

# California FFANEWS

CONCLUDING EDITION

WINTER 2019

VOL. 8 • NO. 2

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Winter 2019 | Volume 8 | Number 2

California FFA News is published quarterly by the California Association, FFA.

California Association, FFA  
Post Office Box 460  
Galt, California 95632  
209-744-1600  
inbox@californiaffa.org  
www.CalAgEd.org

Editor and Graphic Design:  
Jennifer Luiz Patton  
Twisted Twig Design & Print  
news@californiaffa.org

Stay in touch...

“California FFA”



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**JANUARY • 10-11** Made for Excellence (MFE) and Advanced Leadership Academy (ALA) - Sacramento  
**17-18** MFE and ALA - Redding **24-25** MFE and ALA - Monterey (#1) **26-27** MFE and ALA - Monterey (#2)  
**31-2/1** MFE and ALA - Ontario

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**FEBRUARY • 1/31-1** MFE and ALA - Ontario **1** Winter State Finals **7-8** MFE and ALA - Visalia (#1) **9-10** MFE and ALA - Visalia (#2) **11-13** World Ag Expo - Tulare  
**14-15** MFE and ALA - Modesto **18-21** National FFA Week **25-28** Sacramento Leadership Experience (SLE) - Sacramento

For a list of current FFA events please visit [www.CalAgEd.org](http://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 grow the CalAgPlate program! **This year we are challenging every chapter to give away 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](http://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 application fee. (Plate owners will be responsible for the renewal fees.)



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

# GIVING TUESDAY

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2019

For many, our FFA jacket still remains adorned with pins and ribbons, tucked away for safekeeping. The jackets proudly display not only the highest office achieved, but the wear and tear reflective of the experience! Unfortunately, not all California FFA members can afford a jacket to share in that experience.

To meet this need, the California FFA Foundation and Blue Diamond Growers will be participating in #GivingTuesday on Tuesday, December 3, 2019.

For every \$75 received, a jacket and tie/scarf will be gifted to a California FFA member who may not otherwise be able to afford one. Blue Diamond Growers will match your donation, up to 200 FFA jackets.



## GIVING TUESDAY BY THE NUMBERS!

**1,646**  
JACKETS GRANTED  
and students impacted through  
Giving Tuesday, since 2016.

Since 2016,  
**\$123,450**  
TOTAL RAISED  
by Giving Tuesday.

**OVER 92,000**  
CA FFA MEMBERS  
who share the same experience,  
pride and passion.

**338**  
FFA  
CHAPTERS  
throughout California.



For more information or to sponsor a jacket, visit:

[WWW.CALAGED.ORG/GIVINGTUESDAY](http://WWW.CALAGED.ORG/GIVINGTUESDAY)

**CALIFORNIA FFA FOUNDATION**

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# Donor Highlights...

## IRONSTONE CONCOURS d'ELEGANCE



"Ironstone's Concours d'Elegance gives FFA members an opportunity to demonstrate the skills they are learning in the classroom, in such a fun and unique environment. FFA members practice their public speaking skills, showcase items they've made in shop classes, hone their floral skills in creating the centerpieces - even in the junior car judging opportunity, FFA members are evaluating and giving reasons to support their decision. Concours continues to be one of our favorite events and we're beyond grateful to the Kautz family and Concours d'Elegance Foundation Board for their support."

*Katie Otto, California FFA Foundation  
Director of Fund Development*

The California FFA Foundation and FFA chapters throughout the region recently celebrated the 23rd 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 nearly \$1,000,000 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. Junior Car Judge and Bret Harte FFA member Thomas Grant shared, "I had no idea how much detail went into judging a classic car. We learned we had to evaluate every detail, look for items that may not be authentic to the car and be able to validate why we picked a particular car as the winner." Thank you to Bret Harte FFA, Calaveras FFA, O'Neals Minarets FFA and Summerville FFA for their support of the event.



The California FFA Foundation also wishes to thank the Ironstone Concours Foundation as well as the Kautz family for their ongoing support and commitment to agriculture education. •

## HOW FFA FOUNDATION SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE



Sectional, Regional and State awards are provided for 53 Proficiency categories, 35 Career Development Events, and eight Leadership Awards.



1,646 FFA jackets have been gifted to California FFA members leading up to the 2019 Giving Tuesday campaign.



This year the Almond Board of California and Almond Leadership Program will break another record for scholarship funding! Exceeding their \$25,000 goal, they are on track to raise more than \$50,000 for FFA scholarships and awards.

# Living Legends

## THE VALUE OF PARTNERING WITH ALUMNI, AG BOOSTERS, AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES

*Submitted by D'Ona Ashton  
Elk Grove FFA Chapter Reporter*

Elk Grove FFA was founded in 1929, with twelve members. In 90 years, the program has completely evolved to a department of seven full-time agriculture teachers serving 433 students. Since establishing our charter, the Elk Grove Agriculture Program has remained committed to fostering and sustaining partnerships with the community and agricultural industry. **These partnerships are the linchpin of our program, the living legends that enable us to ensure student success.** Two of our main platforms for partner development are community service and industry alignment of our courses. Elk Grove FFA members volunteer at an array of community events throughout the year, including the Elk Grove FFA Alumni Dinner and Dance, Elk Grove Rotary Beef and Reef Dinner, Sacramento Farm Bureau's Toast to Education, Blankets for Babies, and Elk Grove Lions' dinners. Student volunteerism at these events is a win-win; the supportive organizations receive student labor, and in turn the students are able to be visible within the community. This community presence leaves our program at the forethought of community organizations when it comes to donating resources and funds for community scholarships and support at our local fairs.

Last year, our program hosted the first annual CTE job fair for students in the Elk Grove Unified School District. The objective was to match high school students with Elk Grove businesses looking for summer employees. Local work-based learning opportunities are vital to the success of our program as well as to career technical education district-wide. Through community partnerships, students have the opportunity to participate in job-shadowing, industry-based certifications, mentorships, and networking with industry leaders. Our FFA Advisor, Colleen Lawson, stresses the importance of strengthening relationships

between students and stakeholders saying, "Having worked in industry prior to my career in ag education, I can speak firsthand to the importance of stakeholder and advisory relations. It is because of strong Ag Boosters that I earned scholarships to attend college, because of an active advisory committee that I realized career opportunities in the industry and because of my involvement in an agriculture program in high school that I am passionate about continuing to provide opportunities for students to experience success as an educator today. It really came full circle for me."

Our Alumni and Booster Associations just hosted our Tenth Annual Dinner and Barn Dance. This is by far our largest fundraiser of the year, and would not be possible without the support of parents and alumni within the Alumni and Booster Associations. The live and silent auction items are built or provided by students and the Ag Booster team, who relentlessly market the successes of our students in order to acquire funds and donations for our chapter. The dinner dance is a marquee event for our chapter, and it is a race to turn in your permission slip so that you can be selected as one of only 40 servers, *pictured at right*. It is through funds raised at this event that we fund chapter activities, farm facility improvements, leadership events, and other miscellaneous needs within the chapter.

Within each chapter's community lies a vast resource of alumni, other community organizations, business partnerships, and support. Chances are, each of these individuals has had an experience with your chapter and its members and, when called upon, would be happy to partner with you for the betterment of the community. •

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**"Our advisors really stress the importance of our involvement in the community and giving back to the community stakeholders and groups that do so much to ensure our success. Someday I hope I can be one of those supporters giving back to my local ag program,"**

*Colin Rosehill, Elk Grove FFA Chapter Sentinel.*





# STATE OFFICERS ON THE go

*Submitted by  
State FFA President,  
Carlyn Marsh*

It's been a busy six months for the State Officer Team and they have been enjoying every minute. After attending State Finals and the California Agricultural Teachers' Association (CATA) summer conference, they had their first conference in Tomalms Bay for the Region Officers Leadership Conference (ROLC), where they revealed how the team plans to go ALL IN this year.

They have since spent time at Chico State, UC Davis, Fresno State, Cal Poly Pomona, and Cal Poly SLO to learn about communication and continued education. Each tour gave the officers more information as to what each university specializes in and how that appeals to students.

Industry tours have been a part of their role as well. Seeing revolutionary industries being transformed by agriculturalists has certainly been a highlight for the team. Operations from organic farms mixed with agritourism to dairies with robotic milkers have been showcased.

As the Chapter Officer Leadership Conferences (COLCs) and Section Officer Leadership Conferences (SOLCs) come to an end, the team has been starting to get heavily involved with chapter visits. This is always a fulfilling time for the officers because this is where they get to see so many more members and hear their stories. As their visits continue, they keep members updated on their travels on social media.

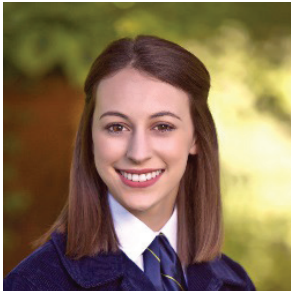
The team is looking forward to National Convention and more chapter visits! As the next six months progress, they can't wait to see how the 92,000 members go ALL IN! •





# 2019 - 2020 STATE FFA OFFICER TEAM'S

## Most Memorable Moments...



### STATE PRESIDENT **Carlyn Marsh**

Getting the opportunity to go to the Herlong FFA chapter was one of the best experiences I've ever had. This is a community where the nearest access to purchasing fresh food is forty minutes away. These

students are the most resilient and energetic people I have ever met. The advisor, Ms. Kim Dieter, pours her heart and soul into each one of them in an effort to make this community a better place. Hearing her and the students' stories was incredibly moving and, I am so grateful I was able to go to this school.



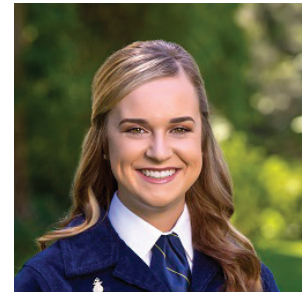
### STATE VICE PRESIDENT **Reagan Dahle**

Chapter visits are currently some of the most memorable moments of my year. One visit to Herlong High School was particularly moving. Herlong is a small town in the Superior Region and is home to roughly 150 people. My teammate Carlyn and I had the distinct pleasure of visiting the rural chapter, at which we

engaged with members and saw a glimpse into their everyday lives. They are kind, inclusive and overall an energetic and enthusiastic bunch. Not once did they view growing up in an isolated town as anything other than as a place from which to grow. I was moved to tears as I said my goodbyes. I am truly humbled and blessed to have had this experience.

### STATE TREASURER **Kayla Zalesny**

As I reflect upon my time within these first short months, I can't help but feel blessed for the precious moments and interactions I've had thus far. Aside from meeting and making connections with the wonderful members that make up California FFA, my most memorable moment would have to be touring the Foster Farms turkey facility that began with the hatchery and culminated with the packaging process. It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience to be able to go behind the scenes of one our major food suppliers and witness the process start to finish. This experience reassured my perspective that the agriculture industry is both noble and transparent with producers and consumers.



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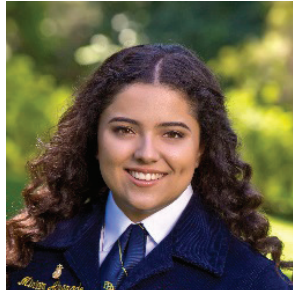
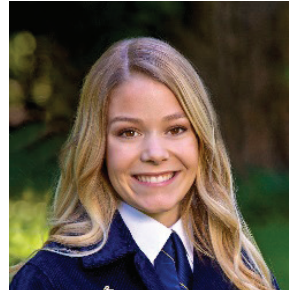


## SIX MONTHS INTO THEIR TERM AND DOZENS OF EXPERIENCES IN THE BOOKS! CALIFORNIA FFA NEWS CAUGHT UP WITH YOUR STATE OFFICE TEAM TO DISCOVER THEIR MOST MEMORABLE MOMENTS SO FAR!

### STATE SECRETARY

#### Lindsey Swall

After being on the road for five days, Kayla and I finished our week with a visit to Shandon FFA. My most memorable moment was our time spent with their officer team! Our visit began with a beautiful sunset hike up Chapel Hill in Paso Robles that culminated in a dinner with their advisor's family. We enjoyed laughter, good views and great food! The following day we were able to tour the town of Parkfield and make cookie bars for the upcoming Chapter Officer Leadership Conference. The visit was filled with amazing students and the best memories!

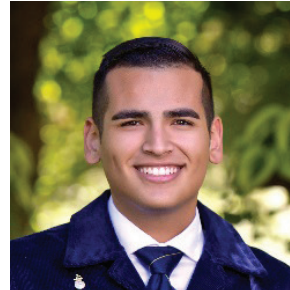


### STATE REPORTER

#### Miriam Alvarado

When David and I arrived to Sebastopol - Analy, we were greeted with a night consisting of BBQ, s'mores and a chance to play sports on Shantelle's turf management SAE. I stayed the night with Frances and her family, where I was introduced to their sow, cattle,

and MASSIVE RABBITS. This later shifted to school the next morning. When we worked with a smaller senior class, we were able to really connect with the students in that room. I left missing them and my "twin" Tia - but at least she taught me my new favorite Starbucks drink. All in all, an experience so warm as one of our first chapter visits set the pace for the rest of a great chapter visit season.



### STATE SENTINEL

#### David Lopez

When I stop to think of everything we've been able to be a part of this year, I am astonished. This year has already had such a drastic change in the way I view life, opportunities, and individuals. As we've begun to travel, I will

without a doubt say seeing members shine their light in dark is my most memorable moment. Now I know that is extremely vague; however, there is no other way to express how grateful I am to be a part of an organization with such outstanding and extraordinary students, such as Joseph from Ferndale, J.J. from Grant High School, Natalie from Mira Monte, and the list goes on. •



# REGIONAL UPDATES

## North Coast Region



Crescent City to Half Moon Bay, North Coast Region ALL THE WAY! The North Coast Region Officer team has been hard at work sparking passion in each and every one of our members this year! We decided that our purpose as officers this year is to create meaningful experiences for all members by inspiring and educating, as well as creating awareness of opportunities in FFA. With this goal in mind, we want to challenge North Coast Region members to **“Ignite your Potential”** and make the most out of this amazing year. This July, we had the opportunity to attend the Regional Officer Leadership Conference in Tomales Bay, where we met with other Regional Officers from across California and the State Officer Team for a few great days of reflection and growth. We gained insight on necessary skills needed for our year of service, such as how to deliver a successful workshop and tips to

engage members during events. Arcata High School graciously hosted our COLC this September, where Chapter Officer teams travelled far-and-wide to strengthen their team purpose and grow as individuals. At this conference, we had the opportunity to host our very first Idea Show where chapters presented unique activities that they do to engage their chapter. We also got to hear from North Coast Region’s very own National Officer Candidate Genevieve Regli as she presented her keynote address, **“Shine Your Light”**. The North Coast Region team is so excited to see all of the excellence and achievement our members will bring as they step up to the plate this year, and we are looking forward to the boundless connections and memories that are yet to be made as we **IGNITE** our potential!

## South Coast Region



The leaders of the South Coast Region began their year of service in Paso Robles with an eventful summer weekend. The team discussed themes, logos and conferences, and spent some time at the beach practicing their volleyball skills. And, of course, they played games and ate lots of their favorite foods as they learned about one another and grew as a team. In early July, the team attended the Regional Officer Leadership Conference in Tomales Bay, where they met leaders from all over California and learned how to facilitate workshops and plan events. Then, in September, South Coast hosted the Sectional Officer Leadership Conference in Atascadero. Sectional Leaders were

encouraged to **“Dare to Challenge”** as they bonded with their team and learned how to create a successful sectional event.

October was yet another exciting month in the South Coast Region as the Chapter Officer Leadership Conference was held in Hollister. Chapters from all over the region joined together to learn about their duties as leaders in their FFA programs. Through a lip sync contest and awesome dance, the officers were able to get to know one another and have a ton of fun. During this conference, South Coast Regional Leaders introduced their theme for this year, and they would love you all to **“Envision Your Mission”** as the year unfolds.

*{ Continued on page 11 }*

NORTH TO SOUTH AND EAST TO WEST, REGIONAL OFFICER TEAMS ACROSS THE STATE ARE PREPARING TO LEAD AN INCREDIBLE 2019-20 SCHOOL YEAR. WHAT DOES YOUR REGION'S TEAM HAVE PLANNED FOR YOU?

{ Continued from page 10 }

## Southern Region



The Southern Region Officer Team has been working hard in investing their time and strengthening their relationships with our members. It is investing our time into others and working on our own capabilities to serve that has brought us to our theme for the coming year: **"Growing to Achieve, Succeed and Lead."** We hope that within this year we can assist members in achieving personal goals to push them to their full potential as leaders. The more potential that they see in themselves, the more likely they will succeed and accomplish their goals. In early July, the Regional Officers traveled to Tomales Bay for the Regional Officer Leadership Conference. At the conference, they learned the necessary skills they would need as a team, such as delivering a successful workshop and the value of effective communication. In August, the Regional Officers facilitated the Southern Region Sectional Officer Leadership Summit. At the Summit, Sectional Officers were

invited to bond with their teams, further their leadership capabilities, and learn how to "Ag-vocate" for their programs. Time was allotted to the Sectional Officer teams so they could begin the process of planning their Sectional Leadership Conferences with their advisors. In September, we hosted our first Southern Region Discovery Leadership Conference (DLC) where over 110 middle school FFA members participated in a variety of workshops. DLC members took part in workshops that furthered their knowledge of FFA, opportunities within FFA, and participated in multiple team building activities. In October, Southern Region members gathered for the SoCal Leadership Conference where members took part in workshops to strengthen their potential as leaders, and how to make their team and chapter successful. The Regional Officer team is excited to serve these inspiring members of the Southern Region and cannot wait to see them achieve, succeed and lead.

## San Joaquin Region



This summer, the San Joaquin Region jumped right into this year's activities with a summer retreat. The team got to work on planning how we can **"RISE"** this year as a region! Our officers put a focus on community service this year using social media and #SJRIse. Moving right into the Regional Officer Leadership Conference (ROLIC) in July, our officers grew their leadership and service skills with the help of the State Officers, Dr. Dodson, and Mr. Valencia! These skills were then put into action for the Sectional Officer Leadership Conference (SOLC) later that month, where our officers and the sectional officers focused on meeting new people and making meaningful connections. Also at SOLC, we had the opportunity to

hear some inspiring words from Past State Secretary and National Officer Candidate Genevieve Regli. Following, Chapter Officer Leadership Conferences (COLCs) began in each section so that we can **"RISE"** as chapters, sections and as the Mighty Mean San Joaquin! Moving into the rest of the school year, we are actively planning for our Third Annual Discovery Leadership Conference that will be held in December. Eighth grade members from around the region will join us to learn about what FFA has to offer them. We look forward to the rest of the year and the opportunities to serve our region as leaders and progressive agriculturists!

{ Continued on page 12 }

# REGIONAL UPDATES

{ Continued from page 11 }

## Superior Region



The infamous chant “Oh, yes! We are! Superior by far!” has come to life this year, through our Superior Region leaders, on the Regional, Sectional and Chapter level. Just like every year, our 10 team members started off the year by meeting in June for a retreat to grow in servant leadership and plan for our upcoming year of service. While discussing the region’s theme for the year, we wanted to make sure that it would resonate with every member, a theme of true importance. After an extended amount of time of discussion, our team ultimately decided on the theme “**Superior Traditions**”. Although the Superior Region believes in advances and progressive agriculture, we wanted to remember our roots, and the reasons that we are all here. Along with developing our theme our team also planned and prepared for our Chapter Officer Leadership Conference (COLC). In Superior Region, we thoroughly

emphasize servant leadership and decided that this would be one of our main emphasis at COLC. We can now truly say that our amazing chapter leaders embraced that to their fullest abilities while in team time, reflections, workshops, and so much more. During our five days at COLC, our officer team had the pleasure of watching members grow their potential, embrace being uncomfortable by stepping outside of their comfort zones, and uplift one another with open arms and kindness. We also learned lessons and met inspiring members that we are excited to keep in touch with through their FFA journey. Superior Region, we can not wait to see you continue to grow and make a significant impact on your chapters and communities. We know you will inspire others just as you have inspired us!

## Central Region



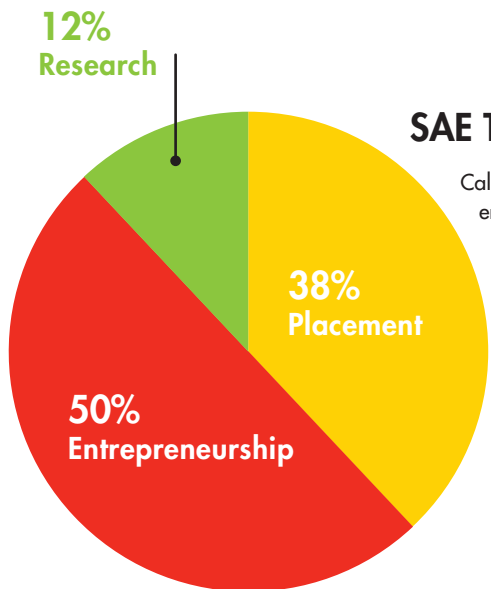
The Central Region FFA officer team started their year of service with team bonding and setting goals for the upcoming year. With over 23,000 FFA members in the region, the officers were committed to selecting a theme that focused on students and served as a reminder that EVERY member is valued and EVERY member has worth. The Central Region officers decided on “**Power of You**” as their theme, with the hope that members will take a deeper look at their own strengths and focus on the qualities that make them unique individuals. The Regional Officers attended the Regional Officer Leadership Conference in Tomales Bay in early July. At this event, they were able to build relationships with other regional leaders as well as the State Officers. They learned how to

create and facilitate effective workshops for members, toured an oyster farm and enjoyed a break from the valley heat! On September 28, the team hosted the Chapter Officer Leadership Conference at Gregori High School. With over 615 students in attendance, this event was the largest gathering of FFA members in the state, other than the State FFA Leadership Conference in Anaheim! Students spent the fun-filled day participating in leadership development workshops, team building activities and heard from both the State Officers and our National Officer Candidate, Genevieve Regli. It was truly an outstanding event where members were able to focus on the “**Power of You**”. •

# 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 50% of student involvement in this area compared to the national average of 35%.



## 31.8 MILLION DOLLARS

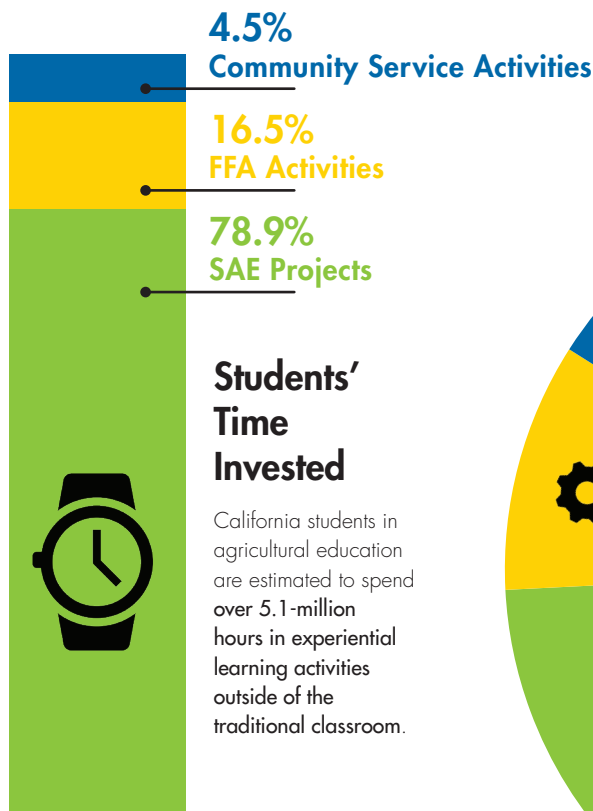
### Income Values from SAE Involvement

A typical program in California has students earning \$94,228 in SAE related income, which state-wide is estimated to be over \$31.8 million in total value.



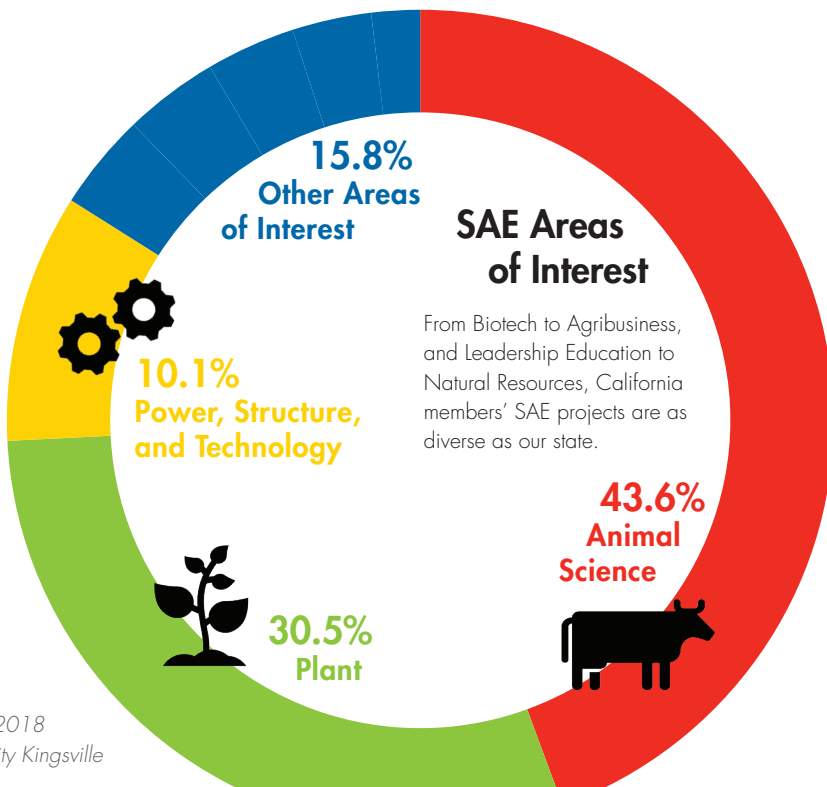
### SAE Investments in Operating Expenses

The direct investment value of \$52,816 per program and state estimate of over \$17.8 million in direct spending from SAE activities are values that support local economies.



### Students' Time Invested

California students in agricultural education are estimated to spend over 5.1-million hours in experiential learning activities outside of the traditional classroom.



### SAE Areas of Interest

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

**43.6%**  
Animal Science



**30.5%**  
Plant



**15.8%**  
Other Areas of Interest



**10.1%**  
Power, Structure, and Technology

\* 2017-18 academic year statistics as published July 2018  
Dr. Roger D. Hanagriff, The AET & Texas A&M University Kingsville

# Chapter Scoops

## GUSTINE FFA Gustine FFA Tailgate

Submitted by Nicholas Alamo

On the sixth of September the Gustine High School hosted the Battle of the Games Football game versus Hilmar High School. The Gustine FFA program held a tailgate before the game. The tailgate started before junior varsity even started and ended during that same game. At the tailgate, members and attendees were greeted with free hot dogs and games and spirit gear. Members of all grades showed up and ate some food; staff and football players also came out to support the Gustine FFA. Gustine FFA students enjoyed cheering on the team throughout the game. Bradley Garbez of the Gustine FFA said, "It is really nice to see everybody gather before a football game because it brings us players' joy knowing we are playing for something much bigger than just ourselves."



## FIREBAUGH FFA Rafting Time

Submitted by Ryan Gonzalez

"Envision Your Journey" was selected as the 2019-20 Firebaugh FFA theme when chapter officers gathered at South Lake Tahoe for their annual Firebaugh FFA Chapter Officer Leadership Retreat. During this retreat, each officer was challenged with numerous leadership building activities that would allow them to grow together as one cohesive group. One activity that truly challenged everyone's ability to work together as one was white water rafting through the Truckee River. Each person on

your raft needed to make sure that communication was the number one priority because with one wrong row, it could send you for a freezing swim. During retreat, we also set individual, team and chapter goals with these goals comes a strategic plan on how we will reach them. This officer retreat allowed for us to strengthen our bond as a team and provided us with the skills needed in order to start serving our chapter.

{ Continued on page 15 }

## CONNECT WITH CALIFORNIA FFA ONLINE!

@CaliforniaFFA

www.calaged.org





## EXETER FFA

### First Chapter Meeting Makes a Splash

Submitted by Emily Farias

Exeter FFA ignited their year with an excitement filled first chapter meeting. This included water activities, such as a dunk tank, water balloons, water games, and awesome water slides that students took part in. Students were also able to enjoy free snow cones while socializing with their fellow members. Sophomore Daniela Olivera said, "It was very fun. I loved that it was so high energy. It was definitely a success and I can't wait to see what other events are to come for the rest of the year!" This was an incredibly popular meeting, with over 200 of our 400 overall members enjoying slipping and sliding down the water slides. This meeting engaged our members and got them excited for all of our other events to come. We hope to ignite their interest in the FFA this year and continue to grow member involvement in our chapter. Exeter FFA is hoping to have as much success at their next meeting on October 8. This will be a community service based activity known as the canned food scavenger hunt.



## BRAWLEY FFA

### 'New Direction' for a New Team

Submitted by Luz Velarde Rios

Each summer Brawley FFA takes their newly elected officer team on a retreat - this year it was in Julian, CA. During those two days out at William Heise State Park the officers were able to camp out, sing a song by the fire and overall get to know each other better. It wasn't all fun and games though, the officer team also had to coordinate the upcoming year, developing the POA using SWOT Analysis and making a plan for 15 activities that fall within the National FFA Mission Statements. Brawley FFA came up with the theme of 'New Directions' which fits with all of the details of this upcoming year. On the way back home, the team stopped to tour the city of Julian and also try some delicious pie!

## TEMECULA - ST. JEANNE CATHOLIC FFA

### Elementary Education Day

Submitted by Kaitlyn Wichterman

This past summer, the Temecula - Saint Jeanne Catholic FFA Chapter hosted a summer camp for elementary school students! These young students learned about Agricultural Industry topics, such as dairy and poultry, plant and soil science, and the FFA Organization itself! Using knowledge and experiences that chapter members have learned from the previous year, current FFA members developed the interactive curriculum. The majority of the elementary school students have not grown up with agriculture, but with a new FFA chapter in their community, we hope to grow them into agriculture! Even though students gave up a week of their summer they had a blast educating and entertaining. With the help of our current FFA members, we inspired the next generation in hopes of a brighter future filled with agriculture advocacy and motivation. •



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