 Madeline Branford, Bakersfield - Frontier FFA  
 Karina Coe, Bakersfield - Frontier FFA  
 Taylor Germanetti, Bakersfield - Frontier FFA  
 Hannah Hawkesworth, Bakersfield - Frontier FFA  
 Starr Hilbitts, Bakersfield - Frontier FFA  
 Brad Hudson, Bakersfield - Frontier FFA  
 Nikolas Hudson, Bakersfield - Frontier FFA  
 Tristan Hurley, Bakersfield - Frontier FFA  
 Christopher Love, Bakersfield - Frontier FFA  
 Sarah McClure, Bakersfield - Frontier FFA  
 Micaela Palmer, Bakersfield - Frontier FFA  
 Grant Rogers, Bakersfield - Frontier FFA  
 Baylie Ruiz, Bakersfield - Frontier FFA  
 Kara Stark, Bakersfield - Frontier FFA  
 Dru Sutherland, Bakersfield - Frontier FFA  
 Breanne Van Neman, Bakersfield - Frontier FFA

Madison Dewar, Bakersfield - Independence FFA  
 Joseph Grace, Bakersfield - Independence FFA  
 Alexis Jones, Bakersfield - Independence FFA  
 Bailee Stewart, Bakersfield - Independence FFA  
 Korey Turner, Bakersfield - Independence FFA  
 Joshua Burk, Bakersfield - North FFA  
 Mylene Gutierrez, Bakersfield - North FFA  
 Alexa Kinch, Bakersfield - North FFA  
 Raven Scott, Bakersfield - North FFA  
 Brianna Banducci, Bakersfield - ROC FFA  
 Jacob Lewis, Bieber - Big Valley FFA  
 Wyatt Schmitt, Bieber - Big Valley FFA  
 Anthony Salcido, Calipatria FFA  
 Nicholas Swanson, Camarillo FFA  
 Thomas Aquino, Campbell - Westmont FFA  
 Bayley Fee, Cedarville - Surprise Valley FFA  
 Joseph Hewes, Ceres - Central Valley FFA  
 Whitney Choate, Chowchilla FFA  
 Kayne Stehly, Chowchilla FFA  
 Damian Arceo, Clarksburg - Delta FFA  
 Zach Buckley, Clovis - East FFA  
 Eleanor Cumming, Clovis - East FFA  
 Makayla Hamilton, Clovis - East FFA

{ Continued on page 10 }

# California's American Degree Recipients

( Continued from page 9 )

Katelyn Merritt, Clovis - East FFA  
 Lauren Raley, Clovis - East FFA  
 Samuel Ayala, Colusa FFA  
 Alec Bailey, Colusa FFA  
 Taylor Rodriguez, Colusa FFA  
 Amanda Thomas, Colusa FFA  
 Taylor Jones, Crescent City - Del Norte FFA  
 Macey Galloway, Davis FFA  
 Sophia Armendariz, Delano FFA  
 Ethan Pobst, Delano FFA  
 Carson Haringa, Denair FFA  
 Katherine Jones, Dixon FFA  
 Prentyce Hitt, Elk Grove FFA  
 Kelsea Jones, Elk Grove - Pleasant Grove FFA  
 Catherine Eleanor Field,  
 Elk Grove- Pleasant Grove FFA  
 Riley Thomas Waterman,  
 Elk Grove-Pleasant Grove FFA  
 Isabella Medina, Escalon FFA  
 Rowan Murphy, Escalon FFA  
 Natalie Denise Bianchi, Escalon FFA  
 Allyah Perez, Esparto FFA  
 Anika Carterby, Eureka FFA  
 Tanner Levitt, Eureka FFA  
 Bradley Livingston, Eureka FFA  
 Carli Roberts, Eureka FFA  
 Cole Dunn, Exeter FFA  
 Kaitlyn McFarlan, Exeter FFA  
 Austin Robbins, Exeter FFA  
 Chance Smith, Exeter FFA  
 Audrey Greenwood, Fallbrook FFA  
 Brandon Brazil, Ferndale FFA  
 Genevieve Regli, Ferndale FFA  
 Sarah Richardson, Ferndale FFA  
 Mason Walker, Ferndale FFA  
 Hannah Lowry, Firebaugh FFA  
 Mayte Zulema Magallon, Firebaugh FFA  
 Anthony J. Molina, Firebaugh FFA  
 Dalton Emery Stuhr, Firebaugh FFA  
 Jamie Noar, Forestville - El Molino FFA  
 Kassidee Kemp, Fortuna FFA  
 Beth Chantelle Noel, Fortuna FFA  
 CHEYENNE M WALLACE, Fortuna FFA  
 Justin Joseph Renner, Fortuna FFA  
 Clinton Hoover, Fowler FFA  
 Leana Marino, Fowler FFA  
 Miranda Moles, Fowler FFA  
 Daniel Nichols, Fowler FFA  
 Noel Ortiz, Fowler FFA  
 Jacob Troxel, Fowler FFA

Emalee Wurster, Fowler FFA  
 Katelynn Boyd, Fresno - Central FFA  
 Savannah Burnett, Fresno - Central FFA  
 Faith Dunn, Fresno - Central FFA  
 Jeffrey Simpson, Fresno - Central FFA  
 Taylor Turney, Fresno - Central FFA  
 Max Horan, Fullerton FFA  
 Carly Jenkins, Fullerton FFA  
 Gregory Niklas, Fullerton FFA  
 Heather Hunt, Fullerton - Sunny Hills FFA  
 Ashle Antheunisse, Galt FFA  
 Ian Reece, Galt FFA  
 Danelle Plummer, Galt - Liberty Ranch FFA  
 Courtney Robinson, Galt - Liberty Ranch FFA  
 Brittney Lane Thompson, Galt - Liberty Ranch FFA  
 Adrianna Figone, Gilroy FFA  
 Julianna Figone, Gilroy FFA  
 Chandler Trenton Story, Golden West FFA  
 Cort Rowley, Golden West FFA  
 Elizabeth Enke, Grass Valley - Bear River FFA  
 Kendall Brazil, Grass Valley - Nevada Union FFA  
 Norvella Mendoza, Greenfield FFA  
 Gissel Neri Corcoles, Greenfield FFA  
 Nick Machado, Gustine FFA  
 Adriana Toste, Gustine FFA  
 Conor John Zuppan, Hamilton City FFA  
 Joel Baltazar Mendoza, Hamilton City FFA  
 Michael Angelo Romo, Hamilton City FFA  
 Hayden Costa, Hanford FFA  
 Audrey Michelle Evangelo, Hanford FFA  
 Cameron Standridge, Hanford FFA  
 Nathan Bryon Bellamy, Hanford FFA  
 Wyatt C Buttle, Hanford FFA  
 Victor Cuevas, Hanford FFA  
 Sabrina Foreman, Hanford FFA  
 Colten Henderson, Hanford FFA  
 Ryan O'Neal Meier, Hanford FFA  
 Mateo Luis Molina, Hanford FFA  
 Dustin John Silva, Hanford FFA  
 Jacob Willhite, Hanford FFA  
 Kristen Beth, Healdsburg FFA  
 Davey Dorr, Healdsburg FFA  
 Zoe Fish-O'Brien, Healdsburg FFA  
 Andrew Nunez, Healdsburg FFA  
 Emily Nunez, Healdsburg FFA  
 Adryen Leeann Rea, Healdsburg FFA  
 Taylor Richardson, Healdsburg FFA  
 Madison Ann Andrade, Hollister - San Benito FFA  
 Kyle Cabrera, Hollister - San Benito FFA  
 Corissa King, Hollister - San Benito FFA

Isabella Pulido, Hollister - San Benito FFA  
 Mark Scalmanini, Hollister - San Benito FFA  
 Samantha Simmons, Hollister FFA  
 Samantha Jean Warren, Hollister FFA  
 Alfred Silva, Holtville FFA  
 Jack Bayliss Grizzle, Holtville FFA  
 Cole Mamer, Holtville FFA  
 Megan Agueda, Hugon FFA  
 Shania Marie DeJarnett, Hugon FFA  
 Alyssa Sawyer, Hugon FFA  
 Madelyn Vaca, Hugon FFA  
 Nora Villarreal, Hugon FFA  
 Bayley Wiemers, Hugon FFA  
 Antonio Banducci, Independence-Bakersfield FFA  
 Reese Farmer, Jackson - Argonaut FFA  
 Devon Blacks, King City FFA  
 Emily Brewen, King City FFA  
 Christopher Davis, King City FFA  
 Alfredo Hernandez, King City FFA  
 Lauren Johnson, King City FFA  
 Annahi Manriquez, King City FFA  
 Justin Mantel, King City FFA  
 Andrea Medina, King City FFA  
 Dexter Moss, King City FFA  
 Madison G Owens, King City FFA  
 Noel Perez, King City FFA  
 Mason Rianda, King City FFA  
 Anyssa Trujillo, King City FFA  
 Matthew Umbarger, King City FFA  
 Jacky Zavala, King City FFA  
 Shayla Daniels, Kingsburg FFA  
 Makayla Grant, Kingsburg FFA  
 Macey Hammerstrom, Kingsburg FFA  
 Zech Popovich, Kingsburg FFA  
 Hena Sihota, Kingsburg FFA  
 Sierra Noble, Lake Isabella - Kern Valley FFA  
 James Witten, Lake Isabella - Kern Valley FFA  
 Blake Jackson, Lakeside - El Capitan FFA  
 Joseph Nyland, Lakeside - El Capitan FFA  
 Anne Signore, Lakeside - El Capitan FFA  
 Samantha Bright, Le Grand FFA  
 Jordan Lee, Lemoore FFA  
 Mason Silva, Lemoore FFA  
 Zack Thompson, Lemoore FFA  
 Pedro Carreno, Littlerock FFA  
 Jordan Davis, Littlerock FFA  
 Abigail Davis, Live Oak FFA  
 Halley Lauchland, Lodi FFA  
 Stephanie Gonzales, Lodi - Tokay FFA  
 Jackson Sawyer, Lodi - Tokay FFA

{ Continued on page 11 }



Ashley Williamson, Lodi-Tokay FFA  
 Tinh LeTrung, Lone Pine FFA  
 Katie Lynne Lacey, Lone Pine FFA  
 Madelyn Owens, Loomis - Del Oro FFA  
 Carissa Anne Boehle, Loomis - Del Oro FFA  
 Heather Rodriguez Ortiz, Los Molinos FFA  
 Samantha Guidotti, Loyalton FFA  
 Andrew Kielak, Loyalton FFA  
 Pedro Andrade, Madera FFA  
 Carlos Hernandez, Madera FFA  
 Seth Jessing, Madera FFA  
 Cesar A. Juarez-Ramirez, Madera FFA  
 Mireya Lopez, Madera FFA  
 Victor Lopez, Madera FFA  
 Demetria Marical, Madera FFA  
 Miguel Martinez, Madera FFA  
 Ruben Reyes, Madera FFA  
 Jonathan Santos, Madera FFA  
 Susana Villa, Madera FFA  
 Tralynn Simerley, Manteca FFA  
 Janika Gomes, Manteca - East Union FFA  
 Amanda Morison, Manteca - East Union FFA  
 Collin Billings, Mariposa FFA  
 Chelsea Shelton, Mariposa FFA  
 Faith Baker, Menifee - Heritage FFA  
 Curtis Craigmyle, Menifee - Heritage FFA  
 Haley Wilcox, Menifee - Heritage FFA  
 Anthony Wright, Menifee - Heritage FFA  
 Cole Huie, Merced FFA  
 Timothy Coca, Merced - Golden Valley FFA  
 Hailee Guinn, Merced - Golden Valley FFA  
 Krystal Lacey, Merced - Golden Valley FFA  
 Kaley Roos, Merced - Golden Valley FFA  
 Trevor LaFave, Middletown FFA  
 Riley Gonsalves, Modesto FFA  
 Allison Kidd, Modesto FFA  
 Amber Layne, Modesto FFA  
 Jared Alamo, Modesto - Central Catholic FFA  
 David Phillips, Modesto - Central Catholic FFA  
 Tyler Coleman, Modesto - Gregori FFA  
 Kai Sommers, Modesto - Gregori FFA  
 Jordyne Atkins, Morgan Hill - Sobrato FFA  
 Katrina Elizabeth Siems, Morro Bay FFA  
 Jacob Abatti, Nipomo FFA  
 Madisson Avila, Nipomo FFA  
 Erica Bowles, Nipomo FFA  
 Itsel Chavez, Nipomo FFA  
 Kaitlyn R Fleming, Nipomo FFA  
 Victoria Garcia, Nipomo FFA  
 Dustin Holt, Nipomo FFA  
 Audrianna Lemons, Nipomo FFA  
 Janeen Moore, Nipomo FFA  
 Kamaile Neel, Nipomo FFA  
 Matthew O'Henley, Nipomo FFA  
 Jessica Swope, Nipomo FFA

Trevor Thompson, Nipomo FFA  
 Jorgina Strojek, Norco FFA  
 Kaylin Strojek, Norco FFA  
 Courtney Herrera, Oakhurst - Yosemite FFA  
 Madisyn Beyer, O'Neals - Minarets FFA  
 Logan Christian, O'Neals - Minarets FFA  
 Alexis Fringer, O'Neals - Minarets FFA  
 Kailey Lemon, O'Neals - Minarets FFA  
 Shyann Mattes, O'Neals - Minarets FFA  
 Jessie Miles, O'Neals - Minarets FFA  
 Andrew Rezendes, O'Neals - Minarets FFA  
 Noah Rodrigues, O'Neals - Minarets FFA  
 Jordyn Samper, O'Neals - Minarets FFA  
 Bailey Samper, O'Neals - Minarets FFA  
 Emily Hamblin, Perris FFA  
 Courtney King, Petaluma FFA  
 Cole M Petersen, Petaluma FFA  
 Kaitlynn Zumfelde, Phelan - Serrano FFA  
 John Tyler Phillips,  
     Pine Valley - Mountain Empire FFA  
 Natalya Speer, Pioneer Valley FFA  
 Karisma Cortez, Porterville FFA  
 Chris Gindera, Porterville FFA  
 Dustin Harris, Porterville FFA  
 Cody James, Porterville FFA  
 Gavin Patrick, Porterville FFA  
 Taylor Ramos, Porterville FFA  
 Chyann Stiles, Porterville FFA  
 Erin Blucher, Poway FFA  
 Katherine Golden, Poway FFA  
 Alex Osmun, Poway FFA  
 Sarah Drown, Ramona FFA  
 Madison McCarty, Red Bluff FFA  
 Kegan Richards, Red Bluff FFA  
 Lauren Costa, Reedley FFA  
 Holly Parento, Reedley FFA  
 Heather Woods, Reedley FFA  
 Carlos Barojas,  
     Reedley - Reedley Middle College FFA  
 Jacqueline Taylor, Reedley FFA  
 Bryar Cospier, Ripon FFA  
 Steven Defreitas, Ripon FFA  
 Riley Shea Gillihan, Ripon FFA  
 Megan Harlan, Ripon FFA  
 Kayla Keating, Ripon FFA  
 Mark Stephen McPeak, Ripon FFA  
 Cassady Jayla Shirk, Ripon FFA  
 Kassidi Hofman, Ripon FFA  
 Omar Hernandez, Riverdale FFA  
 Guadalupe Reyes Paz, Rubidoux FFA  
 Fernando Gutierrez, Sacramento - Florin FFA  
 Jessica Chinca, Sacramento - Sheldon FFA  
 Alex De La Torre,  
     Salinas - Everett Alvarez FFA  
 Rodrigo Ramirez, Salinas - Everett Alvarez FFA

John Caeton Bianchi, San Benito FFA  
 Jacob Grant, San Luis Obispo FFA  
 Wyatt Judge, San Luis Obispo FFA  
 Sydney McGovern, San Luis Obispo FFA  
 Thomas Phelan, San Luis Obispo FFA  
 Jacob Ryan Walker, San Luis Obispo FFA  
 Alexa Young, San Luis Obispo FFA  
 Chelsey Limpus, Sanger FFA  
 Titus Patton, Sanger FFA  
 Dulce M Espinoza, Santa Maria FFA  
 Francisco Gutierrez-Martinez, Santa Maria FFA  
 Edgar Hernandez, Santa Maria FFA  
 Julian Lua, Santa Maria FFA  
 Alex Sandoval, Santa Maria FFA  
 Javier Silva, Santa Maria FFA  
 Steven Cervantes,  
     Santa Maria - Pioneer Valley FFA  
 Alexandra Emerick, Santa Maria - Righetti FFA  
 Brooke Minetti, Santa Maria - Righetti FFA  
 Gilbert Munoz, Santa Maria - Righetti FFA  
 Alondra Novoa, Santa Maria FFA  
 Valentina Santos, Santa Maria FFA  
 Jordan Gutsch, Santa Rosa FFA  
 Veronica Kern, Santa Rosa FFA  
 Eric Valdez, Santa Rosa FFA  
 Mariana Hernandez Gonzalez,  
     Santa Rosa - Elsie Allen FFA  
 Grady M Moosman, Santa Rosa - Elsie Allen FFA  
 Melissa Brocke, Santa Ynez FFA  
 Kayla Erath, Santa Ynez FFA  
 Maria Bartlett, Sebastopol - Analy FFA  
 Zachary Davis, Sebastopol - Analy FFA  
 Kylee Davis, Sebastopol - Analy FFA  
 Acacia Wright, Sebastopol - Analy FFA  
 Arvin Sihota, Selma FFA  
 Jewlia Winter, Selma FFA  
 Fernando Garcia, Shafter FFA  
 Joseph McManus, Shafter FFA  
 Carlos Munoz, Shafter FFA  
 Favian Trujillo, Shafter FFA  
 Jordyn Gilmore, Shingle Springs - Ponderosa FFA  
 Jason Garrett Sousa,  
     Shingle Springs - Ponderosa FFA  
 Caine Valdez, Soledad FFA  
 Kyle Massa, Soledad FFA  
 Emanuel Valdez-Rico, Soledad FFA  
 Rick Taggesell, Sonoma - Sonoma Valley FFA  
 Amanda Hill, Sonoma La Habra FFA  
 David Reyes, Sonoma La Habra FFA  
 Justin Reed Davis, St. Helena FFA  
 Christian Gomez, Stockton - Weston Ranch FFA  
 Tyson Brem, Strathmore FFA  
 Timothy Quin Braziel, Strathmore FFA  
 Amanda Farquharson, Strathmore FFA  
 Adrian Pacheco, Sunny Hills FFA

{ Continued on page 12 }

# California's American Degree Recipients

(Continued from page 11)

Breanna Uyeno, Sunny Hills FFA  
Nathan Michalik Egan, Susanville FFA  
Courtney Elizabeth Jones, Susanville FFA  
Karinna Fe Lepe, Susanville FFA  
Callie E Wemple, Susanville FFA  
Holly Mae Fortin, Susanville FFA  
Taylor Bailey, Sutter FFA  
Logan Hill, Sutter FFA  
Emily Schreiner, Sutter FFA  
KRISTINA WOOLSEY, Sutter Creek - Amador FFA  
ZOEY YOUNG, Sutter Creek - Amador FFA  
Jaycee Sharp, Taft FFA  
Shelby Watts, Taft FFA  
Matthew Bongiovanni, Tracy FFA  
Rebecca Duran, Tulare FFA  
Peyton Fernandes, Tulare FFA  
Nitin Gupta, Tulare FFA  
Shelby Keen, Tulare FFA  
Luke Van Dyk, Tulare FFA  
Jeremiah Lucas, Tulare FFA  
Sid Walker, Tulelake FFA  
Mary Frances Scanlan, Tulelake FFA  
Anthony Kellogg, Tuolumne - Summerville FFA  
Charley Baptista, Turlock FFA  
Luke Reis, Turlock FFA  
Madison Daneé Wallace, Turlock FFA  
Jonathan Santos Moules, Turlock FFA  
kyle Manuel Silva, Turlock FFA  
Robert Louis Marchy, Turlock FFA  
Hailey Atwood, Turlock - Pitman FFA  
Makayla Brady, Turlock - Pitman FFA  
Andrew Lloyd Curt, Valley Center FFA  
Emily L Franko, Valley Center FFA  
Sandra Diane Gaylord, Visalia - Golden West FFA  
Chad Gunner Nagel, Visalia - Golden West FFA  
Hannah Jane Seymore, Visalia - Golden West FFA  
Kayla Belcher, Visalia - Mt. Whitney FFA  
Adam Kagy, Visalia - Mt. Whitney FFA  
Adrian S. S Reyna Jr., Wasco FFA  
Fatima Rivera Lopez, Wasco FFA  
Jose Varela, Westminster FFA  
Lillian Sargent-Smith, Wheatland FFA  
Fallon Griffin, Winters FFA  
Stewart Ray Andres, Woodland-Pioneer FFA  
Harley Sweeden, Yuba City FFA •

## Alumni in Action

### SALINAS FFA Alumna Starts Peace Corps Service



Teresita Mendoza, 22, of Salinas, began Peace Corps service in Zambia in September 2018, training as an education volunteer.

"I think there's very little I could do with my life that I'd find more fulfilling than helping others in whatever capacity I can," said Mendoza of her desire to join the Peace Corps. "More than anything, being exposed to different ways of life and beliefs will allow me to be more compassionate and understanding—something the world can always use more of."

Mendoza is the daughter of Jose Mendoza Ramos and Patricia Padilla of Salinas and a graduate of North Salinas High School. She attended University of California, Davis, where she earned a bachelor's degree in communication and Spanish earlier this year. Prior to joining the Peace Corps, she was a mentor with The Opportunity Program at Douglass Middle School in Woodland and an aide with the Spanish immersion program at Marguerite Montgomery Elementary School in Davis. She also acted as president of the North Salinas Future Farmers of America (FFA) chapter and president of the Monterey Bay Section of FFA.

During the first three months of her service, Mendoza will live with a host family in Zambia to become fully immersed in the country's language and culture. After acquiring the necessary skills to assist her community, Mendoza will be sworn into service and assigned to a community in Zambia, where she will live and work for two years with the local people.

"Professionally, I hope to create a space for my students where mistakes are not seen as inherently negative, especially when an effort is being made," said Mendoza. "The lessons should be student

based, taking into account their learning styles. Personally, I hope to appreciate the opportunity I've been given. I suspect keeping an open mind will be a strong ally during my service."

Mendoza will work in cooperation with the local people and partner organizations on sustainable, community-based development projects that improve the lives of people in Zambia and help Mendoza develop leadership, technical and cross-cultural skills that will give her a competitive edge when she returns home. Peace Corps volunteers return from service as global citizens well-positioned for professional opportunities in today's global job market.

Mendoza joins the 873 California residents currently serving in the Peace Corps and more than 30,887 California residents who have served in the Peace Corps since 1961. •



Peace Corps Zambia

December 13, 2018 at 10:02 PM •

Teresita recently swore-in as a Rural Education Development (RED) Peace Corps Volunteer. After 11 weeks of training, she and her cohort are seen all over the country moving into their homes for the next two years! Teresita was sent off by her cohort in the Luapula Province...much thanks to the training, programming, and provincial teams for all of their support!







## HAMILTON CITY FFA Backpack Drive

by Evan Boone

California has been on fire in recent months. Despite the terrible events, local chapters have found a way to bring joy to the residents of the North State. Hamilton City, Orland, Willows, Gridley, and several other chapters across the Northern Section collected donations of school supplies to go to the families affected by the fires. After the Superior Region COLC, several chapters went on a shopping spree to collect even more supplies to go to the victims. Together they donated hundreds of backpacks. This act put smiles on the faces of many people, young and old, and set them up with school supplies for this school year.

Across the U.S. an undeserving individual lives with cancer. Forty-three children are diagnosed daily, approximately 15,695 children are diagnosed a year, and more than 40,000 are treated annually. The effects of cancer are life-changing. By reaching out to Valley Children's Hospital, our chapter hopes to bring happiness to the children being treated while taking minds off of their diagnosis. The simplest actions bring an incredible amount of happiness and helps ease their minds. As a team we decided to assemble activity bags filled with fun items that relate to agriculture. Included in the bags will also be a fleece blanket handmade by the members within our chapter. In April we'll be attending State Convention, and our members will deliver the bags to the Valley Children's Hospital. Our members will be able to donate items going to the patients at our local treatment center in town monthly.



## FOWLER FFA Off to a Great Start

by Megan Jenkins

Fowler FFA has had a very busy summer filled with planning and activities! Newly elected FFA officers had their Summer Officer Retreat in June, camping at Bass Lake. Officers were put in charge of planning the meals, cleanups, public service and bonding activities. They discussed this year's upcoming FFA events, meeting activities, the FFA Sweetheart Dance, the 2018 San Joaquin Region Leadership Bootcamp, and many different community and local service projects. Officers updated their FFA Program of Activities and FFA calendar, went fishing, and conducted fun and exciting team bonding events. The retreat also allowed officers the privilege of meeting the new Fowler High School Ag teacher who will be teaching the Ag Mechanics Pathway.

## SOBRATO FFA Ice Cream Social

by Myan Lam

On September 12th, the Sobrato FFA Chapter hosted an Ice Cream Social for the first major chapter event of the year. The Ice Cream Social provided a fun opportunity for FFA members to mingle with each other and to ease back into the beginning of the new school year. Bringing together both new and returning members, this activity encouraged students to socialize among each other, meet new people, and form new bonds, all while enjoying a generous serving of ice cream supplied by the Sobrato FFA leadership team! In addition, students were able to personally meet and converse with the new officer team, as well enjoy a few lawn games, such as corn hole and frisbee toss. The social enjoyed great success overall, with over one hundred members attending this gathering.



## TURLOCK FFA Cancer Support

by Alyce Silva



{ Continued on page 14 }



## IMPERIAL FFA Canned Food Drive

Imperial FFA recently held a canned food drive where any cans collected would be donated to our local food bank. The drive lasted from October 18th to November 5th. Our members showed great interest and intent on being apart of our small community by donating canned food. We were very proud of our members for showing such interest in this activity. After only 18 days, our chapter was able to collect over 590 cans, which ended up weighing almost 600 pounds! Our amazing members who were active in the canned food drive were able to enjoy a lunchtime nacho party hosted by our Officer Team. The canned food drive served as a great way to get our members active in the community and be a part of a great cause.



## GILROY FFA Chapter Hangouts

by Alexis Young

Gilroy FFA started a new tradition this year, Monthly Chapter Hangouts. Once a month, Gilroy FFA hosts a chapter hangout to try to promote fellowship and camaraderie within its membership. It's usually a simple event (board games, movie, study time), with lots of snacks! Our first hangout was held in August where FFA members met in the ag classrooms to socialize, do their homework, and watch a movie. The second hangout in September was a board/card game hangout. FFA member got a chance to relax from the school day, sit down with some friends, and play games. Whether it was board game or a card game, everyone had a lot of fun! The latest hangout occurred right before our big football game against our rival high school. FFA members painted posters to cheer on our FFA football players. Gilroy FFA has many more hangouts planned for the year and we can't wait to see our members get involved!

Gilroy FFA started a new tradition this year, Monthly Chapter Hangouts. Once a month, Gilroy FFA hosts a chapter hangout to try to

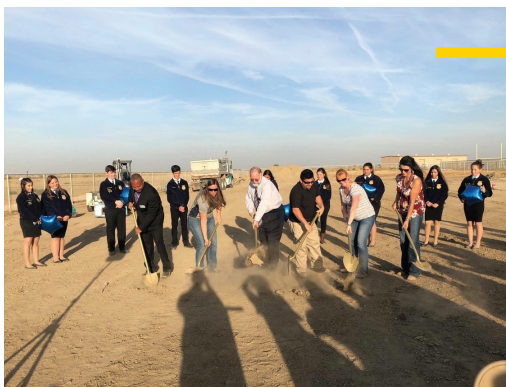
## FIREBAUGH FFA Future Farmers of Japan Visits Firebaugh

Our Firebaugh chapter had the opportunity of hosting 10 students that came from Japan! These students were a part of the Future Farmers of Japan (FFJ) and stayed for a week. We began with a nice lunch in the library, and this is where we were introduced, starting to get to know each other. Each student gave us a card with their name, school, and a barcode that when scanned would take you to the program's website. It felt good to meet people that were new and different. There was a lot we didn't know about them, and conversely. Simple things like going out to eat were different because there was always something to learn. Despite our boundaries between cultures and languages we still continued to communicate with one another. These 10 students might not all know each other but were able to form relationships and bonds with one another.



## PACHECO FFA New Beginnings, New Opportunities

by Zackary Machado



Pacheco FFA made school history on September 27, 2018, when chapter advisors, officers, and local school board members broke ground for their on-site school barn. Since the opening of the Pacheco High School in 2010, the chapter advisors have been working long and hard for this to happen, and after receiving a state grant, were able to fund the process. Their school barn will not only help serve kids who wish to show at the local county fairs, but also to highlight a key part of the FFA Motto, "Learn by Doing" and Career Development Events (CDEs). Thank you to all the chapter advisors and school administration for your work and efforts to give FFA students new opportunities.

{ Continued on page 15 }





## **SALINAS FFA** **National Day of Service**

*by Tayler Baldwin*

This October Salinas FFA traveled all the way to Indianapolis to go to the National FFA Convention & Expo! In Indianapolis, we volunteered at a local food bank for National Days of Service and learned about the importance of giving back to those in need. We also went on a Agriculture Industry tour, where we got to make some awesome candles! We discovered how Agriculture impacts businesses in ways that we don't initially realize. We also had tons of fun stocking up on FFA gear from the FFA Store, going to some great sessions and watching our President Donald Trump speak to us up close! Overall, we learned a lot about FFA and had many new experiences and learned a lot about Ag!



## **SOLEDAD FFA** **Make Your Mark**

*by Estrella Garcia*

Over the summer our newly elected officer team spent their retreat in beautiful San Luis Obispo County. As

they planned diligently for the upcoming year they chose a theme to showcase what to strive towards. This year's theme for Soledad FFA is Make Your Mark! With this theme it has plans to inspire members to get out of their comfort zone, get involved within the chapter and leave their mark, no matter on how big or little it is. We have plenty of opportunities to encourage our members to get involved and MAKE THEIR MARK. By doing so, they will leave their legacy within the chapter!

## **RIGHETTI FFA** **Kinderpatch**

*by Brooke Barredo*

Every year in October, Righetti FFA Ag Department holds its Annual Kinderpatch event on campus. Over 800 kindergarten students and teachers from the local Santa Maria Valley school districts attend the event. This year marks over 25 years that the Righetti Ag Department has hosted and developed this community tradition. Righetti FFA members planted and harvested over 1,500 pumpkins for the event through SAE projects. The kindergartners who attended were able to "pick" their own pumpkin, decorate it, and take it home at no cost. More than 200 FFA members assisted in hosting a variety of agriculture games and educational activities including an SAE petting zoo. Each year the event has gotten bigger and better. FFA members organize and manage the activities under the supervision of their advisors. Many valuable lessons and management skills are used by all students to make the Kinderpatch a success. The event has become a "community tradition" for generations.



## **STONE RIDGE CHRISTIAN FFA** **Awards Given at 2nd Annual Banquet**

*by Isabella Alexander*

Stone Ridge Christian FFA was able to celebrate a successful 16 Greenhand degree and 17 Chapter degree recipients during November. Even though it's only their second year of being a part of the CA FFA Association, their FFA program includes almost half of their 150-student body at Stone Ridge. Thursday morning was the initiation ceremony, a new tradition for SRC FFA. Greenhand recipients get to stamp their hands with green paint and enjoy donuts with the rest of their friends in celebration of their accomplishments. Later on that night, members are recognized with a certificate and pin which they can display on their blue corduroy jacket. The Stone Ridge Christian FFA officer team was able to diligently plan this banquet and run it, thanks to the help of a mentor advisor. The ceremony was a success, and students were excited to receive their awards as FFA members. •



# STREET BEAT

## #ffaGLC



**centralcatholic\_ffa** Yesterday was an exciting day for all of our Freshmen! These 53 Greenhands attended GLC and were granted their "All Access Pass" to the FFA. #centralcatholicffa #cchsffa #riseabovecc #californiaffa #ffaGLC



**corebutteffa** Our freshmen are ready for the Greenhand Leadership Conference! #ffaGLC



**rc.ag.ed** GLC year 4 for #RCFFA! Way to go to these freshmen for representing Ripon Christian well today in Lodi! #ffaGLC #premierleadership #personalgrowth #careersuccess



**\_dixon\_ffa** Our Greenhands are having a blast at Greenhand Leadership Conference in Colusa! Here's to the new generation of Dixon FFA #siguecreciendo #dixonffa #ffaGLC



**\_unchlorinatedcallie\_** Just doing what I love. T-minus 5 years until I start my dream job. #ffaGLC #teachag



**bakersfield\_ffa** Welcome To Hollywood! Our Students Enjoyed The Greenhand Conference Today! #bhsffa #ffaGLC



**wesffa** 15 awesome freshman attended the Greenland Leadership Conference today! They had fun, made new friends and got pumped for FFA! #wesffa #vikingsinthehouse #caffa #ffaGLC



**jennaisadora** greenhand babies #ffaGLC

#ffaGLC