

California FFANEWS

SUMMER 2019

VOL. 7 • NO. 4

CONTENTS



3 Sacramento Leadership Experience Reflections



6 Goodbye to our 2018-19 State Officers



8 Blue Diamond Growers' Impact on Members

+ MFE and ALA Conference Recaps

Chapter Scoops

Is your ride Ag Ed friendly?

4 Featured Chapter: Lone Pine



California FFANEWS

Summer 2019 | Volume 7 | Number 4

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.

Submission deadlines:

Fall..... June 1st

Winter September 1st

Spring November 15th

Summer March 1st

Stay in touch...

"California FFA"



UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE • 23-27 California Agricultural Teachers' Association (CATA) Summer Conference - San Luis Obispo

JULY • Regional Officer Leadership Conference (ROLC)

AUGUST • Various Greenhand Leadership Conferences (GLC) - Statewide

For a list of current FFA events please visit www.CalAgEd.org





by Logan Lee
Rio Linda FFA Chapter

Having been chosen along with 74 other seniors throughout California, I found the Sacramento Leadership Experience to be one of the most extraordinary and unique conferences California FFA offers. Prior to the

conference, the students were assigned a bill that they would research to learn what views their political party had. Upon arriving, we learned that the next four days would be challenging yet rewarding, having to work with people some of us didn't know. Starting up the week, Senate and Assembly Members were sworn in, in the actual Senate and Assembly Chambers. Next, we broke off into groups to do more research on our sections. In between, Assembly Members and Senators were able to hear inspirational words and stories from past members who attended SLE, and workers from the government who worked in the agriculture sector. Members also learned more about debating and advocating for their bill. By day four, Assembly Members and Senators were given a once in a lifetime chance to debate in the actual chambers. At the end of the conference, members were able to reflect upon their week of hard work getting a taste of what advocates face daily in support of Agriculture. We also made new friendship that will last a lifetime. •

SLE Recap

SACRAMENTO LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE



by Ashlee Pike
Tracy - Delta FFA Chapter

The Sacramento Leadership Experience was a life changing experience for those who were given the chance to attend and engage in an experience that embodies the FFA motto.

Learning to Do. Before the conference, students were given a legislative district, as well as a mock bill to research in preparation for their journey at SLE. Upon arrival in Sacramento, students were given ample time to gain a more comprehensive understanding of our state government and the law-making process.

Doing to Learn. Participants were granted the opportunity to engage with their own Senate and Assembly members to truly grasp their mission at SLE. By day two, legislators began an in-depth research of their bill, and through breaks and other assigned off-time, we were able to lobby our bills with other Senators and Assembly members.

Earning to Live. By the evening of day three, committee sessions were held in hopes of passing the bills for approval in the other house. Our final day of SLE was devoted to debating our bills on the Senate or Assembly floor, in the chambers of the appropriate house. This was our chance to gain support for our cause.

Living to Serve. SLE may have taught us how to make a change in our state. But what is more important is that for many of us, it has inspired, motivated, and instilled the confidence to be a vehicle to make change happen. Having the opportunity to meet our legislators, agriculturists, and FFA seniors across the state through these four days was unforgettable.





FEATURED CHAPTER

Lone Pine FFA

Named after a solitary pine tree that once stood at the mouth of Lone Pine Canyon, this small California town's roots stretch back into the Old West — and Hollywood's Wild West, too.

Back in the mid-1800s, the town of Lone Pine was founded to supply local miners with provisions. Farmer and ranchers followed soon after.

Even as the days of the Wild West were coming to an end, the Hollywood Western was just beginning. Since the '20s, Lone Pine's unique scenery has been the backdrop for more than 250 films. One glance at the Alabama Hills, and you'll remember a host of immortal movie scenes: The first "Lone Ranger" ambush

scene was filmed here. It was here that Roy Rogers found Trigger, and modern blockbusters of today such as Iron Man were filmed at the base of the Eastern Sierra in Lone Pine. Mount Whitney is found here as the highest point in the contiguous United States, rising to 14,505 feet – beckoning to thousands of hikers who yearn to stand on the summit.

The main agriculture industries found in the Owens Valley are limited by the amount of water. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power is the primary landowner exporting over 570,000 acre-feet of water per year through the Los Angeles Aqueduct to the city of Los Angeles. With BLM and Forest Services the other major landholders, this limits agriculture

production. However you will find the local agriculture industries consisting of cow calf operations, alfalfa hay, sheep, and apiary production amazing.

Lone Pine High School is located in a town of 2,035 people, with a school population of 90 students and an FFA Chapter with a membership of 82. The Lone Pine FFA Chapter's 25th Anniversary will be celebrated in 2019. The Blue and Gold FFA community kicks off the celebration at the Lone Pine Film Museum, where it hopes to raise over \$25,000 for chapter events. The FFA program has seen tremendous change and growth during the last 25 years. Irene Kritz started the chapter with 15 members in 1984; and in 2002, Brenda Lacey took over as the FFA Advisor and expanded the agriculture offerings, adding two teachers developing a school farm. The 12-acre school farm is located on Los Angeles Department

{ Continued on page 5 }



{ Continued from page 4 }

of Water and Power land and was a blank canvas when Mrs. Lacey took over. The facility now has livestock barns and facilities that house student projects that include 20 hogs, 25 ewes, 20 market lambs, 5 Boer does, 12 Boer meat goats, 30 egg laying hens, 40 rabbits, and 5 market steers. The property also has a 30 fruit tree orchard, one-acre grape vineyard, greenhouses, and a tractor barn.

Students of the Lone Pine High Agriculture Department are active in student leadership, athletics, cheerleading, and especially the FFA program. With just 90 students enrolled, the student body does it all. Administration and Athletics Directors ensure that FFA members can attend important events and arrange athletic and school calendar around the FFA. With a three-hour drive to all FFA activities, such as Opening and Closing, Greenhand Conference, ALA/MFE, CDE, and State Conference, these road warriors make the best of van and bus time to get to activities throughout the state.

Classes that students are enrolled in include Agriculture Mechanics from instructor Chuck Carson, who has taught Welding and Agriculture Mechanics as LPHS for over 20 years. Chuck Carson and his Ag Mechanic and Construction students have built every building on the school farm and contributed to many construction projects on campus. Brenda Lacey teaches Animal Science, Floral Design, Ag. Leadership, and Ag. Business, while Laurel Taylor keeps students busy in her Natural Resources Management course and Plant Science. The Lone Pine FFA chapter prides itself on having a busy calendar of events, from the Film Festival in the fall, Canned Food Drive Scavenger Hunt in winter, spring CDE teams, hosting farm tours and judging contests, to the summer season with over 50 members showing and exhibiting livestock.

If you are ever on your way to hike Mt.

Whitney, view the movie locations in the Alabama Hills, or drive up Highway 395 to Mammoth Mountain, turn East on Muir Street - we would love to have you stop by!

Photo Captions (starting opposite page, upper left, rotating clockwise): Lone Pine members attend the 2018 State Conference in Anaheim; chapter officers celebrate new members at a back to school BBQ; Kern County Fair goat show exhibitors; chapter members attending the National FFA Convention visit the Indy 500 Speedway; chapter members celebrate FFA week with a fun day of games; 2018-19 chapter officers at the school farm; officers attend San Joaquin Regional Boot Camp to improve their leadership skills for their chapter; members serve at our Blue and Gold Fundraiser; and 2018 beef show team. •



STATE OFFICERS ON THE GOODBYE



MATT



One of my favorite memories from this year happened early on when we visited the Arbogast family in Virginia. They are extremely hospitable, and allowed us to stay in their old farmhouse for a few nights as we toured different agricultural operations around the area. Somehow though, we convinced ourselves that this two-story, white wooden house was haunted by a ghost; let's just say that we didn't sleep much those few nights! Luckily though, we survived the "ghost house," and lived to lead another day as a newly bonded team.



One day, Orrin decided to sing a rendition of Louis Armstrong's "What a Wonderful World" — by this I mean, he substituted every line for the infamous words, "red roses too," in a deep, raspy voice. I have never laughed so hard in my life!



This year has proven unlike any other I have ever experienced, and perhaps ever will again. My teammates and I have shared so many laughs, met so many amazing people, and traveled to so many unique places, some I would have never dreamt of visiting. We have had so many terrific experiences with thousands of members and supporters, and I could not be more proud to forever be a part of this FFA family.

.....
I could not be more proud to forever be a part of this FFA family.
.....



Favorite Memory



Best Laugh



Farewell

.....

KLYER



My favorite memory is when we did a chapter visit at McArthur Fall River FFA and we toured a trout farm. Orrin and I got to take a picture with a 15 pound trout!



Through this wild ride called state office, there has been so many fun moments. As we look back my favorite laugh has got to be when Orrin dressed up as E.M. Tiffany and yelled at the members in our Believe workshop.



California FFA, thank you for blessing me with many laughs and memories. I am proud to be from such a great state filled with members who work hard to ensure the success of their future. As I say goodbye, there has been nothing more rewarding than being able to serve you.



ALEXIS



My favorite memory was when I met the Honor Flight of War Veterans. These gentlemen were all from Kern County and I met them while on the Washington D.C. trip. They were part of the Honor Flight program, which provides no-cost visits to war memorials in Washington D.C. for United States veterans. It was truly amazing being able to talk to these gentlemen and thank them for all they have done for our country.



My favorite laugh from this year would be when we had dinner with the Southern Region at Farrell's. The waiter starts by telling the joke: What you call a cow with no legs? The whole table yells in response, GROUND BEEF! Then he asks: What do you call a cow with three legs? Everyone responds TRI TIP! Then: What do you call a cow with two legs? (A little bit of back story... Orrin told me this joke a year before at SLE, so I was excited because I finally knew the answer), I screamed out YOUR MOM! Everyone at the table was silent, then burst out in laughter. To top it off, the waiter calls his mom and makes me speak to her over the phone. By the end of our conversation she told me she was part of the joke all along.



It is so crazy to think that this year has almost come to a close, but as I reflect upon the year there is one quote that always comes to mind, "The best things in life are the people we love, the places we've been, and the memories we've made along the way." California FFA, thank you for not only giving me the opportunity to travel this beautiful state we call home but also for bringing thousands of people into my life that have impacted me in more ways than one. Thank you for not only allowing me into your homes but also into your hearts.

{ Continued on page 7 }

{ Continued from page 6 }



DEVIN



Although I've had a variety of great memories, I would say my favorite memory is from our time on the Washington D.C trip. Here, the delegates and our team traveled the capital, visiting different monuments and such. However, the highlight of the trip was when our team was given the incredible opportunity to lay a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.



During my time as a state officer, I would have to say my favorite laugh was when Orrin and I visited the Woodland Pioneer chapter. During our time bowling, we reenacted Wii bowling, when Luis dropped the bowling ball and the rest of us jumped and spun around.



It is said, "You may not end up where you thought you were going, but you will always end up where you were meant to be." I couldn't imagine ending up anywhere else than in this blue jacket, surrounded by the members of this association. I find it so ironic that we, as state officers, are expected to leave a lasting impact and legacy on our members, but it is you, the members of this association, who have done just that. Thank you for giving me a purpose and being my inspiration. I will forever be grateful for this opportunity.



...these memories and friendships are going to serve me forever.

.....

KYLE



My favorite memory from this year has to be being attending the Chapter Officer Leadership Conferences (COLCs). Whether it was in the Superior Region at the Mountain Meadows, or in Southern Region at Indio High School, I loved meeting and interacting with active members from all walks of life. The conversations I had with members and the ability of those members to open up to me has completely changed my perspective on a number of things in my life. For instance, being able to dive into life chats with the Salinas Chapter Officer Team taught me the value of being a listening ear for others. The conversations I had with the Kingsburg Officers taught me that we all have trials in our lives that we are made to overcome. These members that I have talked to changed my life for the better, and that is my favorite memory this year.



The funniest thing I was able to witness this year was being able to see the reaction of students to a contextual setting that we would do at the Made For Excellence Leadership Conference. The activity was entitled "speed dating," and the way we introduced this idea was that Matt would pretend to ask out Devin. Devin would then reject him because she was in love with another; and soon revealing her secret crush was in fact Orrin; this would go on and on until we ran out of officers to keep the joke going. The reaction from students was absolutely hilarious, whether it was to hype up some of the officers or creating hashtags that they pursued after the conference. This was always a sure way to have students laugh with us this year.



This year, California FFA has given me a second family. My teammates are lifelong friends that I will always be able to lean on, but they aren't the only people part of this second family. The relationships I have gained this year will forever be what I am most grateful for. When I take off the blue jacket for the final time, these memories and friendships are going to serve me forever. The people I have met this year aren't only going to affect me this year; these friendships will continue on in the future. But if nothing else, I am looking forward to looking back. Thank you California FFA for the amazing year!



ORRIN



The best memory that I had from this year was when Madera FFA gave us a pet Guinea pig after our chapter visit. Aalexias and I named him Bennie, and welcomed him as a new addition to the family! However, we cannot keep animals at the FFA center, so he soon found a new home.



Best laugh of the year was when Kyler and I managed to convince several students at an MFE to only call me by the name "Papa Elf". Made for plenty of fun moments throughout the weekend. I am oddly proud of that one.



To all the members who made this year so much fun, thank you! I appreciate everyone, and it was so inspiring to see all the amazing students across our state in action. This year has been a great blessing, and I would never trade it for anything. Remember that true leadership is not working from above, but rather working from within. Don't be afraid to turn to the person next to you and give them a few words of encouragement. Small acts can create large impacts. •

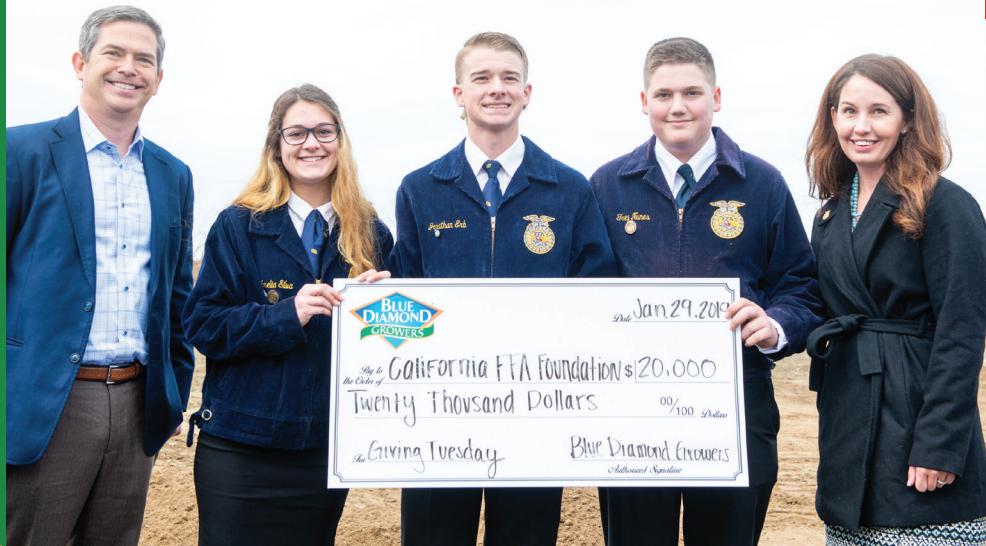
...it was so inspiring to see all the amazing students across our state in action.

.....



More Than A Jacket

Blue Diamond Growers and the Foundation's impact on a member



...if it was not for the support of companies like Blue Diamond Growers, there would be hundreds of members across the state without the opportunities that an FFA Jacket can provide them.

The FFA blue corduroy jacket is not just any ordinary jacket. That jacket is the most important part of many FFA members' valued memories that are shared throughout their FFA membership. It symbolizes leadership, dedication, responsibility, and faith that we all have a chance to experience. When we put that jacket on and zip it up, we become a part of something much larger than ourselves. Members from all over the state of California, the nation, and now even the world are presented with numerous possibilities, thanks to a blue corduroy jacket.

In the FFA motto it states that members throughout the organization are "living to Serve." That is exactly what Blue Diamond Growers are instilling in FFA members like myself. When I received my jacket through the Giving Tuesday jacket program, I cannot express how excited and appreciative I was. I put it on, and instantly knew that I was going to achieve great things. Over the years in this jacket, I have built friendships, gained leadership skills, and grown as an individual in several ways. Blue Diamond Growers provided me with access to these experiences, due to the fact that they provided me with my first FFA jacket as part of the matching funds they provide the California FFA Foundation on Giving Tuesday. On Giving Tuesday, the California FFA Foundation aims

to provide FFA members with their very own blue corduroy FFA jacket. Two years ago, Blue Diamond Growers joined the California FFA Foundation in giving the gift of blue by matching every donation that came in. Through Blue Diamond Growers' participation in our Giving Tuesday efforts, they have helped provide more than 1,500 jackets to promising members, like myself, who represent the California Association, FFA.

The Blue Diamond Growers mission statement says that it is their policy to build meaningful relationships with organizations in our local communities, such as the Future Farmers of America. Recently, I had the opportunity to provide a few remarks on the value of the FFA jacket at the groundbreaking ceremony for the expansion at the Blue Diamond facility in Turlock. It was at this event that I came to realize that if it was not for the support of companies like Blue Diamond Growers, there would be hundreds of members across the state without the opportunities that an FFA jacket can provide them. The jacket that I received has allowed me to develop new skills throughout my high school career, and I'm grateful to Blue Diamond Growers for allowing me to demonstrate those

skills at this very special event.

During my FFA career, I personally have had the chance to

compete in statewide field days, attend State and National Conventions and leadership development conferences, exhibit my dairy animals at fairs, and compete in public speaking competitions. When I open my jacket and see the pins representing my achievements, I feel a great sense of pride in what I have accomplished, just as other members of FFA do everywhere. As my days in this FFA jacket come to an end, I know that when I zip up my jacket for the very last time and look upon my accomplishments, I will reflect upon how it all began, when I received my FFA jacket. On behalf of all the members of the California Association, FFA, I would like to thank Blue Diamond Growers for their generous donation which has made possible a lifetime of personal growth and career success. •

Amelia Silva
Turlock FFA Chapter

GIVING TUESDAY AT A GLANCE

For many, our FFA jacket still hangs in the closet or is tucked away in a box for safe keeping. They remain adorned with pins and ribbons, and proudly display not only the highest office achieved, but the wear and tear reflective of the experience! Unfortunately, not all California FFA members can afford a jacket to share in that experience.

To meet this need, in 2017, the California FFA Foundation partnered with Blue Diamond Growers on Giving Tuesday.

For every \$75 received, a jacket and tie/scarf was gifted to a California FFA member who may not otherwise be able to afford one. Blue Diamond Growers matched each donation, and in 2018, 672 FFA jackets were granted to members across the state.

SINCE ITS INITIAL PARTICIPATION
IN 2016, THE CALIFORNIA FFA
FOUNDATION HAS GRANTED
OVER 1,600 JACKETS TO
DESERVING FFA MEMBERS.

"I know I am not able to pay for a FFA jacket with money, but I will pay for it with commitment and dedication to my chapter. I will wear this jacket with pride and confidence."

- MARIBEL, ANDERSON VALLEY FFA

"My family is proud that I get to wear an FFA jacket. With their support and this jacket, I will go far."

- MUAKONG, FLORIN FFA

"The jacket gives them more opportunities to participate in FFA activities, which really is a safe haven for students in our community."

- ADVISOR, PATTERSON FFA



For more information or to sponsor a jacket, visit:
WWW.CALAGED.ORG/GIVINGTUESDAY

ALA Reflections



MISSY SMALL

McArthur FFA

I was honored to be one of three members from the McArthur FFA chapter to attend the Advanced Leadership Academy this year in Redding. I attended MFE last year, and I was eager and excited to see what ALA had to offer. I can honestly say I was not disappointed. Being from a smaller chapter, attending ALA was a unique experience just because we had the opportunity to mingle with some much larger chapters and share how different events and fundraisers are put on across the north state. We were able to compare our different activities. ALA brought new information to students, due to the fact that it was based more on how to work with a team, and didn't necessarily focus on personal leadership skills. In addition, FFA members also learned about the benefits of working with other people. My favorite thing about this conference was on the very last day when all of the chapters were divided into large groups and each chapter got to present a poster with an event they planned, created and focused on during the conference that was specific to their chapter. This was cool because we got to see things that other chapters do to fundraise and gain member involvement. My chapter also got to share an event we do (our FFA Rally), and what we want to do to make it better, and we asked other chapters what they thought we could do to better our event. We were able to take that advice home and put on an amazing rally!



KAYLA ZALESNEY

Nipomo FFA

The Advanced leadership Academy conference was one of the most exciting leadership conferences I have had the pleasure of attending during my years in the FFA organization. Held in Monterey California, the conference allowed me to bond not only with the individuals in my chapter, but the exciting and empowering facilitators and members from across the state of California. My favorite part of the conference was that it was team-oriented meaning, I was able to bond with my chapter members on a whole different level and discuss events that we would like to improve upon. With great assistance and guidance from our facilitators, I was able to brainstorm and plan a future event called March Merge with the rest of my chapter, which I am proud to say we were able to implement during our March Meeting this past month. When the last day arrived, while I was saddened about packing my bags and having to leave, I was also filled with excitement and a new mindset on how I can Be The Change within my chapter, my community, and throughout the rest of my life.



MFE

Reflections



DARCIE SHUGART

Bakersfield North FFA

The opportunity to attend the Made for Excellence Leadership Conference (MFE) in Visalia gave me the chance to reflect on myself and the future. As a student and FFA member, balancing everything can be difficult, especially when looking at your future. At MFE, I was able to evaluate my personal skills and learn how to better balance my life by engaging in personal and group activities. Participants learned that we can use our skills to find where we fit best in the world and how we can use our skills to benefit others. One of the greatest lessons that I learned from MFE was that every person is made for excellence, but it is up to us to take actions in our lives to reach excellence. We can dream big dreams, but we must be proactive in our personal growth to achieve those dreams. I now know that I cannot let my drive overrun my judgment, but I can still keep it with me. I am so excited that I had the chance to adventure through MFE and am even more excited to put the work I did there into action!



MADE FOR EXCELLENCE

Gaby Silva & Marin Erceg

Central Catholic FFA

The Made for Excellence Conference was an amazing experience that truly pushed us out of our comfort zone. When we first arrived, we were nervous and reserved, but the state officers got us fired up. After participating in many activities and ice breakers, we felt more comfortable and made many friends. This experience helped all of us discover how to become a responsible leader and effective communicator. The skills gained at the MFE conference will help us be successful not just in FFA but in life. We loved competing for points, rocking our new t-shirts and everyone wanted to win the cool fanny pack!



Chapter Scoops



CENTRAL CATHOLIC FFA #10GallonChallenge

Submitted by Elisabeth Watkins

The Central Catholic FFA hosted a milk drive in response to being challenged by the Merced Golden Valley FFA Chapter for the #10GallonChallenge. Students, community, and family members of Central Catholic helped to collect 841 gallons of milk. The donations were distributed to 18 food pantries, preschools, homeless shelters, and non-profit organizations. Milk was delivered to Modesto, Ceres, Turlock, Manteca, Stockton, Lodi, and Oakdale. Recently, the Merced FFA Chapter hosted their own milk drive, collecting 119 gallons. They then challenged the Merced Golden Valley FFA who collected 281 gallons. When Central Catholic heard the news that they had been challenged, they set a goal of 450 gallons. After the first collection day on Monday, October 22nd, it became apparent that they would far exceed their goal. They hope others are encouraged and inspired to start their own #10GallonChallenge.



CORDOVA FFA Adopt a Family

Submitted by Isabella Bogetti

Every year the Cordova FFA Chapter participates in a community outreach program for the Folsom-Cordova Unified School District called, "Adopt a Family for the Holidays." This year we "adopted" a family with three boys, between the ages of 3 and 15 years old. The members of the Cordova FFA Chapter understand the struggles that holidays can bring, but also know how holidays can also be a time to come together and be joyous as a family. As a whole, the chapter was able to collect enough toys to not only bring Christmas together for the family they adopted, but three others as well! It is definitely a great day to be a Cordova FFA member. Way to represent and support our community!

FOOTHILL FFA Harvest Moon Dance

Submitted by Alexis Lupton

At the Foothill FFA Chapter, our chapter officer team decided to start a new tradition. During October, we hosted a Harvest Moon Dance for our members and the other chapter officer teams from schools in our section. After a brief business meeting, everyone enjoyed dancing and cookies and water. It was so much fun for everyone involved and our members got to meet with FFA members from other schools. The dance is something that we are hoping will become a valued tradition for our school and grow throughout the years.



{ Continued on page 13 }



RIGHETTI FFA **“Green Thumb” Houseplant Competition**

Submitted by Brooke Barredo

It is tradition that every year, the freshman in the Ag Science classes receive a small houseplant to take home and care for as their first SAE project. In a new twist this year, staff members and administrators from the Righetti campus were invited to participate in a plant growing competition against one another. There are over 50 staff members and administrators participating in the competition this year. Each participant

must research the proper care for their plant and keep it alive and healthy to be considered for the competition. Plants will be judged at the end of the school year, and the winners will receive a special gift from the Righetti Ag Department. The advisors will be judging the plants based on color, size, damage, and overall health. The teachers and administrators are very excited to be participating in this event along with the Ag Department. May the best green thumbs win!



SALINAS FFA **A Zoo of a Time!**

Submitted by Tayler Baldwin

To celebrate National FFA Week, Salinas FFA hosts an annual petting zoo. The petting zoo is a great way to encourage students to learn about the FFA Organization, and see much passion and hard work FFA members put into raising and showing these animals. In many communities and schools, people are unaware of the vast importance of the agriculture and livestock industry. Some students can't even tell a goat from a lamb, so this event is a great way to promote agricultural literacy among our peers. This year, we had two pigs and two goats, and lots of students flocked to the petting zoo to see and play with these adorable animals! It was a fun and educational time for everyone involved.



STONE RIDGE CHRISTIAN FFA **Standing Out at Super Saturday**

Submitted by Isabella Alexander

This past Saturday, Stone Ridge Christian FFA, a new private school chapter with just under 50 members, made an impressive mark at the Merced-Mariposa sectional speaking contest, dubbed “Super Saturday.” The chapter had eleven students that participated in the various categories, such as creed contest, job interview, prepared and impromptu speech. Stone Ridge ended up with five students in the top 12 of these contests, including three students who will continue to the regional competition in Modesto this March. The chapter and school are incredibly proud of Lilly Wareham, who placed 12th in creed, Alyssa Vander Woude, 7th in job interview, Sydney Shaw- 5th in impromptu, Maartje Vander Dussen, 3rd in impromptu, Sasha Stillman, 4th in prepared, and Isabella Alexander, 2nd in prepared. Maartje, Sasha and Isabella will continue to prepare for regional competition. Being the smallest chapter in the section did not stop Stone Ridge Christian from doing amazing things.

{ Continued from page 13 }



GUSTINE FFA **Honor to Fallen Officer**

Submitted by Aubrie Hazan

Gustine FFA members strive to live by the words in the FFA motto, "Living to Serve." Gustine FFA and AG Boosters came together to give back to someone who gave so much to us and served our community. Corporal Ronil Singh of the Newman Police Department, served not only his community, but the communities around him. Gustine FFA and AG Boosters decided to give back to his family in honor of him and his service and sacrifice. Gustine Ag teachers worked with students to create a beautiful plaque to auction off at the AG Booster dinner dance. The total donated toward the plaque was just over \$7,000. It was amazing to see not only the Gustine community come together to give back, but also people from across California. The plaque was then donated back to Gustine FFA and passed to the Newman Police Department in honor of Officer Singh.



HOLTVILLE FFA **Kiss the Calf Fundraiser**

Submitted by Melany Lopez

During National FFA week, Holtville FFA focused on expanding knowledge and skills to more than just our members, but instead our entire school. The highlight of FFA week would definitely be hosting an assembly that is meant to involve everybody and demonstrate the advantages of joining this organization. The assembly started off with a skit performed by the chapter officers highlighting the chapter's theme. During the assembly, Holtville High School students shared their excitement for one of our biggest traditions, "Kiss the Calf Fundraiser." Cow decorated containers were placed in school staff rooms, and the staff member with the most donations ends up kissing the calf at the end of the assembly. The purpose of the assembly and fundraiser is to reach out to our community and increase interaction with students and encourage their involvement in agricultural classes.

LODI FFA **Annual Third Grade Field Day**

The Lodi FFA held their 15th annual third-grade field day this year. The FFA students present information on sheep, swine, goats, aquaculture, dairy, horses, rabbits, poultry, beef cattle, farm machinery, and botany. The Lodi FFA has informed more than 7,000 students in the Lodi Unified School District about the importance of agriculture and how it affects their lives. The day is organized and run by more than fifty Lodi FFA members.



{ Continued on page 15 }



Your Chapter FFA

Tell us your chapter's scoop!

1) Submit a 100-150 word article about a 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 of the activity.

- a. Photos should be in color and help further explain the submitted article.
- b. 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 submission deadlines.



STONE RIDGE CHRISTIAN FFA Grants for Growing

Submitted by Isabella Alexander

This past week, Stone Ridge Christian FFA sent four of its members to volunteer their school day at the local Atwater Tractor Supply Co. store. Tractor Supply Co. sponsors the Grants for Growing program where local chapters can apply for a grant to fund a project. Stone Ridge Christian applied for this grant to help fund the various costs for the upcoming fair in June. In order to thank Tractor Supply for the opportunity to apply, SRC FFA went to the local store to help out by asking for donations for Grants for Growing from customers, stocking shelves, setting up displays, and cleaning up. This was a great opportunity for the FFA members to practice part of the national motto: Living to Serve. Stone Ridge Christian FFA is grateful to Tractor Supply for letting them help at the store!



TEMECULA - ST. JEANNE CATHOLIC FFA Spreading Holiday Cheer

Submitted by Makena Stanisai

Temecula-St. Jeanne Catholic FFA celebrated our very first National FFA Week with a bang! On February 23rd, we held an event called "American Cheese: French Style." Our goal was to raise money for goats to gift to the Sisters of the Company of Mary in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, located in Central

Africa. Goats provide many services in the Congo, with the main benefactor being malnutrition. The goats provide milk, meat, and income for rural families. Members of our community learned about the history and the processes of making fine cheese and artisan bread. Local agriculture producers donated their time to educate us about the importance of the agriculture industry and how we can benefit our surrounding communities. Our event was a huge success, with over 200 people in attendance. We were able to send \$2,000, or 40 goats to the Congo! •

Support
CALIFORNIA FFA
through the
AG PLATE PROGRAM

Special Interest License Plate program proceeds benefit

CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

with

85% *of those proceeds going directly to*
CALIFORNIA FFA



AVAILABLE FOR A LIMITED TIME.

FREE **SPECIAL INTEREST AG PLATES**

Registered buyer is responsible for annual plate renewal fees.

www.calaged.org/calagplate