



CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION FFA STATE SCHOLARSHIP DESCRIPTIONS

2020

The California FFA Association with the help of generous sponsors will award over \$50,000 in scholarships this year. Below you will find a description of each sponsor and scholarship the California FFA Association will award this year, along with any specific requirements for each scholarship.

General Requirements

The minimum eligibility requirements for all scholarships are as follows:

1. Applicant must be a member, in good standing, with the California Association FFA.
2. Must not have previously received a State FFA Scholarship.
3. Applicant must hold the State FFA Degree.
4. Applicant must be a high school senior or high school graduate.
5. Applicant must pursue higher education with a declared major in agriculture.
6. Current state FFA officers are not eligible to apply. Former State FFA Officers may only apply for the Jerry T. Davis Honorary Scholarship.

Additional Scholarship specific requirements are outlined below.

Almond Board of California Scholarship

This scholarship is sponsored by the Almond Board of California

Sponsor Biography:

At the request of the almond industry, a Federal Marketing Order for almonds was established in 1950. At that time, it dealt primarily with compliance issues, and accordingly, was called the Almond Control Board. In the 1970's, recognizing a need to address market development, the name was changed to the Almond Board of California. While compliance is still a crucial part of its activities, the Board now engages in production, nutrition and market research, advertising and promotion in domestic and international markets, quality control and statistical analysis and dissemination. The Almond Board of California has been a California FFA Scholarship contributor for the past 2 years.

Award Amounts:

- 2 - \$ 7,500 scholarships
- 3 - \$ 5,000 scholarships
- 3 - \$ 2,500 scholarships
- 6 - \$ 1,000 scholarships

Alpha Gamma Rho Scholarship

This scholarship is sponsored by the Alpha Sigma Chapter at CSU, Fresno

Sponsor Biography:

The Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity was founded in 1904 and has long since embraced the future of agriculture. For over a hundred years members have strived for academic excellence as well as excellence through service to achieve our overarching goal to make better men. Meanwhile promoting the growth of agriculture by supporting fellow organizations such as the Future Farmers of America financially and as a whole. AGR guides students to make strong career decisions through fellowship and philanthropy. Preference goes to a male who will be attending CSU, Fresno in the fall.

Award Amount:

1 - \$ 1,000 scholarship

Jerry L. Biggs Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship is sponsored by the California Association FFA

Sponsor Biography:

Mr. Jerry L. Biggs served agriculture education in California throughout his professional career, first as an agriculture instructor and later serving more than 19 years as the Regional Supervisor of Agricultural Education in the San Joaquin Region. Mr. Biggs worked tirelessly to preserve and improve the quality of agriculture education programs in California. He was always particularly interested in maintaining a strong SOE component in agricultural education programs and was a key player in implementing the agricultural incentive grant program. Countless teachers and students have benefited from the service of Jerry L. Biggs in California's agricultural education program.

Award Amount:

1 - \$ 1,000 scholarship

Additional Requirements/Considerations:

Applicants must be majoring in Agriculture Education focused on high school agriculture.

Mabel W. Jacks Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship is sponsored by the Mabel W. Jacks Trust

Sponsor Biography:

A scholarship has been established in the name of Mabel W. Jacks in the memory of her late husband R. C. Jacks. The Wells Fargo Bank, with the main offices located in Long Beach, shall be the trustee of the Mabel W. Jacks Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Award Amount:

3 - \$ 1,000 scholarships

Jerry T. Davis Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship is sponsored by the California Association FFA

Sponsor Biography:

Mr. Jerry T. Davis served as the Assistant State FFA Advisor in California for almost 20 years. He is, without question, one of the most significant role leaders California FFA has ever known. Innovation was central to Mr. Davis' work with the FFA. He is renowned for the many new leadership opportunities created for California FFA members under his term of leadership. To name a few: full-time State FFA Officers, state officer Goodwill Tour, Regional Officers Leadership Conference, Creed Speaking contest, Best Informed Greenhand contest, and the Star Reporter program. To help meet the growing financial needs of the organization, Mr. Davis was instrumental in the formation of the State FFA Foundation and the passage of legislation which annually appropriates state monies for vocational student organization work. The state's Leadership Packet program is also the brainchild of Mr. Davis. This beneficial educational program resulted in a substantial membership increase for California FFA. Mr. Jerry T. Davis is a significant factor in the success which the FFA enjoys today!

Award Amount:

1 - \$ 1,000 scholarship

Additional Requirements/Considerations:

Applicants must be a high school graduate who is currently attending a four-year university.

Paul Freitas Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship is sponsored by the Paul Freitas Memorial Scholarship Fund

Sponsor Biography:

This award is given in loving memory by the Freitas Family and Paul's many friends. Paul showed Hampshire and Suffolk breeding and market lambs during his nine years as a 4H and FFA member. His family and friends hope that this award will encourage and assist FFA sheep exhibitors to participate and gain some of the many successful and worthwhile experiences Paul had while showing sheep. Paul was an active member of the Oakdale FFA Chapter under the guidance of his advisor Mr. Don Hendricks. Besides participating in livestock judging. He also participated in project competition, parliamentary procedure, conferences and he was the Chapter President his senior year.

Award Amount:

1 - \$ 750 scholarship

Additional Requirements/Considerations:

Applicants must have a Supervised Agriculture Experience program in Sheep Production.

Bob Heuvel Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship is sponsored by the California Association FFA

Sponsor Biography:

Mr. Bob Heuvel served agriculture education in California throughout his professional career, as an agriculture instructor at the secondary and post-secondary levels, a regional supervisor, and later serving 25 years as the State Supervisor of Agricultural Education. Mr. Heuvel strongly believed that **every** student was deserving of a high quality education in agriculture and opportunities for personal growth through the FFA. Mr. Heuvel passed away in 2019 but his contributions to agriculture education will not be forgotten.

Award Amount:

1 - \$ 1,000 scholarship

Byron J. McMahon Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship is sponsored by the California Association FFA

Sponsor Biography:

A former State Supervisor of Agricultural Education, Byron J. McMahon is revered in California for the tremendous leadership he exerted for vocational agriculture and the FFA during its forming years. The intent of the Byron J. McMahon Scholarship is to recognize an FFA member who is an example of a well-rounded agriculture student. A well-rounded agriculture student is defined as an FFA member who combines a strong SOEP, FFA, community, and school activities, and a solid record of scholastic achievement.

Award Amount:

1 - \$ 1,000 scholarship

Dean McNeilly Scholarship

This scholarship is sponsored by Mr. Dean McNeilly

Sponsor Biography:

The Dean McNeilly scholarship is in the name of a long time friend and supporter of the California FFA. Dean McNeilly has served California FFA as a High School Ag teacher, Modesto Junior College Professor, and he retired as the Dean of Vocational Education from San Joaquin Delta Community College.

Award Amount:

1 - \$ 1,000 scholarship

Dorothy D. McMillan Scholarship

This scholarship is sponsored by the McMillan Family of Sacramento

Sponsor Biography:

Mrs. Dorothy McMillan was a long-time supporter of the California Association FFA. She was a stalwart among those who champion the FFA organization, its members, purposes, and values. Though she had a lengthy tenure of providing financial support for the organization, her efforts on behalf of the FFA significantly exceeded the bounds of that one dimension. She always had something positive to say about the organization and could have qualified as a "one-man public relations campaign" for the FFA wherever she went. She has made many treks to state and national FFA conventions and long was a source of inspiration and moral support to state FFA officers and others working on behalf of the FFA. She was always comfortable to remain in the background as one of FFA's "unsung heroes." Having long ago received all the most prestigious honors the state organization can bestow, including the Honorary State FFA Degree, this scholarship in her honor, seems an appropriate way to provide well-deserved recognition to Mrs. Dorothy McMillan.

The intent of the Dorothy McMillan scholarship is to recognize an FFA member who is an example of a well-rounded agriculture education student. A well-rounded agriculture student is defined as an FFA member who combines a strong SAE, FFA, community, and school activities, and a solid record of scholastic achievement.

Award Amount:

1 - \$ 1,000 scholarship

Ron Schuler Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship is sponsored by the Schuler Endowment through the J.G. Boswell Foundation

Sponsor Biography:

Ron Schuler served as an integral part of the California FFA Foundation's development and ongoing fundraising efforts. Serving as a Board member since 2006, Ron was passionate about the impact that FFA and agriculture education had on students and the agriculture industry. Not surprising, it was a formidable part of his high school experience. Ron regularly challenged fellow Board members and staff to do more, in order to provide more opportunities for students. He regularly utilized his contacts and reach within the agriculture industry to gain the Foundation new donors and partners.

Award Amount:

1 - \$ 1,000 scholarship

Past State FFA Officer Scholarship

This scholarship is sponsored by the 1992-93 State FFA Officer Team

Sponsor Biography:

The Past State Officer Scholarship is being sponsored by the 1992-93 CA State FFA Officer Team.

Members of the team include:

President: Kevin Potter, Paso Robles
Vice President: Devry Boughner, Gonzales
Secretary: Matthew Terra, Newman – Orestimba
Treasurer: Travis Hagen, Chico
Reporter: Stephanie Wilmeth, Kingsburg
Sentinel: Jed Murray, Lindsay

The scholarship was developed to recognize students with outstanding participation in agriculture, leadership, and education.

Award Amount:

2 - \$ 1,250 scholarships

Universal Technical Institute Scholarship

This scholarship is sponsored by Universal Technical Institute

Sponsor Biography:

Universal Technical Institute, Inc. is a provider of technical education training for students seeking careers in entry level automotive, diesel, collision repair, motorcycle and marine technicians.

The California FFA Foundation has partnered with the Universal Technical Institute to provide 2 - \$10,000 scholarships to FFA members who are choosing to go to UTI after high school.

Award Amounts:

2 - \$ 10,000 scholarships

Jaimie Lynne Pettey Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship is sponsored by the Jaimie Lynne Pettey Memorial Scholarship Fund

Sponsor Biography:

Jaimie Lynne Pettey (1976-1992) grew up with livestock and was involved with 4-H and showing sheep at a very young age. Her showing career began at the age of 9 when she became an “official 4-H'er.” As the youngest member of the “Pettey Kids Southdowns,” her sheep were her main project. Always having loved birds, she later added an ever-expanding pigeon project. And, after joining FFA, market hogs and steers were added.

Jaimie loved FFA for the many opportunities it offered, not only in livestock and judging, but in leadership, public speaking, and working with others. She was the Bloomington Chapter Secretary and Citrus Section Sentinel for 1991-92. In 1991 she received the Star Greenhand award, and in 1992 the Star Chapter Farmer. She received gold awards in project competition in 1991 and 1992, and was selected best President in Section Parli-Pro competition.

FFA helped Jaimie set some high goals for herself. Her ultimate goal was to go on and become an agriculture teacher so that she could share some of what 4-H, FFA, and agriculture had done for her. Jaimie was fun-loving, but also dedicated and hard-working. She was happiest when she could combine the fun and the work. Fairness, honesty, and friendship were important in her life. But above all, she believed in doing the best job possible, not giving up, and living every day to the fullest.

Award Amount:

- 2 - \$ 750 scholarship
- 1 - \$ 1,500 scholarship



This scholarship is sponsored by the Dr. Jon Psaila Memorial Foundation, Inc.

Sponsor Biography:

The Dr. Jon Psaila Memorial Foundation, Inc. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting students who show a commitment to continuing their education in agriculture or animal science. Dr. Psaila was the owner of Psaila Veterinary Services, a mobile vet clinic providing low cost services. The clinic was started in response to seeing pets euthanized or surrendered at shelters because owners were unable to afford veterinary treatment. As a former FFA member, Dr. Jon Psaila was a strong supporter of agriculture education and youth leadership development.

Award Amounts:

- 1 - \$ 1,000 scholarship
- 1 - \$ 1,000 scholarship (specifically for a student pursuing a Pre-Veterinary degree)



This scholarship is sponsored by Zenith Insurance Company

Sponsor Biography:

For more than 60 years, Zenith Insurance Company (Zenith) has built a reputation as an industry leader by providing superior customer service with a strong focus on the agricultural industry. Specializing in workers' compensation, Zenith writes business in 46 states and the District of Columbia through full-service regional offices. Building on their extensive agricultural experience, Zenith's Agribusiness Solutions division was introduced in 2010 and provides, property, liability, auto and umbrella insurance for California agricultural farms and businesses.

Award Amount:

- 2 - \$ 3,000 scholarships
- 2 - \$ 2,000 scholarships

Additional Requirements/Considerations:

In addition to the preliminary screening process set forth by the California FFA Scholarship Program, applicants must also meet the following additional requirements/considerations: (1) Applicant must provide a 300-350 word essay on the importance of safety in agriculture or a major issue facing agriculture and (2) Applicant must have a cumulative G.P.A. of a 3.0 or higher at the school most recently attended.

***If you are interested in applying for the Zenith Insurance Company Scholarship, please complete Section G on the application.**