

California FFANEWS

WINTER 2018

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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
Winter September 1st
Spring November 15th
Summer March 1st

Stay in touch...

"California FFA"



UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY • 11-12 Made for Excellence (MFE) and Advanced Leadership Academy (ALA) - Sacramento
18-19 MFE and ALA - Redding **19-20** MFE and ALA - Monterey **25-26** MFE and ALA - Monterey **27-28** MFE and ALA - Monterey

FEBRUARY • 2 Winter State Finals **8-9** MFE and ALA - Modesto **12-14** World Ag Expo - Tulare **15-16** MFE and ALA - Visalia **17-18** MFE and ALA - Visalia **19-22** National FFA Week

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

WE ARE GIVING AWAY FREE CALIFORNIA AG PLATES

If you're like most of us, anytime you go to a FFA conference, field day, booster event or any other agriculture oriented activity there are a few unifying elements that always stand-out and let you know that you're in the right place. The school vans, boots, blue jackets and now the unifying agriculture license plate. Spotting a CalAgPlate at an FFA event, a livestock show or in any random parking lot is particularly exciting for those FFA members, advisors and alumni who can still recall the work that California Association, FFA members put into making the program a reality.

For many, that excitement remains and actually compels us to continue to push the program forward. If we are going to serve a growing FFA membership, we must to grow the CalAgPlate program! **This year we are challenging every chapter to giveaway 3 FREE sequential CalAgPlates.** The California FFA has set aside funds to grow the program, but we need YOUR help.

Receiving your free plate is as easy as 1-2-3!

1. Visit www.CalAgEd.org and click on the CalAgPlate banner on the home page for more information or complete the Specialty Interest License Plate application on the DMV website.
2. Print and mail the application to the California FFA at P.O. Box 460, Galt, CA 95632
3. The California FFA will submit applications to DMV with the initial \$50 application fee. (Plate owners will be responsible for the renewal fees.)



If we are going to serve a growing FFA membership, we must to grow the CalAgPlate program!



Donor Highlights...

IRONSTONE CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE



The California FFA Foundation and FFA chapters throughout the region recently celebrated the 22nd Annual Ironstone Concours d'Elegance, which showcases historic vehicles, encouraging the appreciation of technology, innovation, design and culture. Since 1996, the show and Ironstone Concours Foundation have raised more than \$750,000 to support local FFA chapters, the California FFA Center, as well as 4-H groups



throughout the area. FFA chapters play a significant role in the event, not only from a volunteer perspective, but also in providing educational displays, selling raffle tickets, fabricating items for the silent auction and even serving as junior judges for the show. The California FFA Foundation is grateful for the support of the Ironstone Concours Foundation and the Kautz family.

"We're grateful for Bayer's investment and involvement in the Central Region COLC. Mr. Dean's comments about the need to increase food production to meet the needs of our growing population were timely and thought provoking. Mr. Dean and Bayer CropScience are both strong advocates for agriculture education and supporters of the FFA!"

*Selina Lopes,
Central Region FFA Reporter*

BAYER CROPSCIENCE

This fall the Foundation also worked with Bayer CropScience, who sponsored the Central and Superior Chapter Officer Leadership Conferences (COLC). Attended by over 1,000 FFA members, COLCs provide skills as well as empower chapter officers to take on their roles as chapter leaders and aid other chapter members in meeting their leadership, personal and chapter



goals. Nasser Dean, current Foundation Board Chair and the Western Region Stakeholder Relations Manager for Bayer, had the opportunity to attend the Central COLC and provide a valuable comment on the importance of students' involvement in FFA, the impact of FFA, as well as other Bayer initiatives. •

HOW FFA FOUNDATION SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE



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



976 FFA jackets have been gifted to California FFA members leading up to the 2018 Giving Tuesday campaign.



The Foundation has committed to raising \$250,000 for the 2019 State FFA Leadership Conference.



FEATURED CHAPTER

Upper Lake FFA

Upper Lake FFA is part of the Upper Lake Unified School District and serves students from the communities of Spring Valley, Clearlake Oaks, Glen Haven, Lucerne, Nice, Upper Lake, Witter Springs and Blue Lakes. Some students travel over 45 minutes to get to school every day. The high school is located along the north shore of Clear Lake in the North Coast FFA Region. Clear Lake is the largest freshwater lake in California and it is considered to be the oldest lake in North America, dating back 480,000 years! The ecology of the lake and the surrounding county is also unique. Known as the "Bass Capital of the West," Clear Lake entices fisherman and wildlife enthusiasts from

all over the nation. The surrounding mountains and rolling hills are great for timber and cattle production and the volcanic soils are ideal for wine grape production. The fertile valleys are excellent for pear and walnut orchards, as well as nursery products. This is where our FFA Advisor, Erica Boomer, grew up and went to high school. She was never in FFA (but was a member of 4-H for over 12 years) so it was her goal to become an Ag Teacher and bring FFA back to Upper Lake High School; and that's what she did! After losing their FFA

**Make it Happen,
Make it Matter!**

Charter in the 1956-57 school year, Upper Lake FFA was reinstated in 2005-06 and has been growing strong ever since! Our other FFA Advisor, Chris Decker, joined our program in 2015 after earning his Career Technical Education Credential, based on his construction and welding experience. He has done a great job revitalizing the Ag Mechanics pathway and has brought in Ag Metals and Ag Construction courses. We also have a wood shop and a 1.5 acre school farm with a hog barn, goat and sheep pens, a steer barn, and a garden area. Students utilize these facilities for SAE projects and lab activities. Every part of the school farm was built by our members. Our school has close to 300 students total and half of them are

{ Continued on page 5 }





enrolled in Ag Education courses.

Upper Lake FFA strives to fulfill the service component of the FFA organization, essentially “living to serve.” Being a small community means that we experience everything together, the beautiful and the devastating. Recently our community, and surrounding communities, have been immensely affected by raging wildfires that have destroyed homes and agricultural

commodities, and disrupted the daily lives of many citizens. The entire north shore of Clear Lake was evacuated for over 10 days prior to the start of school this year due to the Ranch and River Fires (known as the Mendocino Complex). The Ranch Fire grew to be the largest wildfire in California’s history! During this time, our FFA members rallied together to evacuate animals, gather donations of food and clothing as well

as livestock feed and hay for those affected.

Organizations like LEAP (Lake Evacuation Animal Protection)/Animal Control and Calfire were crucial in saving livestock and property, but so were our FFA Advisors and our Chapter President, Rebecca Harper, and her family. They were able to gain authority clearance into evacuated areas to make multiple trips with

{ Continued on page 12 }

Photo Captions (opposite page, upper left, rotating clockwise): Upper Lake FFA’s Annual Canned Food Drive; The Ranch Fire burning toward our Advisor’s property. Mrs. Boomer’s house and barns were unharmed, but her family cabin and grazing lands were lost. She is so grateful for all that was saved!; Mr. Decker’s Geometry and Ag Construction class building the new goat shelter at the School Farm. Students in this class get Math and Ag credits, and they love “learning to do” construction projects that also benefit our SAE projects.; and Upper Lake FFA Chapter President, Rebecca Harper, at her home site which was a total loss during the Pawnee Fire in June. (upper left, rotating clockwise): Sheep exhibitors

showing off their ribbons for showmanship at the Lake County Fair. Adriana was a first-time sheep showman, qualifying her for Large Animal Round Robin Showmanship competition; Chapter Treasurer, Amanda Maxwell, with one of the School Farm Goat Breeding Project kids. We have a herd of seven does that live at the school farm and kidding season is a favorite time for all members!; These are photos from the annual Wreaths Across America event. We placed over 200 wreaths last Christmas to honor our Veterans; and Mr. Decker and Mrs. Boomer with our chapter officers and visiting State FFA Officers, Orrin Jones and Kyler Vernon.





WITH DEVRY
BOUGHNER-VORWERK



Most people know her as the Chief of Communications Officer and Global Leader of Corporate Affairs for Cargill or the 1992-1993 California State FFA Vice President hailing from the Gonzalez FFA Chapter. To me, she will always be my mother's best friend and one of the best "aunts" ever. At State Conference in April, Devry Boughner-Vorwerk had the pleasure and opportunity of speaking at the Delegate Luncheon. Now we get to go a little more in depth with her life at Cargill and past experiences in FFA.

Interview by Hollister FFA Member, Taryn Wright

Q: What made you want to get involved in FFA?

A: I loved the leadership aspect. I loved being challenged. I loved agriculture and everything it offered.

Q: What is your greatest memory from being in FFA?

A: There is not ONE memory. There are MANY memories! The one unifying memory is wearing the blue jacket. Being an FFA member is one of the achievements I am most proud of in my life. Zipping up the blue jacket conjures memories of leading my sheep into the ring, or stepping behind the podium for parliamentary procedure, judging vegetables, attending leadership conferences, and the list goes on and on.



Q: What advice do you have for current and future FFA members?

A: Don't squander your moments in FFA! Take advantage of every opportunity that seems right for you. Learn from your teachers, your instructors, your peers. Make yourself uncomfortable, put yourself out there. For example, give a speech in front of a lot of people if that's something that makes you uncomfortable. Show animals at the fair, even if it scares you. You will learn so much about life while caring for animals! Soak in the FFA experience because it is a true gift, a blessing.

Q: What is something valuable FFA taught you?

A: FFA brought the world of food and agriculture to life for me, and demonstrated that a career in agriculture was possible and that devoting my life to advancing the food system was exciting and meaningful.

Photo Captions: top, Devry speaks to delegates at the 2018 State Conference; bottom, Pictured with her mother, while in high school, Devry enjoyed her SAE sheep project, and showing at local fairs.



“ Don't squander your moments in FFA! Take advantage of every opportunity that seems right for you. ”

Photo Captions: top, The past State Officer team from 1992-1993 reunited at the State Conference last year to celebrate their 25th reunion. The team announced a scholarship commitment to current FFA members. Pictured here are Devry Boughner-Vorwek and Matt Terra.; bottom, Taryn and Devry take a moment for a quick picture before the Delegate Luncheon.

Q: What is your position at Cargill and what did it take to get there?

A: I serve as Chief Communications Officer and Global Lead of Corporate Affairs for Cargill. Our purpose is to nourish the world in a safe, responsible and sustainable way. My responsibility is to lead a team of seasoned professionals across the globe in communications, government relations, corporate responsibility, sustainable development, and brand. Our team's tagline is that we serve at the "intersection of geopolitics, business and stakeholders." We help the company navigate the ever-changing geopolitical landscape.

Getting to this point in my career took years of education in ag economics and policy, experience in government and private sector, and lots of hard work making connections and developing a strong understanding of the business and how geopolitics impacts the business.

Q: What are some of the coolest experiences you've had working at Cargill?

A: Interacting with foreign governments, meeting colleagues from all across the globe. Cargill is in 70 countries worldwide and we trade with over 130. We are creating connections that nourish the world! I am inspired every day by what Cargill does to feed people, invest in communities and create opportunities to pull people from poverty.

I loved working in Washington, DC for Cargill as well as living for a short time in China and India. Now I am enjoying living in Minnesota. I am surviving the winters in Minnesota and loving the skiing and snowshoeing, and absolutely loving the summers by the lake...we have over 10,000 lakes here. Come visit Cargill! We would love to have you!



Q: What does the word "leadership" mean to you?

A: To me, leadership means caring for something bigger than yourself and devoting your life to making a positive impact. Leadership is not about being selfish and seeking accolades. Rather, it's about caring for other people so much that you want to devote your time, talents, and resources to making their lives better. Leaders need to be inspired by change and inspire change in others.

Q: What are the internship opportunities Cargill has to offer?

A: We have an awesome internship program and it would be great to see more California FFA member alumni apply. College students spend their summers working with us and learning about the company. This year we had three interns in Corporate Affairs that worked hard on issues like addressing deforestation, mapping key partnerships for Cargill, and addressing our social media strategy.

PS: It goes without saying that I am so proud of my best friend's daughter, Taryn Wright, for zipping up the blue jacket! It makes me happy to know she is carrying on the legacy of FFA leadership. •



REGIONAL UPDATES

North Coast Region



Crescent City to Half Moon Bay, North Coast Region ALL THE WAY! North Coast Region has been off to an amazing start this year! This year we want to remind the members that despite the distance we are always interlinked with each other through our love for this organization, leadership and most importantly agriculture which is why our theme is **"North Coast United, Stronger Together."** The North Coast Region Officer Team has decided that we will be continuing the "NCR Chapter of the Month." We hope that we can highlight accomplishments chapters have made within the region through our Instagram account. We have also chosen to highlight events throughout the region that connect multiple chapters or sections. We hope these posts can remind

the members of our strength and keep us connected. Just around the corner is our COLC! We can't wait to watch our members learn and grow as individuals, and as officer teams during our time together at COLC. We are ready and excited to see all our chapters' amazing lip sync performances. We hope the chapter officers take this time to make connections with other chapters, learn and build our strengths together. We hope you are all just as excited as we are for the coming year. We cannot wait to make connections, meet with the members and UNITE. Thank you for the excellence our members bring to this region and we look forward to the achievements our members make this year. Have an amazing year, and remember NORTH COAST UNITED, STRONGER TOGETHER!

South Coast Region



The South Coast Regional leaders first met during the summer in San Luis Obispo, where our retreat consisted of deciding this year's theme, getting to know our teammates, planning and writing workshops, practicing our volleyball skills and bonding over our love of food and passion for agriculture. We then traveled to Tomales Bay for this year's Regional Officer leadership conference. There we learned the importance of believing in ourselves, our members, and in agriculture. We had the opportunity to meet other Regional Officers as well as this year's State Officer team. From there the South Coast conducted their Sectional Officer Leadership Conference in Atascadero where we encouraged our sectional leaders to **"Take Flight"** in order to elevate their influence not only in their chapters but as individuals in the real world. Throughout this conference we allowed the teams in our section to gain a better

understanding of how to operate sectional events, develop skills for public speaking, and bond as a team overall. In October South Coast hosted the Chapter Officer Leadership Conference in Hollister. This is where we revealed our theme not only for COLC but for the whole year. We encouraged our members to find the "Power of Purpose" in their role as chapter leaders. There we designed workshops pertaining to each perspective office explaining their roles and duties to their chapter. We allowed our chapter teams to grow closer together and gain a better understanding of how to work and function. Our goal this year for the South Coast Region is to have our members understand the importance and impact they have in their schools, homes, communities, and in the FFA.

NORTH TO SOUTH - EAST TO WEST, REGIONAL OFFICER TEAMS ACROSS THE STATE ARE PREPARING TO LEAD AN INCREDIBLE 2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR. WHAT DOES YOUR REGION'S TEAM HAVE PLANNED FOR YOU?

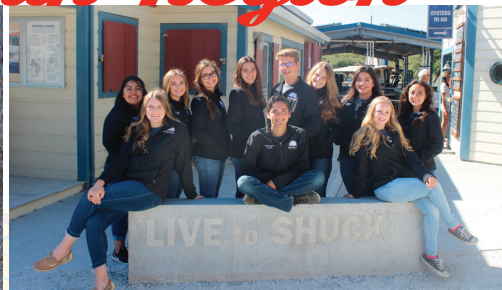
Southern Region



The Southern Region Officer team has been hard at work investing their time in members by not only strengthening their skills in leadership, but also forming strong relationships with members. It is investing our time into others and working on our own capabilities to serve others that has brought us to our theme for the coming year: **"Cultivate Potential, Harvest Success."** Our belief is that the more we invest ourselves into something such as building up our leadership potential, the more likely we are to see our success within that subject. In early July, the Regional Officers made the nine-hour trek to Tomales Bay for the Regional Officer Leadership Conference. At the conference they were able to meet with other Regional Officers from across the state, and learn the necessary skills they would need for their year of service, such as delivering a

successful workshop or the value of effective communication within a team. In August, the region officers facilitated the Southern Region Sectional Officer Leadership Summit. At the Summit, Sectional Officers were invited to bond with their teams and further their leadership capabilities. Special periods of time were allotted to the Sectional Officer teams so that they could begin the process of planning their individual Sectional Leadership Conferences with their advisors. Additionally, Dr. Kim Miller, Cal Poly Pomona professor, put on a valuable presentation titled "Conducting a Successful Workshop" for the conference. The Southern Regional members plan to continue to push toward their full leadership potential and the Regional Officer team is excited to serve these inspiring members of the Southern Region.

San Joaquin Region



After this past summer of exciting and intense events, the San Joaquin Region is ready to keep California FFA growing strong! When the installation was over, the team got right to work, beginning with a retreat in June. There we decided to get more involved with social media in order to bridge the gap between chapter and region using our new hashtag, #SJRGetSocial. We love seeing the members use this all over social media, and learning what keeps them involved. While doing so, we keep in mind our connection to agriculture, leading us to ask what makes us, as members **"Rooted."** In July, we had a great time growing our leadership skills at the Regional Officer Leadership Conference. During those four days, the State Officer Team, Dr. Dodson, and Mr. Valencia all taught us valuable leadership tips we can use to keep SJR the Mighty Mean! We

also had a great time facilitating and meeting all the Sectional Officers at the Sectional Officer Leadership Conference. It was great to see what big things our sections have in store for this year! In August, we put the San Joaquin Region to the test with this year's SJR Boot Camp. Chapter officer teams worked together to conquer a series of obstacles, group activities, and challenges. We were lucky enough to enjoy reflections shared by California's Past State President and National Officer Candidate, Luke O'Leary next to a nice warm bonfire. We are now kicking off the year visiting Chapter Officer Leadership Conferences, as well as planning our Discovery Leadership Conference, and we cannot wait to see what is in store for the rest of the year!

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Washington Leadership Conference Recap



Submitted by:
Michelle Borges
Hughson FFA Reporter

"Do what you can, with what you have, where you are" said Theodore Roosevelt. Michelle Borges of Hughson FFA had the opportunity to go the Washington Leadership Conference (WLC) through FFA in Washington, D.C. This quote by Theodore Roosevelt was the overall theme of the conference. This was a life-changing conference that widened your perspective on the world. There were five themes of the conference: **Citizenship, Purpose, Diversity, Advocacy, and Live a Legacy.** Many activities went on throughout the week, like a night tour of the monuments, visiting the capitol and the Newseum, a museum all about news. Each student had to also pick a Living to Serve project to take back to their community to help fix whatever struggle their community faced. There was also the learning of the WLC High Five: be vulnerable, be committed, be respectful, ichi go ichi e (for this time only), and be ready. There were so many valuable skills learned during this conference, like learning how to selflessly serve others. During the week, there was a community service project through the Meals of Hope. Meals of Hope began in 2007 and is the only food-packing event organization that has developed four different type of meals that are for the hungry specifically in the United States. Michelle recommends that all people attend this conference if they are able to. •

**"Do what you can,
with what you have,
where you are."**
~ Theodore Roosevelt

The Washington Leadership Conference focusses on the "SERVE" component of FFA. SERVE: Community Development, Personal Growth. This five-day conference is available to all members and is held in June and July in Washington D.C.



Photo Captions, top to bottom: Michelle Borges at the National Capitol in Washington D.C.; Lauren Roberts from the Florida FFA and Borges in front of a Lego version of the Statue of Liberty at the American History museum; Borges by her local representative's office; Borges with a group of members from Florida FFA standing in front of one of the very first tractors; Kyra Bukoski from the Hawaii Association and Borges are pointing to the National Capitol from the Newseum.





STATE OFFICERS ON THE go

The State Officer team has had an action-packed summer; from learning about the agriculture industry to attending many officer leadership conferences, the team has been busy filling every day with unforgettable experiences. The state leaders started their year with the Regional Officer Leadership Conference, held in Tomales Bay, where they helped prepare leaders from across California for their year of service and they were able to try some oysters from the Hog Island Oyster Company while they were at it.

During the summer, they also had the opportunity to visit and learn about different sectors of the agriculture industry. This summer, the State Officers were able to tour The Foster Farms Turkey Operation, as well as a beekeeping facility and many other farms across the state, and even the nation. While they were in Virginia, these six leaders were exposed to how agriculture in that state is remarkably different from Californian agriculture. From cow/calf operations, to poultry production, to beekeeping, this officer team has learned about the diversity of the agriculture industry.

But most of the team's time has been devoted to traveling the state and attending Sectional Officer Leadership Conferences and Chapter Officer Leadership Conferences facilitating workshops about BELIEVING in ourselves, BELIEVING in others, and BELIEVING in agriculture! •



Top Row, left to right: Argonaut FFA Chapter welcomed us to their school to help the officers prepare the workshops for the other chapters they will visit within the year; State Officers attended the State Officer Summit, held in Washington, D.C. where they learned how to effectively advocate for issues at the nation's Capitol; We started the year with the Regional Officer Leadership Conference, where 55 leaders from across all six regions gathered to improve their leadership abilities to serve their members.

Center Row, left to right: At the California State Fair, officers watched FFA members from across the state compete with their SAE Projects; After San

Joaquin Sectional Officer Leadership Conference officers celebrated the conference over lunch; The Southern Regional Section Officer Leadership Conference dance theme was pajama party.

Bottom Row, left to right: State Officers met with the Virginia FFA State Officer Team and have dinner while learning how different Virginian Agriculture is from what we know in California; The State Officers had the opportunity to tour a news broadcast station in Fresno, California, and were able to even have a few minutes of air time on set.; While in Virginia, the State Officer team had the opportunity to stay with the Arbogast family in a traditional farmhouse built in the 1800s.

REGIONAL UPDATES

{ Continued from page 9 }

Superior Region



"Oh, yes! We are! Superior by Far!" The team started the year off right by attending their first officer retreat of the year where they strengthened their teamwork skills, discussed the outlook for the year, and created the region theme. During this retreat, we discovered how members within our region all come from different backgrounds and strive for different successes. With that being said, our theme for the year is **"Unlocked!"** Our theme is all about unlocking our potential and recognizing that each key has different valleys and ridges, which signifies that we all have different stories and pathways that make us, us. With this image in mind, the Regional Officers excitedly prepared for the second week of

August, where Chapter Officers located in the Superior Region attended the Chapter Officer Leadership Conference at the Mountain Meadows Bible Camp. At this conference, those amazing members learned how to be greater servant leaders and expand their own potential through this organization with the importance of their own uniqueness in mind. We are excited to see what each of those individuals will inspire in their own chapters and communities, as we've seen the amount of growth that they were able to obtain in just those few significant days. Superior Region, we cannot wait to see what you will unlock in your year of service this year! •

FEATURED CHAPTER

{ Continued from page 5 }

Upper Lake FFA

their livestock trailers to retrieve SAE project animals for many of our members. Thankfully, we were able to shelter them at surrounding facilities, including the Middletown FFA School Farm and with Kelseyville FFA families. Our members also worked with fire victims in order to get them the animal feeds that they needed and made daily checks on animals still left in evacuated areas. Not only were Rebecca and her family instrumental during the Ranch Fire, but they were also victims of the Pawnee Fire that occurred in June of 2018 and her family lost their home! They were evacuated 3 times this summer during all of the various fires. Rebecca is an outstanding member and also serves as our Mendo-Lake Section FFA Secretary and was a state quarterfinalist for Extemporaneous Public Speaking this year! Way to go Rebecca!

With these events fresh in our minds, our FFA

Chapter Officers chose "Make It Happen, Make It Matter!" as our theme this year. We are a Chapter that emphasizes community service and it's times like these when we can really make a positive change, make things HAPPEN, and encourage our members to do things that really MATTER. We also participate in the annual Wreaths Across America campaign, where we get sponsorship for wreaths to be placed on Veterans' headstones at our local cemetery; we do an annual food drive and volunteer at every community event possible. In addition to



servicing our community, our members enjoy showing livestock at the county fair and exhibition shows, competing in speaking contests, and competing in welding CDE competitions. •

Above: Gathering feed, equipment and hay donations in Middletown during the Ranch Fire. Thank you to Amanda and Will Dyslin, Orphan Dog Rescue, LEAP and others for all their donations!

Chapter Scoops



SALINAS FFA Giving Back

by Taylor Baldwin

Here at Salinas High FFA we have kicked off our school year with a bang! This year, we worked at the annual Tanimura & Antle Field Day. This day celebrates the hardworking people that work for the company and in the agricultural industry. Salinas is also known as the "Salad Bowl of the World," so it is very important to us that we give back to the people that make this town and this world go round. We had a group of our most diligent FFA members working hard all day, cleaning up the area, working tents, and managing bounce houses. We got a little sunburned, but we had fun; and our members learned a little bit more about the amazing agricultural industry and what it means to be an FFA member!

During the 2017-18 school year, Turlock FFA gave back to the homeless community by creating and donating care packages. The 2017 fall Officer Team came up with this idea to fulfill the "Living to Do" portion of the FFA motto. They began with a goal of 1,000 care packages and through the help of student and local business donations, this goal was fulfilled. Each package included basic supplies, such as socks, water, snacks, and various hygiene products. During our trip to the 90th California State FFA Convention, we distributed nearly 1,000 of these care packages to the homeless population on Skid Row. This experience was eye-opening and humbling for our chapter.



LIVINGSTON FFA Slushie Social Success

by Laurny Franzese

On Tuesday, August 28 Livingston FFA held its first meeting of the 2018-19 school year! All

Livingston FFA members were welcomed as they walked through the doors. First, members would sign in and were entered into a raffle. Livingston FFA held a raffle for each grade level; the raffle prizes were Starbucks cards. After the business portion of the meeting concluded, the fun continued with students lining up outside for a free slushie. With a variety of flavors ranging from fruit punch to blue raspberry, and sour green apple to bubblegum, students had the pick of any flavor their heart desired. They could even mix and match different slushie flavors to make the ultimate slushie. A wide range of fun and exciting board games were provided by the Livingston FFA Officer Team for students to enjoy with their slushies. Their options were cards, Operation, Monopoly, and many more thrilling games!



TURLOCK FFA Giving Back

by Alyce Silva



HUGHSON FFA Promoting Ag Literacy

by Michelle Borges

Hughson FFA helps at the Hughson Farmers Market almost every week to sell eggs and locally and FFA-grown produce. Members sign up to work each week to learn more about the business of agriculture. This is a great opportunity for members to make connections with agricultural business leaders in the community of Hughson. In the past, Michelle Borges has set-up a booth about agricultural literacy. People could spin a prize wheel, then be asked a question about agriculture and could win a prize. This is a great way to connect with the community members of Hughson and to increase people's knowledge about agriculture.

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LATHROP FFA County Ag Fest

by Danelle Ariaz

The Lathrop FFA had an amazing San Joaquin County Ag Fest. In total, the Lathrop FFA Chapter had 51 projects at the Ag Fest. Projects ranged from pigs, to rabbits all the way to floral arrangements. The Ag Fest was held in June at the Stockton Fair Grounds. Each group of swine kids help out at the show ring and with the loading of the sale animals. Shown are 11 of the students from Lathrop High who were helping push hogs into the sale ring. We believe that lots of helpers make work easy. Most of the kids would switch out with another student when their sale number came up.



GUSTINE FFA Truck and Tractor Pull

by Aubrie Hazan

Gustine FFA was honored to represent our chapter on CBS 47 News in Fresno regarding our annual

Truck and Tractor Pulls. Members were able to attend the newscast to share information and promote the big event. This year marked the 34th year for the tractor pulls and was dedicated to one of the founders of the event, who recently passed away, Mr. Steve Bell. Mr. Bell was a member of both the Gustine Ag Advisory Board and Valley Tractor Pullers Association; he brought the idea of having a truck and tractor pull to Gustine FFA and 34 years later it is our biggest event of the year, raising approximately \$15,000. The money allows students to attend different leadership conferences, conventions, and other FFA events and contests throughout the year. We are grateful for the opportunity to promote our event and FFA chapter during multiple segments of Channel 47 News.

IMPERIAL FFA Ag Orientation Day

by Lauren Drewry

On August 29 Imperial FFA hosted our Ag Orientation. During the orientation, the Chapter Officers had the opportunity to speak to all of Imperial FFA's members about FFA events and the activities that will take place throughout the year. The officers' presentation included: A video introducing the Officer Team and this year's theme, "Envision Your Future"; a short speech on each conference and CDE contests and several "icebreakers" so the officers could mingle and participate in team-building exercises with the members. During the day the Officers were able to bond with and encourage the members to be involved and discover the great skills they could gain from being active in FFA. Many students enjoyed the activities of the day and became very excited about becoming a part of FFA. The Ag Orientation gave us the opportunity to meet our members and get to know the amazing group that we were going into the year with.



EXETER FFA Students Return to School with a Splash

by Lauren McEwen

Exeter FFA kicked off the school year this August with an exciting water-themed chapter meeting. Complete with a snow cone truck, the Exeter FFA chapter provided a menagerie of activities including mini games, water balloons, squirt guns, a dunk tank, and two massive water slides for the over 200 members in attendance. The snow cones provided a refreshing treat in the triple digit heat as students lounged in the shade, raced down the slides, and socialized during several beach ball games. There are 430 members in the Exeter FFA Chapter and the recent meeting was among the most popular in years.

{ Continued on page 15 }



GREENFIELD FFA Top 15 Trip

by Aligha Ramey

At the end of every school year 15 students who have been extremely active in our chapter and who have shown true leadership skills and strive to make a difference at our school earn a spot to go on a top trip. Those students have several Ag classes and work hard in every one of them. This year we took a trip with 13 students down to the Grand Canyon though Arizona and California. Our trip started on June 9 and ended on June 13. We attended the Grand Canyon Star Party where we got to learn about so many stars and constellations, and one of our very own students won a telescope. The next morning we did a three-mile hike down the Grand Canyon. The students had so much fun and shared their experience with the other members who now wanting to participate more to experience an amazing trip with other amazing members!



MADERA FFA Madera's Grape Life

by Kimberly Copland

Here at Madera South High School's Farm we own a two-acre vineyard. This vineyard has three varieties,

which include Zinfandel, Cabernet and Pinot Noir. Along with selling our wine made from these grapes, the vineyard also allows for students to have the opportunity to gain experience in the fields working with crops. This also allows our viticulture students to learn more about the growing process of this crop. We hold a grape harvest for our students to give them a chance to become hands-on and learn more about how grapes are one of Madera's top commodities. This year we had a little over 40 students participate and have a blast learning more about the grape and wine process!

ATWATER FFA Water Rally at the State Capitol

by Alyssa Carrillo

Nearly fifty Atwater High School agriculture and FFA students joined hundreds of farmers, farm employees, community leaders, state and federal lawmakers, the Atwater High School Band, and other Merced Union High School agriculture program and FFA students in Sacramento last August to rally against what is described as a "state water grab." The opportunity for students to take part in the event was organized through the Merced County Farm Bureau, Assemblyman Adam Gray's (D-Merced) office, and Atwater High School's Superintendent, Alan Peterson. "This was an opportunity for our agriculture students to experience legislative and government policy among their community and agriculture industry partners," said Atwater High School FFA advisor Kim Macintosh. For many students, it was the first time in Sacramento and the Capitol. "I learned that the water issue expands beyond just farmers and has an effect on all of us," said Atwater High School agriculture student Jennifer Velazquez.



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.

- Please do not include members' or advisors' names within the article.
- 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.

- Photos should be in color and help further explain the submitted article.
- Photos must be sent as individual picture files.

3) Email the above information to news@californiaffa.org.

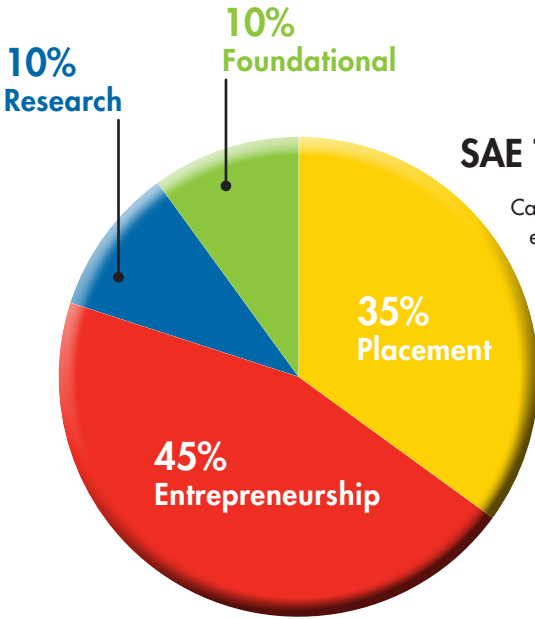
- The subject of the email must include your chapter's name. In the email, please include the author of the chapter scoop and title of the article.

4) Please reference page two for California FFA News revised submission deadlines. •

AET Record Book

STATISTICS *

With California FFA Members' use of the Agricultural Experience Tracker (AET Record Book) comes insight into Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) projects across the state.



SAE Type

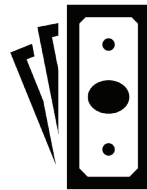
California has a higher engagement in entrepreneur SAEs with 45% of student involvement in this area compared to the national average of 30%.



47-MILLION DOLLARS

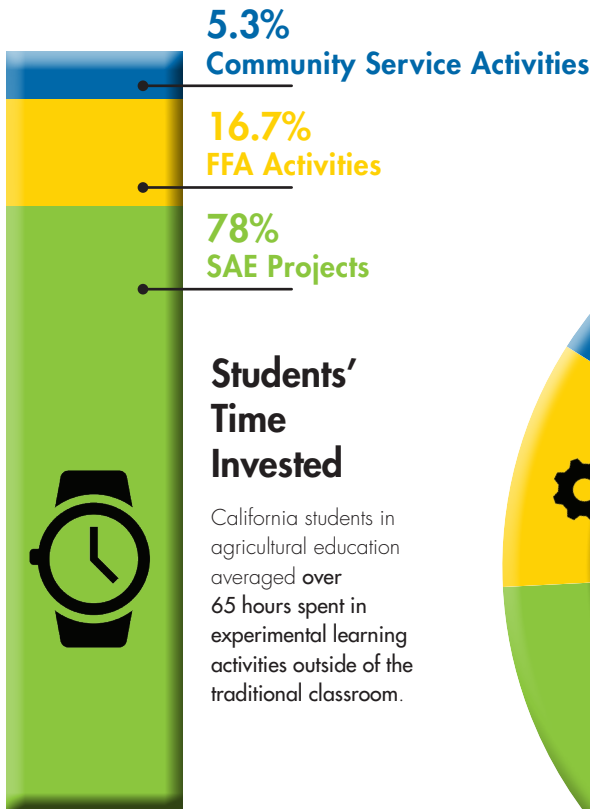
Income Values from SAE Involvement

A typical program in California has students earning \$141,544 in SAE related income, which state-wide is estimated to be over \$47 million in total value.



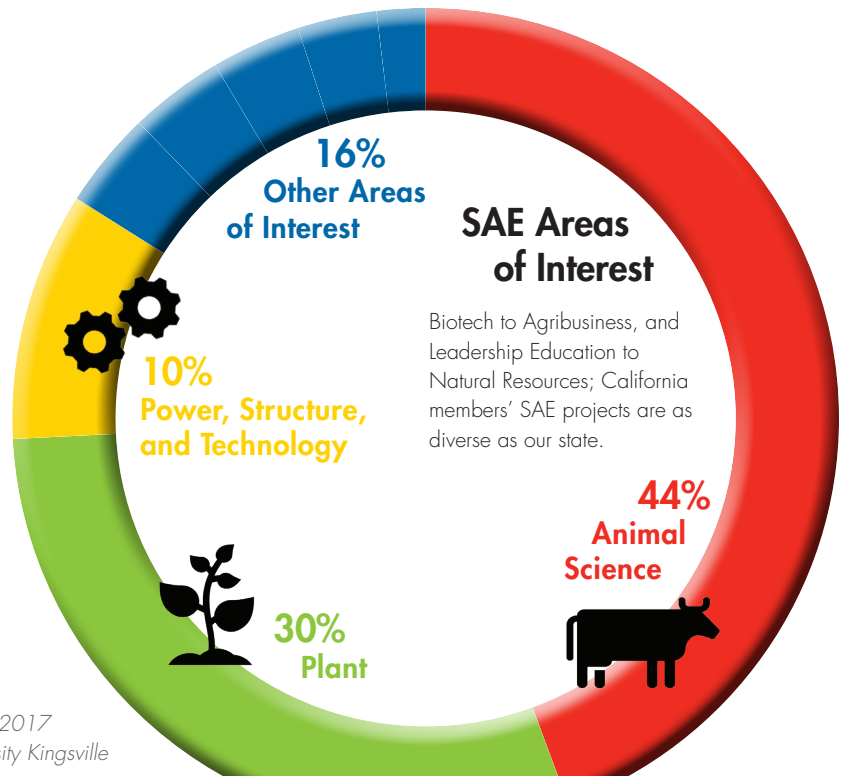
SAE Investments in Operating Expenses

The direct investment value of \$60,908 per program and state estimate of over \$20 million in direct spending from SAE activities are values that support local economies.



Students' Time Invested

California students in agricultural education averaged over 65 hours spent in experimental learning activities outside of the traditional classroom.



SAE Areas of Interest

Biotech to Agribusiness, and Leadership Education to Natural Resources; California members' SAE projects are as diverse as our state.

* 2016-17 academic year statistics as published July 2017
Dr. Roger D. Hanagriff, The AET & Texas A&M University Kingsville