

BLUE & GOLD

NEWS FROM THE CALIFORNIA FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA FOUNDATION

FFA Story Unfolds in Fresno

For over 4,500 FFA members, the Fresno Convention Center was the site of the 84th Annual California State FFA Leadership Conference where members wore the blue jacket en masse as the 2011 - 2012 State Officer Team encouraged members to unfold their own FFA stories and strive for excellence. Delivered through motivational retiring addresses by the state officers and keynote speakers, excellence was evident as FFA members competed for state honors in many competitive events. Congratulations to all winners and good luck to the state winners as they compete for national titles at the



The newly elected 2012-2013 State Officer Team is introduced center stage during the final session of the 84th Annual California State FFA Leadership Conference.

National FFA Conference in October. The National FFA Conference is broadcast live by long-time NFFA

supporter RFD-TV. Tune in to watch!

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Agricultural Education Funding Eliminated from State's 2012-13 Budget

Agricultural Education in California's schools suffered a stunning blow in June when the California State Legislature voted to adopt Governor Brown's

proposal to completely eliminate state funding for Career Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) from this year's state budget. These cuts take place immediately, despite the fact that the newly-adopted budget

contains an overall increase in spending of over \$4,000,000 for education programs in California, dependent upon passage of the Governor's proposed tax increase on the ballot this *See Budget, page 6*

Fall / Winter 2012

Inside this issue:

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- Donor Highlight, Henry Mayo Newhall Foundation

- Meet the New State Officers
- La Quinta Inns & Suites Program
- Ag Plates Hit the Road in 2013

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MEET THE CHAIRMAN



Louie Brown

Partner with
Kahn, Soares
& Conway, LLP.

Louie
manages

Kahn, Soares & Conway's Government Relations Group representing clients before the California State Legislature and various state administrative agencies.

Louie specializes in providing clients with expert advice in maneuvering through California's complex legislative and administrative process. He has written numerous laws and played key roles in many of the Legislature's major accomplishments and budget negotiations over the last decade, including the agricultural tax relief package of 2001, comprehensive water package, tax relief for the California horse racing industry, and law enforcement funding.

Louie earned his Bachelor of Science Degree from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo and his Juris Doctor from the McGeorge School of Law. In 1991, the National Future Farmers of America elected Louie to serve its 400,000-student membership as the Western Region Vice President.

In addition to his work with the firm, Louie is deeply committed to the success of education in agriculture. He chairs the Cal Poly AgriBusiness Department's Advisory Committee and the California Future Farmers of America Foundation, and serves as a member of the Sacramento County Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom, Reedley College's Partners in Agricultural Leadership Advisory Committee and the California State Fair's Agriculture Advisory Committee.

Louie and his wife, Kymberlee, reside in Elk Grove with their three children.

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Click on the California FFA
Foundation tab

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Donations received
since July 1, 2012

Award/Scholarship Sponsors

- \$1000 plus**
Ag Council of California
California Association of Pest
Control Advisers
California Farm Bureau
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CANERS Foundation
Monica Bianchi
- \$400**
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Harris Ranch Beef Company
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Sunkist
Wawona Packing Company

Meet the 2012-2013 State Officers



State President

Hannah Garrett

FFA Chapter: Galt FFA

FFA positions held: Chapter Reporter
and President, and Sectional President

Favorite SAE or FFA Activity: Raising
Market Sheep and Parliamentary
Procedure CDE

Reason you wanted to become a State
Officer: I wanted to become a state
officer because I wanted to give back
to the organization that has helped
shape me throughout high school.
The FFA is an organization that gives
students a place, strengthens their
morals and belief, and challenges
them to be more. High school is
stressful and in this position it gives
the officers the opportunity to be there
for students through it all.

What has being in FFA meant to
you or taught you? Being in FFA
has meant everything to me. It has
taught me that through hard work
(and giving a lot of time after school)
anything is possible. High school
would have been a completely
different experience if I hadn't had
the guidance from my ag teachers
and the constant opportunities for

growth that the FFA provided; I sure
wouldn't be where I am today without
it. I constantly thank God for blessing
me with the opportunity to be a part
of this organization and there is still a
lot to learn from it.



State Vice President

Leah Gibson

FFA Chapter: Paso Robles FFA

FFA positions held: Chapter
Reporter, Vice President, and
President; Regional Vice President,
and Secretary

Favorite SAE or FFA Activity: Raising
market lambs and Prepared Public
Speaking

Your goal as a State Officer: My goal
as a State Officer is to teach others
the importance of cherishing genuine
relationships in and outside of FFA
and to also encourage members to
be proud about being passionate
about agriculture.

What has being in FFA meant to
you or taught you? FFA has served
as my consistency and home away
from home throughout high school.
This organization has taught me
that every breakthrough or change
occurs because of the driven people

who make it happen. FFA ignited
my love for the agriculture industry
and has guided me towards career
goals. I have learned more from
my experiences in the FFA than any
textbook could have taught me.



State Secretary

Kelcie Jones

FFA Chapter: Bakersfield-Frontier FFA

FFA positions held: Chapter Secretary
and President, and Regional Reporter

Favorite SAE or FFA Activity: Raising
Market Hogs for the World Pork Expo

Reason you wanted to become a
State Officer: I wanted to become
a State Officer to give back to the
organization and people that made
me who I am today. Prior to FFA, I
was shy and afraid to be myself. As
a State Officer, I have the opportunity
to be the catalyst for change and
progress in students similar to myself.

What has being in FFA meant to
you or taught you? Being an FFA member
has taught me to appreciate and
support American agriculturalists that
feed the world. I have also learned
public speaking skills, teamwork,

See State Officers, page 4

and networking with other members and agriculturalists; all skills that will be vital to success in my future career endeavors. The success I will encounter in the work-world will be dependent on my experiences in the FFA.



State Treasurer

Jason Mendes

FFA Chapter: Modesto FFA

FFA positions held: Chapter Reporter, Treasurer, and President; Sectional Vice President and Regional Treasurer

Your goal as a State Officer: My goal as a State Officer is to create as many genuine relationships with students as possible and make sure that all students have the same opportunities.

What has being in FFA meant to you or taught you? FFA has taught me to be open minded to all and to constantly look for personal growth within yourself while always putting others before yourself.

State Reporter

Tyler Menane

FFA Chapter: Nipomo FFA

FFA positions held: Chapter Reporter, Vice President and President, and Regional Reporter and President



Favorite SAE or FFA Activity: Prepared Public Speaking

Reason you wanted to become a State Officer: One reason why I wanted to be a State Officer is to engage all types of students through genuine relationships that can open their eyes to the bigger picture of high school, FFA, and their lives.

What has being in FFA meant to you or taught you? FFA has provided me with a home - a place where my strengths were brought out and sharpened through active participation. It has advanced my leadership abilities, opened myself to growth, helped me understand myself, given me career opportunities, and so much more all while allowing me to establish life-long relationships that have provided me with more than just friends, but a second family. The Agriculture Department, workshop room, contest, and school farm have each provided me with numerous valuable experiences which have been essential to my growth as an individual that no other path in high school could have lead me to. I am positive that being an FFA member has opened my eyes to the importance of Agriculture, my purpose, the growth I have achieved, and the opportunities that lie ahead.



State Sentinel

Kyle Rohrmann

FFA Chapter: Fresno-Central FFA

FFA positions held: Chapter Vice President and President and Sectional Vice President

Favorite SAE or FFA Activity: Livestock Evaluation

Your goal as a State Officer: To leave a lasting impact on an organization and industry that has changed my perspective and view of agriculture. I hope to take advantage of the leadership qualities and life skills that myself and thousands of members alike have had the opportunity to gain through the FFA.

What has being in FFA meant to you or taught you? FFA has taught me that confidence, leadership and the ability to advocate for a cause can develop the potential for success in any student. Coupled with rigorous design, curriculum and the opportunity to grow in every area of life; FFA members truly excel because of the countless opportunities available to them. The FFA has also exposed me to the vast spectrum of the Agricultural Industry where I have gained a plethora of knowledge and developed a passion for lifelong education and a career choice.

The Henry Mayo Newhall Foundation Helps Underwrite the Sacramento Leadership Experience

Forty of California FFA's brightest students converged at the state capitol in March 2012 to learn and experience our state's legislative process during the Sacramento Leadership Experience (SLE). During SLE, students take on the role of a State Senator where they are assigned a specific district in the state. They learn the government process, how a bill becomes a law, and build their knowledge through research and industry experts as they experience the legislative process.



In recognizing the value of the FFA's integrated leadership program, a grant was awarded by the Henry Mayo Newhall Foundation to assist with underwriting the Sacramento Leadership Experience. Other conferences that are now in need of sponsor support are Greenhand, Made for Excellence, Advanced Leadership Academy, Sacramento Leadership Experience, and the State Conference sessions. Conference sponsorships start at \$4,000. Please contact Amy Madison, Director of Fund Development at amadison@californiaffa.org or (209) 744-1969 for more information.

Below: FFA students are joined by State Senator Michael Rubio on the senate floor during SLE



Conference, continued from cover



Honorary State FFA Degree recipients were Len Monaco, Ron Schuler, Gail and John Kautz, and Kerry Stockton.

Also recognized at the state conference were FFA Foundation donors and long-time supporters Carl Ueland, Farm Credit Associations of California, John and Gail Kautz, California Cotton Alliance, and California Pest Control Advisers Association.

Social Media Voting Pays Off

As an eligible non-profit, the California FFA Foundation was nominated for the Chase Community Giving program. Garnering 1,364 votes during the two week voting period, the CA FFA Foundation finished 184th out of 196 eligible ranking to be the recipient of \$10,000 from Chase.

The FFA Foundation is pleased to welcome new board members Jill Benson of JS West & Companies and Jeana Hultquist of CoBank.

Jill Benson

Occupation: Senior Vice President, J.S. West & Companies

Jill is the great-granddaughter of the founder, James Stewart West, who began the business in 1909 in Modesto.

Jill started her career in education, teaching in Southern California after receiving her BS at San Diego State University. She moved into the hospitality industry while living in Switzerland, England and France. After three years abroad, she joined the family business working in all aspects of this diverse company.

Among their interests, J. S. West has three egg laying farms. Jill has more than 31 years experience in every aspect of the egg farming operations which include the feed mill, ranch operations, processing, egg breaking, sales, and marketing of both fresh shell eggs and egg products. In addition to the poultry

division, her responsibilities also include building bulk propane plants for the Companies' LPG business, overseeing the JS West Lumber & Ace Hardware store and the Safety Department.

Jill is an active member of the United Egg Producers (UEP), Pacific Egg & Poultry Association (PEPA) and past President, Association for California Egg Farmers (ACEF), American Egg Board (AEB) and International Egg Commission (IEC). Her family farms operate under the California Egg Quality Assurance Program (CEQAP), the UEP Animal Care Guidelines and American Humane Certified.

Jill shares a straightforward vision



for JS West with her brother and cousins. Simply, "Be the best and most efficient in what we do. Follow the family traditions of service to

"I'm proud and honored to serve on the State FFA Foundation Board to help further the Foundation's mission to support the FFA Mission and programs. I believe the future of California agriculture will be enriched and sustained through our younger generations growth, experiences and knowledge they gain through their participation in California FFA."

customers, do what you promise, charge a fair price, grow the businesses where they can do well and give back to the community wherever they can." Jill is involved with United Way and numerous

non-profits in the Modesto area. She is married to Ken Woodward, sharing their time between Modesto & Santa Cruz. •

Jeana Hultquist

Occupation: Vice President, Government Affairs CoBank

Jeana Hultquist is Vice President of Government Affairs for CoBank. She spends a good deal of her time assisting customer-owners in telling their story, advocating agriculture in general and how CoBank and the Farm Credit System play an integral role in serving agriculture and rural America.

CoBank is part of the Farm Credit System. Established in 1916, the Farm Credit System is a nation-wide network of unique private institutions, including four funding banks and 83 direct-lending associations,

all of which are cooperatively owned by farmers, ranchers, agricultural cooperatives, rural utilities and others in rural America. The Farm Credit System is chartered by the Federal government to ensure a dependable source of credit and other related financial services available to eligible customers.

Ms. Hultquist is a native Californian and received her general education from Chico State University

and an Associate of Arts Degree from American River College in Legal Assisting. Ms. Hultquist began her career with the Farm Credit System in 1982 and reflects a record of steadily increasing responsibility, challenge, and recognition. Jeana is a graduate of the California Agricultural Leadership program and currently serves on the board of directors for the Agricultural Council of California and California State FFA Foundation.

Ms. Hultquist served on the Farm Credit System Reputation Risk Management Committee from 2009 through 2011 and currently serves as a CoBank representative on the National Contributions Committee. Over the past couple of years,

"For nearly 30 years, in various roles within the Farm Credit System, I have been advocating a strong voice for California agriculture. It is a privilege to be part of a reputable and demonstrated program in promoting young leaders, like FFA, who can carry forward that message for tomorrow's agriculture."

Ms. Hultquist has participated in a number of projects and focus groups in California, including the USDA lead California Financial Opportunities Roundtable (CalFOR) which recently released "Access to Capitol", a resource guide to introduce recommendations on how best to leverage and allocate existing



resources towards the goal of sustainable and scalable economic development, job growth and wealth creation. Most recently, Ms. Hultquist participated in California's

first Economic Summit and served on the team in presenting strategies for increasing access to capital for all businesses in California.

Jeana and Larry Hultquist, her husband of 21 years live in Fair Oaks, California. Jeana has two grown daughters and an extended family in Larry's three grown sons and two grandchildren. Jeana and Larry enjoy traveling and have a trip planned to Peru in Fall 2012. •

Budget, continued from cover

November.

These funds, totaling \$514,000, provided important support to students enrolled in Vocational Education programs who participate in Future Farmers of America (FFA), Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), Health Occupations Student Organization (HOSA), SkillsUSA, FHA-HERO and other organizations

which develop, plan, and deliver leadership development and training activities for students throughout the state. Students who actively participate in these activities have a proven track record of increased high school graduation rates, higher levels of post-secondary education enrollment, and higher and faster completion of degree attainment in

college.

As a result of this action, the California FFA organization will no longer receive approximately \$230,000 annually that supported State Officer travel, leadership development activities, and the State FFA Leadership Conference. •

La Quinta Inns & Suites partner with the California FFA Foundation

La Quinta Hotels has partnered with the California FFA Foundation in a discount and giveback program! Travelers will receive a 10% discount and 9% of your hotel stay will benefit the

FFA Foundation when you mention the California Future Farmers of America or enter the promotional code "CAFFA", when making your reservation at any La Quinta Inns & Suites nationwide. •



Save the Date

Mark your calendars to join us at the FFA Foundation Donor and Alumni luncheon during the 85th California FFA Leadership Conference in Fresno on Tuesday, April 23, 2013! To be a part of this event, or for more information contact amadison@californiaffa.org.

Ag Plates Hit the Road March 2013!

Determined not to let a funding opportunity for agricultural education pass, California FFA secured over 8,300 pledges for the California Ag License Plate before the clock stopped ticking. Working tirelessly to promote the ag license plate, FFA chapters throughout the state garnered pledges by all means to reach the 7,500 pledge goal before the April 6th deadline. The Agriculture License Plate is the first special interest license plate to be approved in the last 10 years when the legislation to pass a plate was increased from 5,000 to



7,500. "When you're adding one plus one, it's a long way to 7,500" noted Amy Madison, Director of Fund Development for the California FFA Foundation. "In the last three weeks momentum took hold at the chapter level and companies ordered plates for their fleets. That is what got us there, we could not have done this without their help."

"This is an exciting time for agriculture and for those that have helped make the agriculture license become a reality from inception to the end, we thank you." Madison continued. •

Plates may continue to be ordered at DMV field offices and on line by following the link at www.CalAgPlate.com

CONNECT! Past. Present. Future.



Visit our Facebook page and learn about National FFA's CONNECT! campaign for FFA alumni and supporters. Stay connected or get re-connected to FFA through the National FFA's CONNECT! campaign. FFA enthusiasts will be able to share their most memorable FFA experiences, what they're doing now, and how FFA has impacted their lives. Everyone is invited to connect!



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