

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.

Submission deadlines:
Fall..... June 1st
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Stay in touch...

“California FFA”



UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE • 24-28 California Agricultural Teachers' Association (CATA) Summer Conference - San Luis Obispo

JULY • 9-12 Regional Officer Leadership Conference (ROLC) - Marconi Conference Center in Marshall, CA

AUGUST • Various Greenhand Leadership Conferences (GLC) - Statewide

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





by Adam Solis
Fresno FFA Chapter

During my time participating in the Sacramento Leadership Experience I, along with 74 other seniors from across California, were able to gain a unique perspective on the process that is taken to debate, amend, and pass

a bill. During this experience as a group, we had the privilege to be sworn in by Senator Galgiani and Assemblymember Caballero. The trip alone was a memorable experience, but the locations we visited during our time in Sacramento were places that I had never been before and by doing so for the first time while on this trip I'm now able to hold a meaningful and thoughtful memory to the time I spent visiting the Capitol Building, sitting on the Senate floor and mock lobbying with Senators to help pass proposed bills that our constituents were in favor of. But this trip wouldn't be possible without the supportive and encouraging guidance from our Legislative Counselors Vasquez, Van Noy, Ford and Autry along with Governor Garret. This experience allowed me to understand the complexity supporters of agriculture must face to advocate for an industry that supports all of us.

SLE Recap

SACRAMENTO LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE Sacramento, February 20-23, 2018



by Amber Zarevich
Manteca-Sierra FFA Chapter

Sacramento Leadership Experience: A Transformative Four Days

The Sacramento Leadership Experience was an extraordinary opportunity for all who attended. Spending a week acting as a California legislature allowed participants to understand the inner workings of our state government. Those who attended SLE began their experience by getting to know their fellow Senators and Assembly members as well as getting the chance to explore our state capitol. Going into SLE, FFA seniors were assigned a bill, which the week would begin its focus, and by day two, these

legislators began in-depth research of their bill. With breaks devoted to lobbying for our bills, participants had the opportunity to consult their personal Assembly member and Senator on their cause as well as learn how we should proceed when going into debates on our bills. On the evening of day three, SLE members were allowed to enter the committee rooms within the Capitol Building to debate on our bills prior to the House sessions. Our final day of SLE was devoted to full debate within the actual House chambers. Having met important people in our government and the agriculture industry at the social meals throughout the four days, each participant proudly walked away with a once-in-a-lifetime experience.





FEATURED CHAPTER

Blythe FFA

The Blythe FFA Chapter is located in a farming community in the Palo Verde Valley of Southern California. Our community works about 93,000 acres of crops/animal production and has been a huge supporting factor in building our program. Currently with a school population of 800, there are 289 students enrolled in and active in the FFA chapter under the unique supervision of a father/daughter teaching team at Palo Verde Valley High School. Many FFA members are children and grandchildren of past Blythe FFA Alumni.

Even though the Blythe FFA charter began in 1938, the teaching team has created a legacy that started over 30 years ago when Wendy Mullion, mother of Mary Ann Maxfield (Mullion) and late wife of Mark Mullion, began teaching students to appreciate agriculture by making the program her own and she inspired many students who are now in careers related to agriculture. Fast forwarding, we now see Mark and Mary working in tandem to foster their love of the program and all that it offers their students beyond the traditional four wall classroom.

As the chapter continues to grow and



change with its student involvement, the classes that are offered help to facilitate the students' wants and needs. Classes include: Ag Bio, Veterinary Science, Ag Environmental Science, Ag Mechanics, Introduction to Agriculture, Plant/Soil Science, and Large Animal Science.

The town of Blythe has always been such a small, gracious, and supporting community to the Blythe FFA. One of the community services projects the Blythe FFA students participate in includes helping California Women in Agriculture (CWA) hold Ag Days on campus, where approximately 1,200 children, pre-K through 3rd grade, have the opportunity to learn about agriculture. These young children get the opportunity to plant seeds, visit with students and their animal projects, watch demonstrations of different tractors, learn about local fruits and vegetables grown in the valley,

{ Continued on page 5 }





{ Continued from page 4 }

and much more. Another service project that the chapter members participated in this year was raising approximately \$5,500 dollars for the Blythe Cancer Resource Center.

In addition, the officer team: Payton, Drew, Clay, Sienna, Nelliya, Tayler, Claire, Mark, Alyssa, and Kassidee decided to focus their efforts this year on community involvement/giving back. During the school year the FFA officers and students give back to the community by hosting numerous events, including the Palo Verde Irrigation District company dinner, the Ace Hardware 4 Days of Christmas youth event, and the California Women in Agriculture scholarship dinner. The most recent service project was when the students collected a total of 512 non-perishable food items and donated them to the Harmony Kitchen, our local food bank that provides meals to the homeless or anyone who needs a helping hand.

Our members are always looking for ways to help build their career knowledge foundation by participating in numerous CDEs like the BIG, Creed, Opening and Closing, Computers, Record Books, Extemporaneous, Impromptu, and Job Interview. We are excited for our own President, Payton Cox, who will be advancing to compete in the Southern Region Job Interview Contest in March.

One of our most anticipated annual events is the Colorado River Fair located right here in our own backyard of Blythe. A large majority of our members participate in the livestock SAE, this year alone having 75 swine projects, 15 goat projects, 7 sheep projects, 6 beef projects, 5 poultry projects, and 3 rabbit projects. Our other SAEs include greenhouse production, landscaping, photography/arts, crop production, and agricultural mechanics. We are so proud of our students and what

they have accomplished and welcome any visiting chapters if you are ever in the area.

Photo Captions (starting opposite page, upper left, rotating clockwise): Picture of the entire Blythe FFA Chapter (photo credit: Randy Gomez of Lifetouch National School Studios, Palm Desert); Blythe FFA President Payton Cox wins 2nd place at the Imperial Section FFA Job Interview Contest and advances to regionals; FFA members donate over 500 non-perishable food items to local food bank; Blythe FFA

officer team along with Luke and Jasmine stop and pose for a picture during their visit; FFA members attend the Made For Excellence and Advanced Leadership Academy conferences in Ontario California; over 100 livestock students participate in the Colorado River Fair, our local county fair here in Blythe; chapter members compete in a Paper, Rock, Scissors, War during National FFA Week; and 1,200 young children visit the Agriculture Department at PVHS during CWA/FFA Agriculture Days. •

STATE OFFICERS ON THE GOODBYE



Favorite Memory



Best Laugh



Farewell



LUKE



Countless memories easily come to mind. But one of the most impactful was at the South Coast SOLC. Everything came full circle, as I was able to meet with students who sat where I did four years ago. I will always remember the conversations there that reminded me why I love serving the members of California FFA.



I was driving our team to dinner and Armando was giving directions from his phone. He said that Siri wanted us to keep driving even though it turned into a dirt road. My teammates encouraged me to keep going, but after about a mile of driving down this dirt road we realized we were definitely on private property and the road did not lead us to the restaurant we were trying to find! Needless to say, I was extremely panicked, drove very fast back out where we came from, and wasn't too trusting of my teammate's navigating after that!



It's incredibly difficult to describe just how grateful I am to the members of California FFA for giving me the opportunity to serve them in this position. This past year has been filled with visiting new places and meeting new friends. All of that is thanks to the incredible members and staff of the California FFA Association. Thank you for growing my perspective and shaping the legacy of California FFA!



JASMINE



This one's hard because a lot has happened throughout the year. My favorite memory will be every day-off at the FFA Center with my team. We would play volleyball at the park, make dinner together, go on bike rides, have dance offs in the house, and always find a way to make each other laugh. It was just great to come together after a crazy week and just enjoy being a family. I will always appreciate those days.



Throughout the year I could always find myself laughing but by far the funniest was during Monterrey MFE round two when Luke completely forgot what he was saying in front of hundreds of students and we all knew it. He said, "Let's look at the wall and the words and read what's on it." I laughed so hard and was crying hysterically. Never going to forget that one.



What a year it has been. I think if you had told me freshman year I would be elected to create relationships with thousands of students, teachers, and industry leaders across the state, I would have laughed. I cannot even put into words the amount of gratitude I feel for the students that I have met and have given me a hope for the future. I am so thankful for this year and the people that have done nothing but support and love me. I am so very grateful and blessed.

GENEVIEVE



Being elected alongside five incredible individuals will be a memory I'll never forget. Right before the announcement for the office I was slated for I remember every single delegate from the North Coast Region standing up and surrounding me in the huddle ready to support me regardless of the outcome. I'll always be so grateful for the amount of love I felt in my life at that moment



After a homebreak, I had come back to the center late at night. The next morning I was woken up by some noise in the living room, so I jumped out of bed (with my ducky pajamas, barely opened eyes, and crazy hair) excited to see my team that had just came home. Well... it ended up being Mrs. Otto and a chapter getting a tour of the center! Let's just say they didn't stop laughing for a while.



Thank you California FFA for opening your lives, homes, and friendship to me throughout this year. I cannot wait to watch the thousands of members we met this year reach their goals and aspirations that they shared with us. At the beginning of the year I was so worried about being away from my family and hometown, but now all of you have blessed me with a new home inside this organization. You have granted me an experience that felt like a dream, and I will be forever grateful.



{ Continued on page 7 }



ARMANDO



I had an absolute blast at chapter visits! So many crazy adventures, it's so hard to just mention one. Whether it was overseeing Scott Valley with Etna FFA, ice-skating with Turlock FFA, or riding a Gator to Walmart with Wasco FFA; the adventures were endless and spectacular! I got to meet so many amazing people, from meeting the entire student body of Warner Springs or having the most laughs of my life with the East Nicolaus Chapter's officer team and advisors (Ay Ay, Papi). Thank you to those chapters and members that allowed me to take part in their lives, even if it was just for a short time!

I had an absolute blast at chapter visits! So many crazy adventures, it's hard to mention just one.



My favorite laugh would have to be during Central Region Spring Meeting. As we performed the theme skit, one thing led to another, and I ripped my pants! It wasn't until afterwards I realized the severity of the rip, got extremely red in the face and had a good laugh at myself. I am positive more than a couple Central Region members got quite a laugh too! By far the most embarrassing moment in state office.



Amazing how fast this year went! I am so glad I had the opportunity to travel across the state and witness all the amazing talent this state has to offer! Thank you to all the members I had a chance to meet and support, because it was that valuable time spent with you that gave me the energy and motivation to carry forth with my best work. I am saddened to leave this position, but I am proud to know that California FFA has individuals that will ensure we stay an empowered and amazing association.



HUNTER



Chapter visits by far have been my favorite part of the year, there is not just one specific memory that comes to mind because each visit was memorable for different reasons. Night activities have to be my favorite part though; to come together and share a meal is always special, but the activities were always fun as well. I enjoyed getting to know students and see them the next day in class, it is just so cool to have a conversation with members and hear about all they are doing within their chapter and our association. I am so thankful for the members of California FFA that opened their homes and hearts to not only myself but my team, because of their willingness to show us all of the exciting things happening in their chapter my team and I were better able to understand the inner working of our association at the heart of it, the chapter level.



I have laughed plenty this year! I am having a hard time pinpointing just one memory because there are so many. Made For Excellence was definitely a time full of the most laughs. Not only were we able to kick-start the leadership continuum with sophomores but we were able to get to know them too. I do have to say that the dance battles were hilarious; members definitely know how to get down. Also, our team did a lip-sync and the boys chose "Let It Go", and it was definitely a highlight for not only me but for the members too.



It is sad that this year is winding down, but I am so thankful to have been a part of the 2017-2018 officer team. Serving as the Reporter has been such a pleasure. I am thankful for the memories, and friendships made. I cannot wait to see what the future holds for the members that I have met this year.



BOBBY



My favorite memory hands down will be the MFE (Made For Excellence) Leadership Conference. The State Officer team, as the navigators of the conference, had the opportunity to see each student walk through the doors not knowing what to expect or how far they would grow in those few days. Through crazy stories, devoted conversations, and random singing along, students and our team grew in our leadership skills and developed personal connections to last a lifetime.



One night our team had finished setting out supplies for chapter visit, and to reward ourselves we went to Dutch Bros. What had seemed like an end to the night was only the beginning because once we got home the biggest Nerf war broke out. However, soon all of our mattresses were off the beds, pillows scattered the hallway, squirt guns became the new weapon of choice, and our chapter visit supplies littered the floor in attempt of escape. I guess you could say it was a long night.

Thank you to the members of this organization for allowing me to see each of your passions, talents, and stories that make each of us unique and influential.



"Thank you" will never be enough to show my gratitude and appreciation for this year of growth, laughter, and true joy. Thank you to my teammates I can call my crazy family, and most of all thank you to the members of this organization for allowing me to see each of your passions, talents, and stories that make each of us unique and influential. •



CALIFORNIA FFA FOUNDATION

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION, FFA

CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

EXPLORING THE ENTITIES WITHIN THE CALIFORNIA FFA CENTER

The California FFA Foundation exists to support FFA members and agricultural education. It's our goal to grow and strengthen the impact of FFA and agricultural education, so each student can develop their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success.

The California FFA Foundation builds partnerships with industry, education, government, foundations and individuals to secure resources to support the FFA mission. Governed by a board of directors comprised of educators, business leaders, individual donors and FFA alumni; board members work diligently to strengthen existing relationships and develop new partnerships to provide support for FFA. •

HOW FFA FOUNDATION SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE



976 FFA jackets have been gifted to California FFA members through our Giving Tuesday campaign.



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Sectional, Regional and State awards are provided for 48 Proficiency categories, 36 Career Development Events, and eight Leadership Awards.

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ALA Reflections



ALBERTO ROMAN

Galt FFA

I had a great time at the Advanced Leadership Academy this year. For our chapter it's more than just an individual leadership conference, it's a chance for a big group of us to come together with a common purpose and improve what we do each year. We hold each other to high standards and expect that we will all give our best during the conference so that we can help make Galt FFA the best possible place it could be.

One thing I really loved was being able to see people from other chapters doing the same thing - pushing themselves and trying to picture what their chapter could be like. I really enjoyed hearing about what other chapters do to make FFA engaging and worthwhile- I definitely picked up some great ideas from my time at ALA.

Attending ALA has helped push me toward being a more confident, creative and goal-focused version of myself and reminds me that leaders will work toward the improvement of our organization. I am honored I was selected to represent our chapter and I hope all of us who attended can use what we learned for the benefit of our peers back home.



GERARDO DELGADO

Dixon FFA

On February 9th I attended a conference in which I got the opportunity to change a bit of my life. This was the first conference which I had ever attended. I had not really been part of any FFA activity before, but a couple of friends had told me good things about this conference so I decided to give it a try. I met up early in the morning with my chapter and we took off toward Modesto. We got there and I was very surprised to see so many members united at once in a hotel. I had the chance to meet a lot of new people, some which I still keep in touch with. This reunion got me to talk to more people in my chapter that I would not normally talk to on a normal day basis. I really loved getting to meet the state officers and knowing how their lives have been impacted and helped by the FFA organization. This FFA conference really encouraged me to become more involved in my chapter's activities and encouraged me to want to go to the California FFA State Leadership Conference. All in all, this was a great experience for me and, I would recommend it for all.



MFE

Reflections



JENNA LOVE

Ponderosa FFA

From February 9th through the 10th I got the opportunity to experience the Made For Excellence conference in Modesto, CA. We focused on personal growth, as well as our goals, strengths, and talents. We learned how to be leaders within our home and community. I discovered many strengths about myself that I am able to bring back to improve our chapter culture. One of my favorite parts of MFE was all of the interactive activities we did. For one of the activities the facilitators gave us a scenario and we had to make decisions about how we would handle challenging situations; whoever was left at the end had made the best decision. It was a fun way to pick decisions based on our knowledge of leading a team. MFE was a great experience, and I can't wait to go to the ALA conference next year to learn how to better work to help our local community.



MADE FOR EXCELLENCE

CLARISSE-CLOE HAMBY

Sunny Hills FFA

During my experience at MFE I was able to learn and identify how to be a leader in my chapter. We discussed how to better be involved in our home and community while helping each other identify our strengths. This part of the conference was really exciting for me as we explored the different types of leadership qualities and were able to identify our own. We were also able to discuss each other's leadership traits and how they all worked together cohesively. One of the most memorable experiences of MFE was being able to talk to FFA members all across our region and see the differences and similarities each of our chapters had. I was able to learn about the different opportunities I had in the FFA as well as learn how to continue my growth through this organization. I was even able to create an action plan that I want to follow after the conference. I am excited that this conference leads to another one next year and that I can continue my leadership training.



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Ray Prock Jr.
Tomas Puig
C Punch
Quality Packing/Bozzano
Olive Ranch
Jennifer Quinn
Karli Quinn
Paul Quinn
R.C. Starn and Sons II
Farm Operations
Ralphs Prather Ranch Fndn.
Denise Ramp
Rasmussen Ranch
Doug & Cheryl Reece
Kevin Reed
Mike Reed
Maria Reis-Mason
Julie Renner
Len & Mary Ann Richardson
Alicia Rockwell
John Rodriguez
Gamaliel Romero
Patrick Romero
Ronald Martella Farms Inc.
Emily Rooney
Rosa Brothers Milk Co.
Helen Rose

Jesse Roseman
RPAC
Sharon Rucker
Marcos Ruiz
Mary Ruiz
Ron Sa
Joseph & Jill Sabol
Erica Samons
San Joaquin Region FFA
Scott Sanders
Mark & Carolyn Sanny
Fran Sargent
Jeff Sargent
Carissa Sauer
Letitia Schafer
Schager Dairy
David Scheel
David Scheller
Richard Schmidig
Rob & Carleen Schuh
Ron & Jo-Ellen Schuh
Vincent Scism
Stasi Seay
Dave Segna
Edward Sellai
Jim Shanks
Kristin Sheehan
Jerome & Janice Siebert
Kristann Silkwood-Mattes
Damon Silva
Jim & Ellen Simonich
Marian Singer
Skidmore Family
Janelle Skinner
Smittcamp Ag Enterprises
Sonya's Fitness Solutions Inc.
Angel Soto
Southern Region CATA
Southern Threads
Bill Spaletta
Jack Sparrowk
Carmel Spaulding
Michael Spiess
LeRoy & Pat Spuhler
Shelly Stace-Naworski
Charles Steenbock
Kerry Stockton
Shana Strohn
Peter & Joan Suffredini
Sun-Maid Growers of CA
Sunworks, Inc.
Swall Farms
Mary Swanson
Matthew Swanson
John Sweeney
Syngenta
Karen Talbot
Eric Tamichi
Jeff & Carolyn Tassej
Tasteful Selections, LLC
Ken Tatami
Krista Tavares

Gina Taylor
Tesconi Event & Mgt Solutions
The Hopper Family
The Lucas Winery
Heather Thomas
Thomas J Metzdorf
Contractors
Carole & John Thoming
Kathy Thomsen
Charles Tipton
TML Livestock/RCW Boys
Tony Toso
William & Sara Trogdon
Ben & Kelly Tulloch
Joe Turkovich
Jeremy Turner
Stanley & Catherine Uchiyama
Valent U.S.A. LLC
Jodi Van Loben Sels
Margaret Van Warmerdam
Bernadine Vanaselja
Arleen VanWarmerdam Bet
Sheree Vegas
Julie Venierakis
Scott Vernon
Vivayic, Inc.
Walker Farms/Applied
Bio Control
Sandra & Robert Waller
Nanette Wardle
Jeff & Robin Warn
Wasco Union HS District
Richard Waycott
John Wedel
Nicholas Wells
Wenger Ranch
West Coast Reining Horse Assn.
Western Plant Health Assn.
Ashlee White
Cynthia Wickstrom
Wilbur-Ellis Company
Donald Wilkey
Pat & Jack Wilkey
S.Y. Willet
Kim & Jim Williams
Beau Williamson
Kathleen Wollen
Michael Woods
Mark & Melinda Wortman
Alice York
John Zehnder
Wayne Zipser
Mark & Laura Zohns
Bert Crane Orchards LP
MIG-L Construction, Inc.
Richard A. Benson
Plumbing Inc.
Ristau & Co., Inc.
Show-Rite Show Feeds
Silva Farms
Stewart & Jasper Orchards
Triple Crown Nutrition, Inc.
Woolf Farming Company •

Chapter Scoops



LOS BANOS FFA One "Sweet" Fundraiser

Submitted by Stephanie Murphy

In early January, Los Banos FFA chose four members, one from each class, to be sweetheart candidates. The Sweetheart Fundraiser sells heart balloons to the community. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year and raises thousands of dollars for our chapter. The winner was chosen based on who sold the most balloons. This year's winner was senior candidate, Tess Menezes. We would like to thank Tess and the other three candidates, Janessa Jimenez, Cassiana Rolichcheck, Gianna Warren, and their families for the hard work they put in. All together, they raised over 28,600 dollars for our chapter. We would also like to give a huge thank you to the Los Banos, Gustine, and Dos Palos Communities who purchased over 7,000 balloons to support the Los Banos FFA Chapter. Out of the 7,000, around 1,000 were donated generously to the Valley Children's Hospital in Madera.



GALT-LIBERTY RANCH FFA Annual Day of Service

Submitted by Alexis Lupton

Liberty Ranch is constantly receiving support from our community and we are always looking for opportunities to give back to those who have helped to drive our chapter along. Day of Service allows students to come together and contribute as much as they can. This year, Day of Service was divided up into four rooms with four different goals. There was a group of students writing cards for our military men and women, in hopes of reaching out beyond Galt. Also, some members enjoyed baking cookies for local fireman and police officers,

preparing hygiene kits for the homeless, and gift baskets for the kids at Shriners Hospital. In our members' eyes this is one of the most favored events from throughout the year! Liberty Ranch FFA loves the opportunity to have meetings specifically designed to give back to others and focused on servant leadership!



BUHACH COLONY FFA Spreading Cheer Near & Far

'Tis the Season! As 2017 drew to a close, members of Buhach Colony FFA Chapter dedicated themselves to making the holidays better for those who are less fortunate than themselves; they were given the opportunity to make a positive difference in the lives of others, and they seized it! In October, our first annual Trick or Treat for Canned Goods food drive commenced. On October 23rd, the members of our Ag Leadership class each took paper bags and dropped them off on the doorsteps of houses in their neighborhoods, to be picked up the following week. In the end, we had over 400 cans donated to the cause! The cans were then donated to the county food bank. Additionally, BCFFA participated in Operation Christmas Child, an event devoted to giving children in third world countries a better Christmas. Our chapter was able to grant gifts to over 100 children!

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FIREBAUGH FFA **Chance of a Lifetime**

Rocio Berber, Katya Martinez, and Mitzi Olivas had the chance of a lifetime February 20-23, 2018. They applied and were accepted to the Sacramento Leadership Experience. The best and brightest from California FFA converged on the California State Capitol for a four day experience that left them knowing more about government than a classroom alone could ever teach. They debated on the House and Senate floors of the California Legislature and served as Assembly Members and Senators from the Golden State during this conference. They gained public speaking, critical thinking, research, and even debate skills. The four days were quick and challenging, but completely worth the opportunity the students shared. They hated to leave but know they're more prepared for life through this amazing conference.

INDIO FFA **Riverside County Fair**

Submitted by Jonathan Rodriguez

The Indio FFA Chapter has dedicated the past couple of months to their livestock project as they are getting ready for fair season in the month of February. They have worked countless hours each week for this moment in time, and can't wait to see the accomplishments they will gain throughout their experience with this project. These members have poured their soul and passion toward their animals, as they will be showing and auctioning their animals during the last two weeks of February at the Riverside County Fair and National Date Festival here at Indio, California. The profit they will make from this project will show that all their hard work and dedication was put into use, with the hope to further develop their skills within the livestock industry in the years to come through the FFA Program.



ELK CREEK FFA **Junior Ag Olympics**

Submitted by Rebecca Ross

As our world depends on agriculture and those who are involved in it, the Elk Creek FFA believes that involving the next generation of future farmers in agriculture through fun games is important. During National FFA Week, with fun farm themed activities, the Elk Creek FFA tied in agriculture with the ongoing winter Olympics to form an all around fun experience for the students of the Elk Creek Elementary School. Games like "Cows out of the Barn" musical chairs, "Broomstick Pony" obstacle races, and "Herd the Pigs and Sheep" balloon games provided a fun-filled, agricultural related afternoon in the bi-annual Jr. Ag Olympics. Elk Creek FFA officers and members, in a six station rotation, led small groups of students in the various activities while talking to students about the FFA. We hope that the future generation of FFA members enjoyed this experience and will pass it on.



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Your Chapter FFA

Tell us your chapter's scoop!

- 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.

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 submission deadlines.



EL CAPITAN FFA Spreading Holiday Cheer

During the winter season, many families have their own holiday traditions that range from drinking eggnog by a fire to opening a present on Christmas Eve to coming together for a feast to one of the most easily distinguished: decorating the family Christmas tree. Many families of the El Capitan FFA celebrate these traditions as well as others during the holidays. However, it came to the attention of our members that some families in the community would have to go without Christmas trees last year. The Community Development Committee gathered trees themselves, while the chapter students brought lights and ornaments. At our December Chapter Meeting, many members came together to decorate the trees for donation. From there, Ms. Casso and other students hauled the trees to those families that would otherwise go without. Altogether, the members not only had fun but also worked together to help their community by spreading holiday cheer..



HAMILTON CITY FFA Annual Blood Drive

Submitted by Jared Poldervart

Last month, Hamilton City FFA held their annual blood drive. Over the years our chapter has held an annual blood drive where students and faculty volunteer to give blood to be used to save lives. This year 53 people volunteered to give blood however only 43 were able to and each gave one pint of blood. The blood was collected by Blood Source and was sent to laboratories where its usability will be determined, and from there it will be used to save lives. Each donor was given refreshments to help them recuperate and a free t-shirt. Though some may have feared needles, each donor took pride in the fact that they were quite possibly giving life.



GREENHAND leadership CONFERENCE

#ffaGLC

Greenhand Leadership Conference (GLC)

Who: Freshmen

When: One Day Conferences held in August, September and October

What: Introduction to Agricultural Education

Introduces students to the benefits and opportunities in Agricultural Education, including SAE and FFA. This conference is the “hook-line-and-sinker” to get students to buy into Agricultural Education throughout their four years in high school. Students will:

- Define Agricultural Education and its three ring model (Classroom & Laboratory, Supervised Agricultural Experience [SAE] and the National FFA Organization) and the three “Rs” model (Rigorous Instruction, Relevant Experiences and Relationships)

- Explore the Six Benefits of Agricultural Education through hands on team challenges: Money, Experience, Leadership, Competition, Travel and Personal Growth.

- Discover the Six Opportunities in Agricultural Education, which provide the Six Benefits: Hands-On Instruction, Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE), Officers and Committees, Career Development Events (CDE), Conventions and Conferences.

- Learn more about California FFA’s leadership and personal growth conferences: GLC, MFE, ALA, SLE and WLC.

- Develop a personal plan of action utilizing SMART goals that address the following areas: Lead (FFA), Learn (Classroom), Earn (SAE), and Live (Life).

Conference registration opens July 1st! Ask your Ag Instructor about attending today!

KARLEE HAWKINS: My GLC Recap

Chico FFA

In September 2017, I attended the Greenhand Leadership Conference in Colusa, California. We were put into groups with tons of other students from schools all over Northern California. It was really cool learning about all the different ways to step up and become a leader and all about becoming an active FFA member. My favorite part was meeting the people that had the same interests in the agricultural world as me. The conference was really upbeat and exciting, which is a good way to show students that are shy that it’s okay to come out of your comfort zone. The part that mainly impacted me was all the ways to become a member of the FFA team, which is something that I really look forward to being in the later years of high school. The Greenhand Leadership Conference is a great experience for all freshmen, even if you aren’t super involved in the FFA because it really teaches us as young adults how to be ourselves and show others the right path in life.



Redding



Paso Robles



Petaluma

MICHAELA MEDEROS: My GLC Recap

Tulare FFA

I had the privilege to attend my first FFA conference, the Greenhand Leadership Conference, also known as GLC, in September of 2017. At the conference, we were introduced to the three-ring model of agricultural education and met other members from chapters within our region. The directors were very energetic and encouraged members to interact and be themselves, especially during our teamwork activities. The directors taught us about the other leadership conferences that we would be able to go to later on in our careers as FFA members and how the conferences will help us to develop our leadership skills. I would definitely recommend this leadership conference to other members because the conference helped me to identify many qualities of leadership that I can develop throughout my life.