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# California FFANEWS



3 90th National Convention Champions



# California FFANEWS

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## 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 **6** State Officer Candidate Pre-Screen

**APRIL • Various** Field Days - Statewide **19** State LDE Speaking Finals - Fresno **20** State LDE Parli Pro Finals - Fresno **22-25** 90th State FFA Convention - Anaheim

**MAY • 4-5** State CDE Finals - San Luis Obispo **23** 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 90TH ANNUAL NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION AND EXPO.**

Delegates and attendees from California. We are so proud of all of our CDE and LDE contestants and National Champions featured beginning on page three. California also boasted 378 American Degree Recipients, listed beginning on page nine. Most memorable was the election of our former State Secretary, Breanna Holbert, to the National Office of President. Way to go, Breanna!



thomasdowney.ffa

Day #1 of National Convention! Can't wait to see what this week has in store for all of us! @nationalffa #ICANWEWILL #nationalffaconvention #californiaffa



## AGRISCIENCE FAIR NATIONAL CHAMPIONS



### SOCIAL SCIENCE, DIV. 5

Jonathan Moules,  
Turlock FFA

*Career and  
Family/Life  
Balance of  
California High  
School Agriculture  
Teachers*



### FOOD PRODUCTS AND PROCESSING SYSTEMS, DIV. 3

Emma Thorpe,  
El Capitan FFA

*The Comparison  
of Different  
Pasteurization  
Methods Affecting  
the Outcome  
of Mozzarella  
Cheese*



### CALIFORNIA NAMED HALL OF STATES WINNER AT NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION

As members know, FFA is a national organization that reaches from the state of Alaska to the U.S. Virgin Islands and from the state of Maine to Hawaii. Members and chapters are involved in countless aspects of agriculture. Held within the National FFA Expo at convention every year, the Hall of States showcases some of the diversity that FFA and American agriculture have to offer.

This year's challenge to participating states was to highlight their state's agricultural commodities. Twenty-three states exhibited, and California was named this year's winner.

The Patterson FFA Chapter designed California's booth after being named the winner of their state's chapter booth contest held earlier this year.

Jasmine Collins, Daniela Valenzuela, Samantha Wisbar and Xandra Carter were the four lucky members who brought the booth to convention.

"We wanted to explain [agriculture] in our state. We are number one for agriculture in the U.S.," said Wisbar.

The California booth featured the state's top 20 agricultural commodities, displaying samples of the actual products, along with a map of where these products are produced throughout the state. The chapter also designed an interactive quiz for visitors to test their knowledge of California's agriculture.

"It's truly an honor to be named the winner," exclaimed Valenzuela. "It's our first time at convention; we did this for the experience. It's been really fun meeting new people."

The Patterson FFA Chapter is led by advisor Kendall Green. They would also like to thank Blue Diamond Almonds and the California FFA Association for their support, along with all of the members of their chapter who helped design and construct the booth.

Pictured left to right: Kendall Green, Patterson FFA advisor; Daniela Valenzuela, Jasmine Collins, and FFA COO Joshua Bledsoe.

Reprinted from [www.ffa.org](http://www.ffa.org), New Horizons, Abby Marion, October 26, 2017

**Congratulations  
TO CALIFORNIA'S OWN  
BREANNA HOLBERT, ON  
BEING ELECTED 2017-18  
NATIONAL FFA PRESIDENT!**





## FEATURED CHAPTER

# Grass Valley - Bear River FFA

Bear River FFA chapter is located in Grass Valley in the Superior Region. The school is very small, with about 600 students. While the school is small, it doesn't mean the FFA program is not growing. The ag classes grow more and more each year with students that are eager to learn about the FFA and agriculture. Most people would say that the Bear River FFA program is the underdog, but they come to win. Bear River FFA has won many national and state titles making them the most awarded chapter in California. It is so amazing that these students are dedicated and love the FFA.

Each year they always work so hard to do their best, and the advisors are there to guide them and to help them achieve their goals. The past three years Bear River FFA has won in state finals competition and qualified to represent California at national competition with a Prepared Speaker, Agricultural Mechanics team, and an Agricultural Sales team, coming home with two more National titles! The students in the chapter work very hard to do well in competitions. They stay after school or come before school to put in the time they need to succeed. All the students in the chapter are

so dedicated to the FFA and are very involved in their SAEs. The SAE projects range from showing and selling animals at the fair to having a lawn care business. The kids work very hard to make sure their SAE projects are perfect. They put in many hours and learn many valuable lessons while they work. Many of the members take their SAE projects to the Nevada County Fair. These range from showing an animal or making and selling an ag mechanics project. Many of the members are very involved

*{ Continued on page 5 }*







{ Continued from page 4 }

with their fair projects and have competed at the State Fair. These kids are learning at a young age how to feed and care for their animals or how to make amazing products in the shop. The Bear River FFA members also love helping out the community alongside 4-H members. Together, each year they put on 'Farm Days' at the Nevada County Fair. At Farm Days the FFA members teach kindergartners through 5th graders about agriculture and FFA.

Each year there is a new group of excited Greenhands that can not wait to see what the FFA has to offer them. Outside of the classroom the chapter has its own cookhouse at the home football games. They sell tri-tip sandwiches, hamburgers, and their famous cobbler. The students love helping out in the cookhouse with their chapter officers and advisors. They also give back to the community by collecting money and presents for their adopted family, and putting on a holiday free shop. They are all very generous and want to give back and make the holidays one to remember.

*Photo Captions (starting opposite page, upper left, rotating clockwise):* Bear River FFA members at the BIG and Co-op competition; Bear River's FFA Ag Sales team taking third place at Nationals; Bear River FFA member working hard on his SAE project; the new Greenhand at GLC learning about the FFA and having fun; Program alumni Claire Newman returns to give back to the program that made a difference through her high school years and helped her establish a career path (pictured with advisor Steve Paasch); The Ag Mechanics team prepares for their first competition; New FFA members bonding and getting to know each other before a competition! •







## IT ALL STARTED WITH MY SAE

# Maisie Jane's California Sunshine

Maisie Jane Hurtado, commonly known as "Maisie Jane," is a real person and not just a company stage name. As a high school FFA member she started Maisie Jane's as her Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) project and to this day plays a very active role in every aspect of the business. She lives

in Northern California, the location of her farm and Chico located storefront, with her husband, Isidro, and their three daughters. FFA Superior Region Historian Kaia Harry (pictured at left), caught up with Maisie Jane to learn a little more about how her SAE remains a booming business nearly 25 years later.



### Q: What is your agricultural background?

A: "My great-grandfather Natalie Bertagna settled here from northern Italy, he was a gardener by trade. He found out that almonds were just starting to be planted in Northern California and so

he began to plant them in his own yard as an experiment. My grandfather then started farming them on his own. At the age of ten, he would help out local farmers, so by high school he had worked enough and raised enough money to buy his first orchard. This orchard still is in existence on Chico Avenue. His three sons were in farming and being an almond farmer's daughter, I for sure helped out. I worked all the harvests, even though I was a girl. I was driving the sweeper and changing the shaker pads, which is a very dirty job. I also helped out in the office and did whatever was needed and definitely experienced almond farming on a first-hand level."

### Q: When did you get involved in the FFA organization?

A: "At that time, you started out in FFA as a sophomore so I did that as well. I was so excited my grandfather and father were both FFA members and now it was my turn. At that point I started learning about SAEs. I had a flock of sheep at the time that I was breeding and selling for my first year. Then I was done with sheep and I thought, you know, a good SAE would be an almond business."

### Q: When did you start your SAE, and what inspired you to continue it?

A: "I recalled as a child all the dinner table conversations about almond farming, and how California almonds were so under marketed in the United States, because a majority of the crop was exported. I was frustrated with the fact it was common to go into a grocery store and not find fresh good quality almonds. Also, I thought nothing was being creatively done with them. My mother always had freshly baked nuts, and she had so many recipes. So, I thought, yeah, I can have a business selling high quality almond products. I started the business at age 17 and bought my first 2,000 pounds of almonds by selling my flock of sheep. My dad always taught me to do business and learn business the honest, hard way, so I was always paying fair market value. I

{ Continued on page 7 }



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was 100 percent self-funded, and it was a real life experience as it was important for me to learn by doing, I've always been a hands-on learner. You know, education can come in many forms. At that point it was definitely a one woman show, but I enjoyed the work and learning."

**Q:** How has FFA shaped you as a person and your career?

**A:** "I owe so much to FFA. It is such an amazing program because it teaches hands-on learning: those basic principles of a business,

record keeping, and looking at a project from start to finish. It is the base for any business. FFA gives you many great tools to use in anything that you do in life."

**Q:** Tell me about your company, when it was established and what you produce?

**A:** "In the fall of 1994, I first started with just four products, not knowing any better. Back in the day, I started roasting in my mom's kitchen until the Butte County Health Department called, and I met with them, They brought a big book of rules and regulations that I would have to follow to have a food product on the market. I remember coming home and thinking, how am I going to do this. Then my dad said "if there's a will there a way. If it's something you really want to do, you will figure it out." I was able to save money and rent out time from commercial kitchen spaces. I would make my products in the middle of the night, carting all my supplies back and forth."

**Q:** Why do you love agriculture?

**A:** "Agriculture is definitely the heart and passion behind the company. For me it is so rewarding to be able to connect people to agriculture.

From taking a raw product that we grow from our own orchards and having that connection, sharing that story, and that process with consumers; it really is about educating people about agriculture. It is a challenge for farmers to be able to tell customers how the food got on their table so that they have an understanding, a respect, and support for agriculture. I always tell my kids, "It's your responsibility in the future to make sure that we are not relying on importing all of our food. We are a unique company because we are the producers of the product we place on the shelves, and that is what makes the story behind Maisie Jane's."

**Q:** What advice can you give to students that are considering a career in agriculture?

**A:** "If you have an idea, there is no better time than the present. If you start young, you have nothing to lose. If it doesn't work out, you still have time to start over. It does take lots of hard work and passion, but as long as you have that passion and interest the work will come naturally. It is important to be committed and persistent because there will definitely be hard times, but you should learn from challenges. I think

for any young person interested in agriculture, the best thing is to learn by experiencing it - offering your time for internships. The most valuable learning experiences are being hands-on." •



Maisie Jane's offers an online store where you will find our top-quality nut products and unique gift baskets for every occasion.



In addition to the online store, Maisie Jane's has a storefront located in Chico. She feels blessed by all the support the community has given her company through the years.



Maisie Jane with husband, Isidro and their three daughters. Isidro farms 80 acres of almonds and manages the manufacturing facility for Maisie Jane's.



{ Continued from page 3 }

# National FFA Convention & Expo Results

## CAREER AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT EVENT NATIONAL RESULTS



**AGRICULTURAL ISSUES FORUM NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM . . . . . GALT FFA**  
Yamilett Diaz, Anaely Marquez, Fabian Rodriguez, Arath Chavez-Lepe, Claire Nelson, and Kaleb Roberson



**HORSE EVALUATION NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM . . . . . FRONTIER - BAKERSFIELD FFA**  
Karina Coe, Joslyn Camp, Kara Stark, and Macee Stowers



**PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM . . . . . GALT - LIBERTY RANCH FFA**  
Brittney Thompson, Victoria Powell, Lexi Lupton, Hannah Edwards, Ian Jeffries, and Brooke Gilstrap

### AGRICULTURAL SALES

3rd Place . . . . . Bear River FFA  
Mary Foles, Elizabeth Enke, Justin Kilgore, and Christoph Paul

### AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY AND MECHANICAL SYSTEMS

4th Place . . . . . Tullake FFA  
Gus Macy, Athen Kandra, Sid Walker, and Will Schumacher

### CONDUCT OF CHAPTER MEETINGS

Gold Emblem Team . . . . . San Luis Obispo FFA

### CREED SPEAKING

2nd Place . . . . . Charisma Arreola,  
Foothill-Bakersfield FFA

### DAIRY CATTLE EVALUATION AND MANAGEMENT

2nd Place . . . . . Petaluma FFA  
Megan Binford, Melanie Hanlon, Morgan Hartman, and Derrick Pomi

### ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES

10th Place . . . . . Reedley Middle College FFA  
Anna Sipes, Hadley Ciceroni, Ivan Chavez, and Devrie Montgomery

### LIVESTOCK EVALUATION

2nd Place . . . . . Nipomo FFA  
Erica Bowles, Kyler Vernon, Eric Sahagun Jr., and Tucker Banta

### MARKETING PLAN

3rd Place . . . . . O'Neals-Minarets FFA  
Delaney Finnegan, Garrett Alford, and Benjamin Bellisario

### MEATS EVALUATION AND TECHNOLOGY

2nd Place . . . . . Clovis FFA  
Eleanor Cumming, Mary Merritt, and Evan Pence

### MILK QUALITY AND PRODUCTS

4th Place . . . . . Santa Maria FFA  
Jennifer De Leon, Rosalva Diaz, Monserrat Nolasco, and Ariadna Romero

### NURSERY/LANDSCAPE

5th Place . . . . . Atwater FFA  
Daryl Dorsey, Dayana Argueta, Jeff Clark, and Amanjot Gandhoke

### POULTRY EVALUATION

5th Place . . . . . Grace Davis-Modesto FFA  
Alina Bizayayeva, Isaiah Langpaap, Madisyn Servante, and Cali Twist

### VETERINARY SCIENCE

3rd Place . . . . . Madera FFA  
Valeria Giron, Julia Padilla, Leslie Arevalo, and Omar Hernandez •

{ Continued on page 9 }



## AGRICULTURAL PROFICIENCY NATIONAL CHAMPIONS



### GRAIN PRODUCTION - PLACEMENT

#### ..... JOEL BALTAZAR MENDOZA, HAMILTON CITY FFA

Joel Baltazar Mendoza of the Hamilton City FFA Chapter in California has a supervised agricultural experience that includes rice field preparation, planting trials, collecting field data and harvesting the crop. Starting his freshman year, he began working with his father as a rice researcher. Starting with simpler tasks, Joel eventually learned to spray, irrigate, clean and dry seed, ship and harvest. He hopes to major in plant science at California State University at Chico. He is supported by his parents, Lorena and Baltazar, and his FFA advisors, Janice Lohse and Ryan Bentz. This award is sponsored by BASF.



### VETERINARY SCIENCE—ENTREPRENEURSHIP/PLACEMENT

#### ..... KATRINA SIEMS, MORRO BAY FFA

Katrina Siems of the Morro Bay FFA Chapter in California works for Los Osos Pet Hospital as a kennel technician. Growing up in a household with several pets, she was drawn to veterinary science. She feeds boarding animals, walks the dogs, and cleans up after closing. She eventually took on the responsibilities of holding dogs for blood draws and giving insulin shots. Katrina plans to attend the University of California at Davis to study animal science with the goal of eventually becoming a veterinarian. She is supported by her parents, Alice and Chris, and her FFA advisor, Peggy Flynn. This award is sponsored by the American Veterinary Medical Association, Blue Buffalo and Tractor Supply Company. •

# 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.

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

- Grady Ingraham, Alturas - Modoc FFA
- Steven Whitmore, Anderson FFA
- Hannah Kondratko, Apple Valley FFA
- Samuel Looper, Apple Valley FFA
- Mary Marsh, Arbuckle - Pierce FFA
- Sarah Marsh, Arbuckle - Pierce FFA
- Natalia Kolb, Arroyo Grande FFA
- Samantha Osiecki, Arroyo Grande FFA
- Vincent Rodriguez, Arroyo Grande FFA
- Carlos Rosas Beas, Arroyo Grande FFA
- Katie Tonascia, Arroyo Grande FFA
- Jessie Featherstone, Atascadero FFA
- Makala Navarro, Atwater FFA
- Amanda Skidmore, Atwater FFA
- Andrew Skidmore, Atwater FFA
- Erika Ewing, Atwater - Buhach Colony FFA
- Cassandra Smith, Atwater - Buhach Colony FFA
- Mackenzie Zeimet, Bakersfield FFA
- Jordian Bartley, Bakersfield - Foothill FFA
- Bailey Hall, Bakersfield - Frontier FFA
- Juliana Cisneros, Bakersfield - Highland FFA
- Victoria Pastrano, Bakersfield - Highland FFA
- Ashley Elcano, Bakersfield - Independence FFA
- Ethan Francis, Bakersfield - North FFA

{ Continued on page 10 }



# California's American Degree Recipients

(Continued from page 9)

Autumn Jackson, Bakersfield - North FFA  
Kurtis Nix, Bakersfield - North FFA  
Megan Banwarth, Big Valley FFA  
Taryn Gagnon, Big Valley FFA  
Kristy Dohnel, Bishop FFA  
Katie Doonan, Bishop FFA  
Alexander Campbell, Brawley FFA  
Hailey Sadler, Bret Harte FFA  
Alejandro Avila, Caruthers FFA  
Andrew Dias, Ceres - Central Valley FFA  
Gabriella Germann, Ceres - Central Valley FFA  
Martin De Jager, Chowchilla FFA  
Rachel Eye, Chowchilla FFA  
Cole Vlot, Chowchilla FFA  
Anne Christie, Clarksburg - Delta FFA  
Vanden Heffington, Clarksburg - Delta FFA  
Julian Jimenez, Clarksburg - Delta FFA  
Brandon Mason, Clarksburg - Delta FFA  
Davis Uslan, Clarksburg - Delta FFA  
Brandon Adams, Clovis - East FFA  
Mikaela DeMent, Clovis - East FFA  
Mitchell Parham, Clovis - East FFA  
Mikaela Reed, El Capitan FFA  
Cameron Rogers, El Capitan FFA  
Tatiana Wolung, El Capitan FFA  
Mary Swanberg, Elk Grove FFA  
Nicole Gillin, Elk Grove - Pleasant Grove FFA  
Hannah Gollnick, Elk Grove - Pleasant Grove FFA  
Olivia Schaub, Elk Grove - Pleasant Grove FFA  
Jared Unmacht, Elk Grove - Pleasant Grove FFA  
Michelle Utterback, Elk Grove - Pleasant Grove FFA  
Nicole Booten, Escondido FFA  
Catherine Hale, Escondido FFA  
Jamie McKinley, Escondido FFA  
Kent Davidsen, Eureka FFA  
Chance Roberts, Eureka FFA  
Ryan Crookham, Exeter FFA  
Fallon Hammon, Exeter FFA  
Jade Oates, Exeter FFA  
Caleb Sweeney, Exeter FFA  
Tanya Enlow, Fallbrook FFA  
Taryn Sehnert, Fallbrook FFA  
Kendall McBride, Ferndale FFA  
Christopher Berrington, Fillmore FFA  
Sonya Gonzales, Fillmore FFA  
Michael Mayhew, Fillmore FFA  
Jeffery McGuire, Fillmore FFA  
Hannah Wishart - Saviers, Fillmore FFA  
Isaac Bautista, Firebaugh FFA  
Cassidy Diedrich, Firebaugh FFA

Austin La Salle, Firebaugh FFA  
Eli Leadford, Firebaugh FFA  
Graciela Martinez, Firebaugh FFA  
Loren Mumby, Firebaugh FFA  
Olegario Rivera, Firebaugh FFA  
Anastacia Rojas, Firebaugh FFA  
Maisy Thao, Florin FFA  
Julia Almind, Forestville FFA  
Aleyah Banuelos, Forestville FFA  
Jordan Dutton, Forestville FFA  
Kylee Potts, Forestville FFA  
Ashley Hautala, Fort Bragg FFA  
Alexa Aparicio, Fresno - Central FFA  
Mackenzie Engelman, Fresno - Central FFA  
Callie Freeman, Fresno - Central FFA  
Madisyn Jimenez, Fresno - Central FFA  
Courtney LeBar, Fresno - Central FFA  
Collin Parker, Fresno - Central FFA  
Rebecca Young, Fresno - Central FFA  
Sandy Dye, Fullerton - Sunny Hills FFA  
Christopher Oh, Fullerton - Sunny Hills FFA  
Emily Martinez, Galt FFA  
Courtney Jacobson, Galt - Liberty Ranch FFA  
Cameron Bischel, Golden West FFA  
Matthew Caviglia, Golden West FFA  
Daniela Gomez, Gonzales FFA  
Jorge Lopez, Gonzales FFA  
Maria Martinez, Gonzales FFA  
Jaime Sabino, Gonzales FFA  
Jonathan Tinoco, Gonzales FFA  
Imelda Uribe, Gonzales FFA  
Cruz Valdez, Gonzales FFA  
Angel Viorato, Gonzales FFA  
Francisco Zarate, Gonzales FFA  
Osvaldo Zarate, Gonzales FFA  
Taylor Foster, Grass Valley - Nevada Union FFA  
Wyatt Price, Grass Valley - Nevada Union FFA  
Maritza Trujillo, Greenfield FFA  
Jackson Becker, Gridley FFA  
Mackenzie Mikulaco, Gridley FFA  
Tyler Wilkerson, Gridley FFA  
Nicolas Marsigli, Gustine FFA  
Marco Carrillo, Hamilton City FFA  
Emmy Henning, Hamilton City FFA  
Cade Johnson, Hamilton City FFA  
Ashley Avila, Hanford FFA  
Stephen Barlow, Hanford FFA  
Zachary Barlow, Hanford FFA  
Megan Borba, Hanford FFA  
Hunter Brown, Hanford FFA

Hunter Cabral, Hanford FFA  
Adam Daniel, Hanford FFA  
Ashley Daniel, Hanford FFA  
Bridget Dias, Hanford FFA  
Christian Dutra, Hanford FFA  
Sergio Hernandez, Hanford FFA  
Madison Mello, Hanford FFA  
Jacqueline Ocampo, Hanford FFA  
Macey Pearson, Hanford FFA  
Nicole Wurzel, Hanford FFA  
Isaak Kephart, Hayfork FFA  
Renny Winter, Hayfork FFA  
Jeanette Bedolla, Healdsburg FFA  
Lucas Kiff, Healdsburg FFA  
Luis Magdaleno, Healdsburg FFA  
Emma Manoukian, Healdsburg FFA  
Cody Newman, Healdsburg FFA  
Logan Real, Hilmar FFA  
Ryan Vieira, Hilmar FFA  
Emma Bianchi, Hollister - San Benito FFA  
Bradley Kaufman, Holtville FFA  
Kaycee Larios, Holtville FFA  
Lauren Lydick, Holtville FFA  
Armando Nevarez, Holtville FFA  
John Pacheco, Holtville FFA  
Sarai Parra, Holtville FFA  
Dawson Pfister, Holtville FFA  
Megan Smedley, Holtville FFA  
Brandon Taylor, Holtville FFA  
Katelyn Toth, Holtville FFA  
Mark Borges, Hughson FFA  
Nicole Damas, Hughson FFA  
Oscar Espitia, Hughson FFA  
Garett Hartman, Hughson FFA  
Jeffery Goens, Independence - Bakersfield FFA  
Trevor Hedge, Independence - Bakersfield FFA  
Armando Cervantes, Johansen - Modesto FFA  
Blair Brookes, Kelseyville FFA  
Mary McCallister, Kelseyville FFA  
Taylor Robbins, Kelseyville FFA  
Ashley DeWitte, Kerman FFA  
Anthony Andrade, King City FFA  
Wacey Barrington, King City FFA  
Tate Kelley, King City FFA  
Tessa Nunez, King City FFA  
Bryce Umbarger, King City FFA  
Jacob Venegas, King City FFA  
Gabriel Castellanos, Kingsburg FFA  
Aaron Davis, Kingsburg FFA  
Chris Kent, Kingsburg FFA

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John Martinusen, Kingsburg FFA  
Brent Oge, Kingsburg FFA  
Israel Sahagun, Kingsburg FFA  
Blake Serpa, Kingsburg FFA  
Madelyn Vigo, Kingsburg FFA  
Alyssa Hosmer, La Habra FFA  
Emma Lane, Lake Isabella - Kern Valley FFA  
Robert Daley, Las Plumas FFA  
Jeremi Barrios, Lathrop FFA  
Jennifer Homer, Lathrop FFA  
Melisa Tafoya, Lathrop FFA  
Riley Jacobs, Lemoore FFA  
Griffith Jones, Lemoore FFA  
Trinity Jones, Lemoore FFA  
Kyle Jue, Lemoore FFA  
Miguel Parra, Lemoore FFA  
Karlee Dornbush, Lincoln FFA  
Dana Brady, Linden FFA  
Brooke Dondero, Linden FFA  
Helene Dondero, Linden FFA  
Royce McPhee - Bayha, Linden FFA  
Kenneth Watkins IV, Linden FFA  
Evalyn Jones, Live Oak FFA  
Jessie Peterson, Livermore FFA  
Dawson Lewis, Lodi FFA  
Callee Newport, Lodi FFA  
Thomas Stokes II, Lodi FFA  
Breanna Holbert, Lodi - Tokay FFA  
Daniel Moules, Lodi - Tokay FFA  
Alejandro Santillan, Lodi - Tokay FFA  
Todd Patterson, Lucerne Valley FFA  
Mario Alvarez, Madera FFA  
Justin Bradford, Madera FFA  
Mark Cavallero, Madera FFA  
Luis Cervantes, Madera FFA  
Justine Esparza, Madera FFA  
Jessica Martinez, Madera FFA  
Raul Medina, Madera FFA  
Alexander Miranda, Madera FFA  
Jorge Pineda, Madera FFA  
Clayton Sheehan, Madera FFA  
Alex Soto, Madera FFA  
Kaitlyn Cubre, Madera - Liberty FFA  
Billie Medeiros, Manteca - East Union FFA  
McKenzie Carvalho, Maxwell FFA  
Jace Neugebauer, McArthur - Fall River FFA  
Jared Brandt, Menifee - Heritage FFA  
Christian Frahn, Menifee - Heritage FFA  
Jolene Hassell, Menifee - Heritage FFA  
Jonathan Kirkpatrick, Menifee - Heritage FFA  
leobardo Oropeza, Menifee - Heritage FFA  
Sean Randall, Menifee - Heritage FFA  
Ashley Reilly, Menifee - Heritage FFA  
Amber Thompsen, Menifee - Heritage FFA

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# Honorary American Degree Recipients from California

Each year, at the National FFA Convention & Expo, those who have made outstanding contributions to the National FFA Organization are awarded the Honorary American FFA Degree.

Honorary American Degree recipients from California include (pictured below from left to right): Dane White, Galt High School; Kerry Stockton, California Agricultural Teachers' Association; Shay Williams-Hopper, Tulare High School; Kelly Tulloch, Mountain Empire High School; Emmett Schultz, Golden West High School; and Anna Bates, San Luis Obispo High School.



Pictured below from left to right: David DeSilva, College of the Sequoias, retired; Andreé Earley, Las Plumas High School; Shay Williams-Hopper, Tulare High School; Emmett Schultz, Golden West High School; Joe Ricards, Fillmore High School.



Individuals not pictured include: Judy Aschwanden, St. Helena High School •



# California's American Degree Recipients

(Continued from page 11)

Kaleah Bese, Merced - Golden Valley FFA  
Jennifer Kuykendall, Middletown FFA  
Gracie Pachie, Middletown FFA  
Kiran Maqbool, Mission Viejo FFA  
Caroline Lee, Modesto FFA  
Brooke Lemos, Modesto FFA  
Anneke Jacobi, Modesto - Gregori FFA  
Derrick Stewart, Modesto - Gregori FFA  
Allie Wyeth, Modesto - Gregori FFA  
Bryce Davis, Monache FFA  
Cassidy Miller, Monache FFA  
Elizabeth Funke, Morgan Hill - Sobrato FFA  
Brady Schmidt, Morgan Hill - Sobrato FFA  
Marissa Smith, Morgan Hill - Sobrato FFA  
Alicia Young, Napa - Vintage FFA  
Alexander Brose, Nevada Union FFA  
Fallyn Foster, Nevada Union FFA  
Madison Goss, Nicolaus - East Nicolaus FFA  
Luke McFarland, Nicolaus - East Nicolaus FFA  
Jessica Moos, Nicolaus - East Nicolaus FFA  
Jeff Sterling, Nicolaus - East Nicolaus FFA  
Mason Borges, Nipomo FFA  
Weston Dalton, Nipomo FFA  
Samantha Farao, Nipomo FFA  
Jose Guzman, Nipomo FFA  
Isaac Perez, Nipomo FFA  
Austin Vernon, Nipomo FFA  
Catherine Kavonian, Norco FFA  
Savanna Valverde, Norte Vista FFA  
Cassidy Estabrooke, O'Neals - Minarets FFA  
Chloe Ferguson, O'Neals - Minarets FFA  
Alexandra Lanfranco, O'Neals - Minarets FFA  
Jordan Miles, O'Neals - Minarets FFA  
Caitlyn Hartzell, Oakdale FFA  
Ty Jones, Oakdale FFA  
Madison Morgan, Oakdale FFA  
Kevin Snyder, Oakdale FFA  
Emma Wright, Oakdale FFA  
Loren Benedict, Oroville - Las Plumas FFA  
Taylor Lacey, Oroville - Las Plumas FFA  
Jose Paz, Parlier FFA  
Carly Olufs, Petaluma FFA  
Robby Tunzi, Petaluma FFA  
Matt Vosseler, Petaluma FFA  
Adriana Coonce, Phelan - Serrano FFA  
Amanda Morrison, Pine Valley - Mountain Empire FFA  
Vincent Peinado, Pioneer Valley FFA  
Jesus Avalos - Cotten, Porterville FFA  
Ethan Babcock, Porterville FFA  
Emily Baeza, Porterville FFA  
Hailey Ladrikan, Porterville FFA

Carlos Linan Vasquez, Porterville FFA  
Ian Lovelady, Porterville FFA  
Ashlyn Miller, Porterville FFA  
Micah Riley, Porterville FFA  
Meagan Yaws, Porterville FFA  
Luis Galvan, Porterville - Monache FFA  
Miguel Calvillo, Ramona FFA  
Jordan Zielinski, Ramona FFA  
Chyler Corona, Reedley FFA  
Jesse Miller, Reedley FFA  
Garrett Barreneche, Righetti FFA  
Jonathan Barreneche, Righetti FFA  
Blake DeBernardi, Righetti FFA  
Stephen Waldron, Righetti FFA  
George Barslund, Ripon FFA  
Allison Faure, Ripon FFA  
Kent Norman, Ripon FFA  
Samantha Roush, Riverdale FFA  
Lexie Schultz, Riverdale FFA  
Ruben Felix, Salinas - Everett Alvarez FFA  
Javier Garcia - Romo, Salinas - Everett Alvarez FFA  
Anthony Ortiz, Salinas - Everett Alvarez FFA  
Amber Bjerre, San Luis Obispo FFA  
Luke O'Leary, San Luis Obispo FFA  
Beau Drake, Sanger FFA  
Cirenio Hisasaga, Sanger FFA  
Jacob Aguilera, Santa Maria FFA  
Sergio Arias, Santa Maria FFA  
Daisy Bernal, Santa Maria FFA  
Carina Fulgencio, Santa Maria FFA  
Ricardo Gallardo, Santa Maria FFA  
Jorge Gonzalez, Santa Maria FFA  
Julio Hurtado, Santa Maria FFA  
Diego Llamas, Santa Maria FFA  
Daniel Orozco, Santa Maria FFA  
Jose Rios, Santa Maria FFA  
Adrianna Begley, Santa Rosa FFA  
Robert Bisordi, Santa Rosa FFA  
Kayla Bowerman, Santa Rosa FFA  
Samantha Hansen, Santa Rosa FFA  
Hannah Lipman, Santa Rosa FFA  
Karina Lochner, Santa Rosa FFA  
Natalie Ramsey, Santa Rosa FFA  
Yvona Zipperle, Santa Rosa FFA  
Jeanette Garnica, Selma FFA  
Ariel Sauck, Serrano FFA  
Rachel Smith, Serrano FFA  
Kayla Foster, Shafter FFA  
Wilson Hansard, Shafter FFA  
Celeste Ortiz, Shafter FFA  
Enrique Ramirez, Shandon FFA

Austin Heiser, Sobrato FFA  
Cassandra Vos, Sonora La Habra FFA  
Hannah Jones, St. Helena FFA  
Jade Church, Strathmore FFA  
Kaela Cooper, Templeton FFA  
Lilly Hildebrand, Templeton FFA  
Caitlin Hopkins, Templeton FFA  
Chance Scantlin, Templeton FFA  
Brittany Stanton, Templeton FFA  
Damaris Perdue, Thomas Downey FFA  
Hunter Andrade, Tracy FFA  
Joseph Beltran, Tulare FFA  
Silvia Gayton, Tulare FFA  
Averee Johnson, Tulare FFA  
Julia Pitman, Tulare FFA  
Analeah Sanchez, Tulare FFA  
Christian Sousa, Tulare FFA  
Wade Sousa, Tulare FFA  
Kelsey Swall, Tulare FFA  
Danica Valencia, Tulare FFA  
Kyle Vander Tuig, Tulare FFA  
Casey VanderEyck, Tulare FFA  
Madalyn Vieira, Tulare FFA  
Alejandra Gonzalez, Tulelake FFA  
Melissa Martinez, Tulelake FFA  
D'Anna Massey, Tulelake FFA  
Rachel Coelho, Turlock FFA  
Daryl Dias, Turlock FFA  
Grant Doerksen, Turlock FFA  
Courtney Estacio, Turlock FFA  
Tyler Harcksen, Turlock FFA  
Alexia Nunes, Turlock FFA  
Morgan Nunes, Turlock FFA  
Megan Silveira, Turlock FFA  
Arthur Silveria, Turlock FFA  
Ryan Brewer, Turlock - Pitman FFA  
Lizzeth Mendoza, Turlock - Pitman FFA  
Harrison Bauer, Valley Center FFA  
Juan Flores, Visalia - Golden West FFA  
Alberto Pelayo, Wasco FFA  
Ethan Fagan, Weaverville - Trinity FFA  
Shae Johnston, Weaverville - Trinity FFA  
Ashlynn Geiger, Willows FFA  
Abbie Friel, Woodlake FFA  
Emily Hinton, Woodland FFA  
Rebecca Leitling, Woodland - Pioneer FFA  
Lauren Millang, Woodland - Pioneer FFA  
Mikayla Duchi, Yreka FFA •

# Chapter Scoops

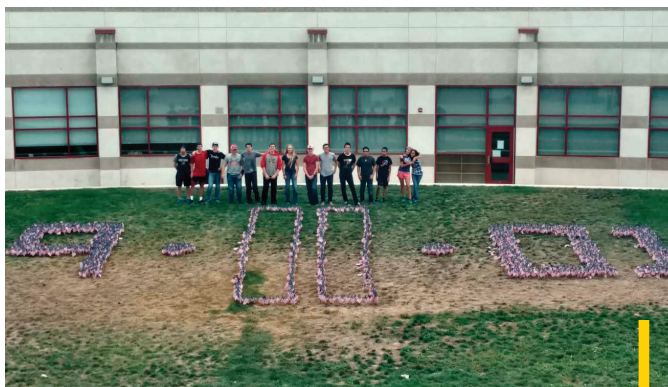


## RIPON FFA Welcome Back Barbecue

To welcome back new and returning students to the school year, Ripon's FFA Chapter hosted a Welcome Back Backyard Bash. This activity was to invite new members and their families, to get more information about FFA, future activities and opportunities. One of our advisors was able to barbecue delicious hot dogs, and it was also a way for new members and returning members to come together. Students and parents met this year's officer team and leadership team. While the food was cooking, there were multiple games available, such as corn hole, and a mini soccer game. This was a great way for students and parents to become involved. There was a great turnout at the barbecue, with around 80 members that came to the meeting.



car washing, or lawn maintenance. This event is near entirely student run. The officer team plans the event and organize the lots, volunteer student "yuppers" track the bids, and the best part, students auctioneer. In 2017 the chapter reached their record profit from the event, bringing \$5,010 into the chapter by auctioning off a total of 49 lots!



## SOBRATO FFA Sobrato FFA Memorializes Victims of 9/11

*Submitted by Jared Mandrell*

On this past September 11, Sobrato FFA continued a tradition that started in 2010; creating a memorial to honor the victims of the September 11 attack in 2001. The 9-11-01 design with the 11 representing the twin towers shown in the photo was chosen by the Sobrato FFA leadership class. The design is made of just under 3,000 American flags, each one representing someone who died as a result of that tragic day in September. The flags were placed by both FFA members and non-FFA students early in the morning. Students who were born in 2001 primarily make up this year and next year's graduation class. As a result, Sobrato FFA plans to continue this tradition as a reminder to never forget those who perished as a result of the deadliest terrorist attack in U.S. history.

## SALINAS FFA "Going once, going twice...SOLD!"

*Submitted by Taylor Sollecito*

The Salinas FFA chapter's most unique event is undeniably their annual Greenhand Auction which takes place during their Greenhand Week each fall. For over ten years this event has creatively tied together the aspects of a livestock auction and community involvement into the welcoming of new members. First year members, in reach of their Greenhand Degree, are given lot numbers and auctioned off to parents and community members. In return the buyer can have the student perform three hours of service, this being anything from baby sitting,

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## LIVINGSTON FFA LHS Rocked Sock-tober

*Submitted by Jasmyne Gomez*

As California recovers from the devastating fires, communities have been rallying together to help those in a time of need. But it is easy to overlook the need in your own community when such a tragedy occurs. For the month of October Livingston FFA decided to do a sock drive and call it Sock-tober. Students enrolled in the Ag classes donated socks throughout the month. The socks collected were donated to Willy's Closet. Willy's Closet is a place where students and their families that are in need of the basic necessities can go and get items like clothing and personal hygiene care for free. It is completely confidential. As a chapter we donated over 300 pairs of socks. Livingston FFA is proud of the community that we come from and is always striving to give back.

## SOLEDAD FFA Handy Traditions

*Submitted by Estrella Garcia*

The time had finally come, it was Greenhand Appreciation Week!!! Time to share with our members and community how important this week is for them and us. Our team decided to let the greenhand recipients, have the chance to dye their hand green. As for chapter recipients, they were able to dye their hand blue. The members were eager to get a break from their work and leave their mark. We provided them a large piece of paper where once they dipped their hand in the paint, they could stamp their mark. The members really seemed to have enjoyed this small activity. It has taught them that they have the ability to leave a mark wherever they decide.



## MENIFEE-HERITAGE FFA City Partnership

*Submitted by Emilee Woodward*

This month the Menifee-Heritage FFA chapter solidified its partnership with the City of Perris. Over the years our chapter has supplied the city with seedlings to ensure the city's gardens are alive and well. On November sixth several important guests such as our superintendent as well as the mayor of Perris, attended a ceremony recognizing the partnership. Our facilities are now the fourth of 30 gardens that are either up and running or just getting started. The city has entered into a contest in which they are attempting to be seen as one of the healthiest cities in the nation. As partners, we are on a steady course to success.



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## RAMONA FFA A Legendary Year

Submitted by Zach Padilla

This year Ramona FFA has been legendary in shattering records. We have doubled or even tripled attendance at FFA activities, and have over 75 new members. Our school is one of three in the state and the first in Southern California to teach an Irrigation and Hydrology class, which educates students on water issues pressing California, irrigation methods and water calculations. We had our very own Sarah Drown become the first member from our chapter to be on the ballot for a state officer position last April. On a national level, two of our alumni, Miguel Calvillo and Jordan Zielinski, both four year members, received their American Degrees in Indianapolis this year. Miguel is currently working for Scantibodies in biotechnology, and Jordan is set to graduate Chico State in 2018 with a degree in animal science. All these passionate and devoted members are paragons of how far determination can take you! (Picture above is our Advisor Mrs. Connolly with Miguel Calvillo at National Convention.)



## FALLBROOK FFA Spreading Holiday Cheer

Submitted by Madison Evans

During the season of giving, Fallbrook FFA gives back to their community! Throughout the month of December our local Food Pantry holds their annual Adopt-A-Family, where people/organizations “adopt” a family for the holidays. Fallbrook FFA stepped up to the plate and adopted a family. As a chapter we collected money donations and items requested on the family’s wish list. At the end of the semester, on December 12, 2017, members of our chapter got together and had a wrapping party. With all of the donations we were given we hope we made the family’s holiday season more enjoyable.



## Your Chapter FFA

### Tell us your chapter’s scoop! Here’s how...

- 1) Submit a 100-150 word article about your chapter’s recent activity.
  - a. Please do not include members’ or advisors’ names within the article.
  - b. The article should be about an interesting and/or unique FFA activity. This is an opportunity to showcase new and innovative chapter activities.
- 2) Attach a GREAT quality digital photo.
  - a. Photos should be in color and help further explain the submitted article.
  - b. Photos must include members with appropriate clothing and behavior.
  - c. Photos must be sent as individual jpeg files, not placed within a document.

3) Email the above information to [news@californiaffa.org](mailto: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 California FFA News revised submission deadlines.

Revised  
submission  
deadlines



# STREET BEAT

## #ffaGLC



**lrc.ag.ed** GLC year 3! The class of 2021 is here at the Greenhand Leadership Conference today... Ready to meet new people, learn about agricultural education and leadership opportunities, and have a great time! #FBF to the past two GLC groups from #RCFFA! #ffaGLC



**taycfosterrone** of the more bittersweet days i've had. loved every moment of today. love everyone in these photos. loved every moment this season. thank you guys & thanks to today's group for allowing me to be vulnerable in front of you. no words #ffaGLC #preachhh



**healdsburgffa** GLC today! Learning new things and meeting new people! #ffaGLC #healdsburgffa #greenhands



**ffashs** Nothing but good times and smiles from our 18 first year members that attended the Greenhand Leadership Conference today. A special congrats to Mark for winning an "Oscar" for his outstanding leadership and thank you @calipatriaffa for hosting! #onamission #ffaGLC #makingadifference



**sanluisobispoffa** Today, 28 Freshman Greenhands attended the 2017 Greenhand Leadership Conference. We are so proud of them for stepping up to the Leadership plate. #ffaGLC #Leaders #StellarStudents



**westonranchffa** Our first Greenhand Conference of the year! We took 11 students today who learned about FFA, SAEs and the impact they can make in the community. #ffa #westonranchffa #ffaGLC #ffafamily #student #class #westonranch #greenhand #herebytheowl #conference #californiaffa #ffaforever



**ridgeview\_ffa** Our freshman discovered what the FFA is all about today at the Greenhand Leadership Conference! They are ready to #leadthepack #ffaGLC



**corebutteffa** Our Greenhands getting ready to attend the GLC! #ffaGLC



**watsonville\_ffa** Watsonville FFA took 33 members to the Greenhand Conference in Paso Robles today. They are all pumped up with their new leadership skills! Way to represent Watsonville!! #watsonvilleffa #caffa #ffaGLC

#ffaGLC