

2014 National FFA Convention Award Winners from California

By
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The 87th National FFA Convention was held on October 29-November 1, 2014 at Louisville, Kentucky. The convention set an all-time attendance record with 64,409 members, teachers, and guests in attendance.

Listed below are the awards and achievements of California FFA members, chapters, and educators:

<u>National Contests:</u>	<u>Team Placing</u>		<u>High School</u>
Agricultural Issues	2nd	Gold	Galt HS
Agriculture Mechanics	6th	Gold	Atwater HS
Agricultural Sales	---	Gold	Liberty Ranch HS
Agronomy	---	Bronze	Atwater HS
Creed Speaking	---	Silver	Tulare HS
Dairy Cattle Judging	2nd	Gold	Gustine HS
Extemporaneous Speaking	---	Silver	Tulare HS
Farm Business Management	---	Silver	Elk Grove HS
Floriculture	6th	Gold	Liberty Ranch HS
Forestry	---	Silver	Trinity HS
Horse Judging	2nd	Gold	Davis HS
Job Interview	---	Silver	Tulare HS
Livestock Evaluation	National Winner	Gold	Minarets HS
Market Plan	---	Silver	San Luis Obispo HS
Meat Judging	4th	Gold	Clovis HS
Milk Quality & Products	5th	Gold	Atwater
Nursery/Landscape	---	Silver	Clovis
Parliamentary Procedure (N)	National Winner	Gold	San Luis Obispo HS
Parliamentary Procedure	4th	Gold	Nevada Union HS
Poultry	National Winner	Gold	Hughson HS
Public Speaking	2nd	Gold	San Luis Obispo HS
Veterinary Science	National Winner	Gold	San Luis Obispo HS

National Proficiency Awards:

19 National Proficiency Finalists from California
5 National Proficiency Winners from California:

* Agricultural Mechanics, Design & Fabrication Wyatt Wolk, Kerman HS

Wyatt Wolf of the Kerman FFA Chapter in California began his supervised agricultural experience by working at his grandfather's fabrication shop—designing and constructing new trailers, equipment and components. Working at the family shop combines his two primary interests: welding and trucks. Wolf intends to pursue a major in agricultural business and would like to return to his family's fabrication shop to bring the business to the next level.

* Dairy Production, Entrepreneurship

Tony Lopes, Gustine HS

Tony Lopes of the Gustine FFA Chapter in California owns and manages 41 registered Holsteins on his family-operated dairy farm. At the age of 6, Lopes was involved with the family farm and was able to choose his own calf (through persistence of his father, of course.) Lopes hopes to study dairy science in college with the ultimate goal of continuing the family tradition of dairying.

* Diversified Agricultural Production

Andrea Thomas, Colusa HS

Although her passion is hog farming, Andrea Thomas of the Colusa FFA Chapter in California really wanted the opportunity to drive her father's Freightliner hay retriever truck. As a sixth-generation cattleman, her SAE now spans a commercial cow/calf operation, a breeding and market swine operation, and wheat, grass, oat, and alfalfa hay production. Thomas began her swine breeding program in 2007 and started selling pigs to other youth before branching outside the community to seek buyers. After pursuing a degree in agricultural education, Thomas hopes to work as an agricultural teacher and farm with her father.

* Fruit Production

Carina Duran, Wasco HS

Carina L. Duran of the Wasco FFA Chapter in California doesn't see her work at a local grapevine nursery as just a job—she sees it as the beginning of her career. The nursery grafts and grows grapevines for both table and wine grapes. When she began working there, her tasks were labor intensive. Now she does less prep work and more of the complex tasks—thus having greatly increased her familiarity with the production of grapevines. She is excited to continue the excellence of California growers and vintners after obtaining a degree in viticulture and enology.

* Poultry Production

Daniel Moretti, Tomales HS

Although he was born and raised on a dairy farm, Danny Moretti of the Tomales FFA Chapter in California decided to start an organic poultry operation after a local poultry producer sought organic egg producers to meet high market demand. He now operates a certified organic poultry operation consisting of 2,200 birds. Over 90 percent of his eggs are sold as organic under the Marin Sun Farms label. This agreement has increased his ability to negotiate and market his flock. He also sells eggs to a local grocery store, to neighbors and at local farmers markets.

Agriscience Fair:

Division	Placing		High School
Animal Systems – 1	10 th	Silver	Elk Grove HS
Animal Systems – 2	---	Bronze	Hughson HS
Animal Systems – 3	3 rd	Gold	Sac-Sheldon HS
Envir & Nat Resources – 1	7 th	Silver	Sac-Sheldon HS
Envir & Nat Resources – 2	3 rd	Gold	Elk Grove HS
Envir & Nat Resources – 3	National Winner	Gold	Elk Grove HS
Envir & Nat Resources – 4	5 th	Gold	Elk Grove HS
Food Products – 2	6 th	Gold	Healdsburg HS
Food Products – 3	---	Bronze	Elk Grove HS
Food Products – 4	---	Bronze	Sac-Florin HS
Plant Systems – 1	5 th	Gold	Lodi HS
Plant Systems – 2	---	Bronze	Galt-Liberty Ranch HS
Plant Systems – 3	5 th	Gold	Elk Grove HS
Plant Systems – 4	---	Bronze	Healdsburg HS
Power Systems – 2	9 th	Silver	Escalon HS
Power Systems – 3	6 th	Gold	Elk Grove HS
Power Systems – 4	5 th	Gold	Elk Grove HS
Social Systems – 1	5 th	Gold	Lodi HS
Social Systems – 2	5 th	Gold	Elk Grove HS
Social Systems – 3	5 th	Gold	Lodi HS
Social Systems – 4	5 th	Gold	Elk Grove HS

American FFA Degree Recipients:

303 total recipients from California. Nationwide there were 3,765 American FFA Degree recipients awarded. California had the third largest state total of degree recipients with Missouri being first with 464 and Ohio being second with 329.

National Chapter Awards:

Escondido	1-Star Chapter
Etna	1-Star Chapter
Exeter	3-Star Chapter
Florin	1-Star Chapter
King City	1-Star Chapter
Lodi	2-Star Chapter
Norco	3-Star Chapter
San Luis Obispo	2-Star Chapter
Santa Maria	1-Star Chapter
St. Helena	2-Star Chapter

National VIP Recipient

Bob Heuvel, California

Honorary American FFA Degree Recipients:

Jason Bretz, Los Banos HS	Central Region
Beth Swehla, Anderson Valley Sr. HS	North Coast Region
Clay Freeman, Foothill HS (Bakersfield)	San Joaquin Region
Luis Guerra, Santa Maria HS	South Coast Region
Robin Grundmeyer, Norco HS	Southern Region
Andy Ferrendelli, Princeton HS	Superior Region
Cindy Rohde, Pierce HS	Superior Region

2014-15 National FFA Officers:

Andy Paul, Georgia	National FFA President
Victoria Maloch, Arkansas	National FFA Secretary
Kristen Schmidt, Colorado	National FFA Vice President – Central
Ruth Myers, Kentucky	National FFA Vice President – Eastern
Stephen McBride, Tennessee	National FFA Vice President – Southern
Caleb Gustin, New Mexico	National FFA Vice President – Western