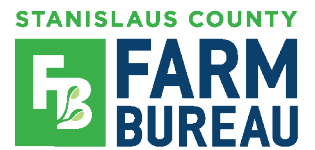


The Stanislaus Farm News



For the **good** of your **food**.

The *voice* of Stanislaus County Agriculture



Official Publication of Stanislaus
County Farm Bureau
Vol.74 No.4 February 17, 2023

The FFA Creed

I believe in the future of agriculture, with a faith born not of words but of deeds – achievements won by the present and past generations of agriculturists; in the promise of better days through better ways, even as the better things we now enjoy have come to us from the struggles of former years.

Stanislaus Farm News

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Southern Regional Meeting

JOIN US THURS. FEBRUARY 23RD, 2023

AT THE VIERRA DAIRY CONFERENCE ROOM AT 7AM

JOIN US FOR A GREAT BREAKFAST, GUEST SPEAKER AND TO ELECT
YOUR SOUTHERN BOARD MEMBERS

STANISLAUS COUNTY FARM BUREAU'S

Westside Regional Meeting

JOIN US THURS. FEBRUARY 23RD, 2023

AT THE ALMOND WOOD'S THE GROVE AT 6PM

JOIN US FOR A GREAT DINNER, GUEST SPEAKER, ANTHEA HANSEN
& TO ELECT YOUR WESTSIDE BOARD MEMBERS

STANISLAUS COUNTY FARM BUREAU'S

Northeast Regional Meeting

JOIN US TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH, 2023

AT DYING BREED BREWING AT 6PM

JOIN US FOR A HOUSE OF BEEF DINNER, GREAT BEER, GUEST SPEAKERS, OI
GM SCOTT MOODY AND SUPERVISOR BUCK CONDIT
& TO ELECT YOUR NORTHEAST BOARD MEMBERS

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SCFB MISSION STATEMENT

To serve as the voice of Stanislaus County agriculture at all levels of government, while providing programs to assist its farms and family members and educate the general public of needs and importance to agriculture.

2023 CWA Table Setting Luncheon

The 2023 Annual Table Setting Luncheon was an outstanding event. We had 41 wonderfully elaborate tables decorated by our very talented hostesses. We shopped a large variety of local vendors, ranging from clothing and accessories, to canned goods, baked goods, candy and home décor at our Vendor's Faire. We gave away a wide variety of items, in the Brown Bag Drawing. A Buffet luncheon was prepared and served by Westside Ministries Ag Boosters and Copper Spur BBQ. We had members from Turlock Grange #29, Ellie Dyt, District 4 Dairy Princess; Allyson Siebert, California Cover Miss United States Agriculture and Payton Ferrero, National Future Little Miss Agriculture, that came and helped with some of the tasks that needed to be done. It was GREAT...

Since 2011, with the proceeds from our Annual Luncheon, Stanislaus CWA has awarded just over \$122,000 in scholarships, to Stanislaus County high school seniors and students attending MJC or CSU Stanislaus. This was accomplished because of the generosity of our sponsors, our donors, our hostesses and our guests. The Stanislaus CWA is extremely grateful for the continued support of this amazing event.

We would like to thank our generous sponsors and donors: Alpine Pacific Nut Co.; Ag Production Company; American AgCredit; Angela Nunes; Burchell Nursey Inc.; Colleen VanEgmond; Copper Spur BBQ; Durrer Dairy; Flory Industries; Garton Tractor Inc.; Grimbleby Coleman CPA's; Hudelson Nut Company; I.J. Larsen Pumps, Inc.; insureCal Insurance Agency; Joe Henriques Dairy; Joseph Farms Cheese Co.; Judith Hardie; KC Clendenin; Kraft Heinz Co.; Marchy Farms; Mechanics Bank; Reed & Roxanna Smith; Robert Gioletti & Sons Dairy, Inc.; Sheri Yagi; Lifestyle Realty Co. - Ag Land Sales; Sheriff Dirkse; Shiloh 4-H; Stanislaus County Fairgrounds; Stanislaus County Farm Bureau; The Pollination Connection; Triple C Farms, LLC; Wahl, Willemse & Wilson, LLC, CPA's; Walter Mortensen Insurance INSURICA; Wells Fargo Bank; WIS&G Ins. Agency; Yosemite Farm Credit; Fiscalini Cheese; Yosemite Foods Co.

We are already looking forward to the Annual Table Setting Luncheon and Vendor Faire on February 3, 2024.

What is CWA?

California Women for Agriculture is a nonprofit, volunteer, and exclusively women's organization that formed in 1975, in the Coachella Valley, by a group of consumers to advocate on behalf of California farmers and the agricultural industry, and to educate consumers about the agricultural industry. Today our membership is as diverse as the industry we represent; bankers, lawyers, accountants, marketing professionals, consumers AND farmers and ranchers. With 19 chapters and 1,505 plus members across the state, CWA is the most active, all volunteer agricultural organization in the state and members are actively engaged in public relations, education and legislative advocacy.

Our mission is to promote and develop the interest of California women involved or interested in agriculture and promote a strong industry in California.





FRIDAY REVIEW

LEGISLATIVE AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Agricultural Employment Policy

On the last day allowed under state laws governing regulatory processes for the agency to take action, the Department of Finance on February 3 approved the COVID-19 Non-Emergency Standard, making it immediately effective. It will remain in effect until February 3, 2025. The Non-Emergency Standard is very similar to prior Emergency Temporary Standard iterations except that it does not require employers to furnish exclusion pay (maintenance of pay, benefits and seniority for employees the employer must exclude from the workplace because they may pose a COVID-19 infection hazard). Staff: Bryan Little; blittle@cfbf.com

Air Quality

CA Farm Bureau would like to caution our members about an effort in the San Joaquin Valley to place air quality monitors on, or near, agricultural facilities. A local group out of UC Merced called the San Joaquin Valley Center for Community Air Assessment and Injustice Reduction is attempting to gather air quality data from Stockton to Fresno. Members of the group are approaching producers and asking them to place these air monitors on their operations. The group claims that these monitors will; 1) Understand air quality in your location and the potential impacts on public health, 2) Develop strategies to improve air quality, and 3) Share research results with stakeholders. As CAFB has not been included on this program's goals or contacted by this group – it is unlikely the data will be shared with us, a

stakeholder, and be depicted accurately. Other farming organizations share similar concerns and have pointed out that these monitors do not meet federal EPA guidelines. Farm Bureau would like to emphasize that you are in no way obligated to place one on your property. An example of the letter that is being presented for the monitor's placement is here <https://www.cbf.com/ag-advocacy/all-issues/sjv-air-pollution>. Staff: Katie Little, klittle@cfbf.com

Climate Change

SB 253 by Senator Wiener would require the State Air Resources Board, on or before January 1, 2025, to develop and adopt regulations requiring United States partnerships, corporations, limited liability companies, and other business entities with total annual revenues in excess of \$1,000,000,000 and that do business in California, defined as "reporting entities," to publicly disclose to the emissions registry, as defined, and verify, starting in 2026 on a date to be determined by the state board, and annually thereafter, their greenhouse gas emissions, categorized as scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions, as defined, from the prior calendar year, as provided. The bill would require the state board, on or before January 1, 2030, to review, and update as necessary, these deadlines to evaluate trends in scope 3 emissions reporting and to consider changes to the deadlines, as provided. The bill would require reporting entities to disclose their greenhouse gas emissions in a manner that is easily understandable and accessible to residents of the state. The bill would require reporting entities to ensure

that their public disclosures have been independently verified by the emissions registry or a third-party auditor, approved by the state board, with expertise in greenhouse gas emissions accounting. The bill would require the state board, in developing these regulations, to consult with the Attorney General, other government stakeholders, investors, stakeholders representing consumer and environmental justice interests, and reporting entities that have demonstrated leadership in full-scope greenhouse gas emissions accounting and public disclosure and greenhouse gas emissions reductions. Staff: Chris Reardon; creardon@cfbf.com

The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 requires the State Air Resources Board to make available, and update at least annually, on its internet website the emissions of greenhouse gases, criteria pollutants, and toxic air contaminants for each facility that reports to the state board, as provided. Under the act, a violation of a rule, regulation, order, emission limitation, emission reduction measure, or other measure adopted by the state board under the act is a crime. SB 261 by Senator Stern would require, on or before December 31, 2024, and annually thereafter, a covered entity, as defined, to prepare a climate-related financial risk report disclosing the entity's climate-related financial risk and measures adopted to reduce and adapt to climate-related financial risk disclosed. The bill would require the covered entity to submit to the state board, and make available to the public on its own internet

website, a copy of the report and to submit to the Secretary of State a statement affirming, not under penalty of perjury, that the report discloses climate-related financial risk. The bill would also set forth the duties of the Climate-Related Risk Disclosure Advisory Group, as specified, including the duty to collect and review climate-related financial risk reports received in the prior calendar year and the duty to annually prepare a public report that contains specified information, including a review of the disclosure of climate-related financial risk contained in climate-related financial risk reports and an analysis of the systemic and sectorwide climate-related financial risks facing the state. Staff: Chris Reardon; creardon@cfbf.com

Insurance

AB 478 has been introduced by Assembly member Damon Connolly. For insureds 65 years of age or older, this bill would limit an increase in their yearly premium for a policy of residential property insurance by no more than 25 percent for insured property located in a high or very high fire hazard severity zone, as identified by the State Fire Marshal, as specified, and allow only one premium increase in a 5-year period. Staff: Peter Ansel; pansel@cfbf.com

Organics

Assembly member Damon Connolly has introduced three bills AB 404, AB 405 and AB 406 that deal with Organic Farming. The first bill would require the Department of Food Agriculture to evaluate duplicative reporting requirements that affect small and mid-size farmers and farm-

ing operations. The second bill would create an online registration and payment option for those engaged in organic farming with the specified oversight department or agency and the last bill would authorize the Healthy Soils Program to include the funding of organic farming projects that further the goals of the program and require the Department of Food and Agriculture to establish the technical advisory committee if it elects to fund those projects. Staff: Chris Reardon; creardon@cfbf.com

Rural Broadband

AB 415, introduced by Assembly member Freddie Rodriguez, would enact the Emergency Fairgrounds Communications Grant Act and would require the Office of Emergency Services to establish a grant program to provide fairgrounds with grant funding for the purpose of building and upgrading communication and internet infrastructure on fairgrounds. The bill would require the office to establish standards to determine the awarding of grant funding that award funding based on a fairground's need for internet capabilities in order to service an emergency

response operation. The bill would require those standards to require, at a minimum, that a fairground receiving grant funds be located in an area with sufficient open-access middle-mile broadband infrastructure within a reasonable distance to support the fairground's expanded broadband capabilities and be capable of providing public access to the fairground's broadband network throughout the year. Staff: Peter Ansel; pansel@cfbf.com

Utilities

A bill to expand the state's electric grid, AB 538 (Holden-D), was introduced on Wednesday. It is the latest iteration of the effort to expand the management of the western transmission grid to include other states and potentially take advantage of other western generation sources. The bill would authorize CAISO (the California Transmission Operator) to develop a governance proposal for a regional grid. The governing documents would be reviewed by the California Energy Commission. Thereafter, the proposals and documents would be subject to review by the California Energy Commission, the California Public Utilities

Commission and the CAISO for review, to make sure the plan followed parameters set in the bill. The bill would also create a committee to "provide guidance" to CAISO, with representatives from Western states whose utilities have joined the new regional grid.

The last time the regionalization proposal was considered was in 2018 and was met with significant resistance for various reasons, including some who are concerned that the clean energy goals of California would be difficult to measure if power was imported from other states. In reviewing the bill one cause for concern is that there is no mention of the need to ensure that rates do not increase as a result of any expansion. California has a history of creating new entities and imposing the cost for their administration on customers. CAFB will continue to monitor the progress of the legislation for impacts to California ratepayers. Staff Contacts: Karen Mills, kmills@cfbf.com; Kevin Johnston, kjohnston@cfbf.com

Water

AB 422 introduced by Assembly member Juan Alanis would

require the Natural Resources Agency to post on its publicly available internet website information tracking the progress to increase statewide water storage, and to keep that information updated. Staff: Peter Ansel; pansel@cfbf.com

Assembly member Jim Wood introduced AB 541, which would direct the State Water Resources Control Board to require a public water system, water corporation, or water district that has experienced a major wildfire event within their service territory to test their water source for the presence of benzene immediately following that major wildfire event. Staff: Peter Ansel; pansel@cfbf.com

AB 560 regarding groundwater adjudications has been introduced by Assembly member Steve Bennett. Current law prohibits a court from approving entry of judgment in certain adjudication actions for a basin required to have a groundwater sustainability plan under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, unless the court finds that the judgment would not substantially impair the ability of a groundwater sustainability agency, the State Water Resources Control Board,

or the Department of Water Resources to comply with the act and to achieve sustainable groundwater management. AB 560 would require the court to refer the proposed judgment to the board for an advisory determination as to whether the proposed judgment will substantially impair the ability of a groundwater sustainability agency, the board, or the department to achieve sustainable groundwater management. The bill would require the board to consult with the department before making its determination. Staff: Peter Ansel; pansel@cfbf.com

In another SGMA focused bill, Senator Melissa Hurtado has introduced SB 315, a spot bill that would express the intent of the Legislature to enact future legislation

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See Review on page 12

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As another membership service, Farm Bureau members are offered FREE classified advertising in the Stanislaus Farm News. Ads must be 18 words or less and only one ad per month per membership (membership number required.) Ads may be MAILED to the Stanislaus Farm News, or BROUGHT to the SCFB office, 1201 L Street, Downtown Modesto. NO PHONE-IN OR FAX free ads will be accepted. Free ads are restricted to farm machinery or equipment or unprocessed farm products. Farm jobs wanted or offered will also be accepted. No real estate ads and no commercial items or services will be accepted. 209-522-7278

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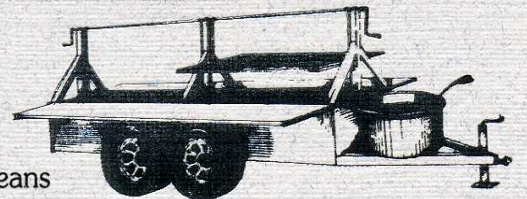
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- **McManis Farms Inc**
Modesto 541-9345
- **Melo Farms LLC**
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- **Michael Van Anel**
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Thursday, March 9th Sexual Harassment Prevention

830-930 am : Spanish, Employee
1000-noon : Spanish, Supervisor
1245-145 pm : English, Employee
200-400 pm : English, Supervisor
California legislation requires employers with at least five employees or contractors to provide sexual harassment training every two years to all employees, including supervisory and nonsupervisory employees.

Thursday, April 6th Heat Illness Prevention

930-1030 am : Spanish, Employee
1100-noon : English, Employee
California employers are required to train employees on heat illness prevention annually.



Agricultural Concerns in Our County

By Brock Condit with Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department

The farming community is constantly and consistently facing challenges in our ever-changing and ever-growing society. Whether it be government regulations, growing global demand through population growth, instability in financial markets, or the movement into using bio-based fuels. The last thing our farmers need to worry about is theft and domestic threats affecting the agriculture community. However, if we fail to get ahead of these issues, they will cause more harm if we only react.

One of the main concerns is theft. Criminals continue to become more knowledgeable on how to defeat security measures, so we, too, must become more vigilant in thwarting them by being proactive in our actions. We have all heard the adage, "We don't catch the smart ones," and although, yes, we do tend to catch the sloppy ones, there are ways that we can apprehend the "smart ones" by being more intelligent than them. Below are statistics from the 2020 Farm Crime Survey through the University of New England Center for Rural Criminology.

By looking at the statistics, we can see that theft-related offenses make up the majority of crimes when added together. It is very likely to happen. The more measures we take in combatting these thefts and the people causing these thefts, the better. Another statistic that is concerning is the failure to report a criminal offense. Sometimes we have the mindset that nothing can be done, or we don't want to be a bother, and although the heart might be in the right place, the information you have could piece together another crime in a different area and vice versa. Below are some statistics from the same study regarding why reports aren't made.

The Agricultural Crime Detectives with the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department are taking steps to stay ahead of the criminals out there targeting our farming community. We have added cameras with LPR (license plate reader) capabilities at distinct locations with a live feed to be able to search for vehicles involved in thefts. Several pieces of "bait" equipment can be put out throughout the county with tracking devices. We plan to add more equipment and begin a routine schedule to place the equipment in areas with theft issues. We hope these actions will help us catch those leading players who are good at what they do and keep them behind bars for a while. In 2022 we made over 22 arrests, putting criminals behind bars in relation to agriculture crimes alone. The crimes ranged from gas/diesel theft all the way up to heavy equipment, fraud crimes by employees, feed theft, vandalism, and burglary.

If something reportable occurs on your property, please do not hesitate to call and report the incident as soon as possible. You can also take steps to lower the risk of one of these incidents occurring. Below is a list of measures.

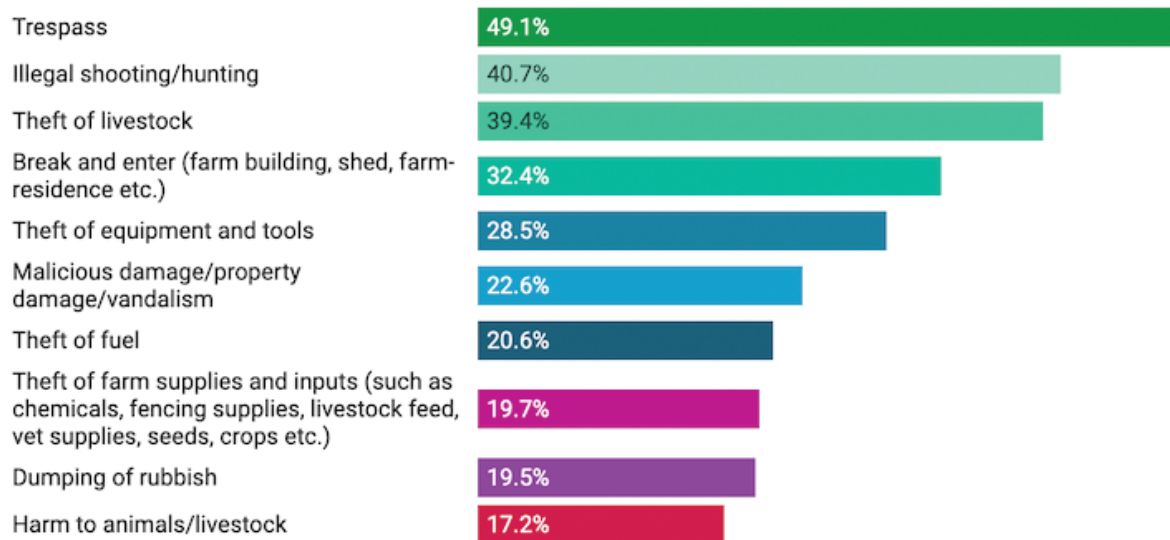
If something reportable occurs on your property, please do not hesitate to call and report the incident as soon as possible. You can also take steps to lower the risk of one of these incidents occurring. Below is a list of measures.

- Storing machinery and fuel out of sight
- Locking structures when not present
- Maintaining fencing
- Keeping gates locked
- Locking vehicles
- Guard dog
- Video surveillance
- Locks and/or GPS on machinery
- Security lights and alarms
- Marking property distinctly

These steps will not guarantee that theft or other offenses will not occur, but statistically, they have been shown to make a difference. We can combat these issues by building a partnership, working together with an open line of communication to not only respond to these incidents but also prevent them. Below is the contact information for the Agricultural Crime Detectives. Feel free to call anytime with any questions or concerns. In progress crimes, please call 911; for non-emergency situations, please call 209-552-2468.

Sergeant Brock Condit 209-652-1564
 Detective Gomes 209-652-0654
 Detective Taylor 209-226-5767

Victimisation by offence type



Source: NSW Farm Crime Survey 2020 • [Get the data](#)

Why are farmers reluctant to report crime?

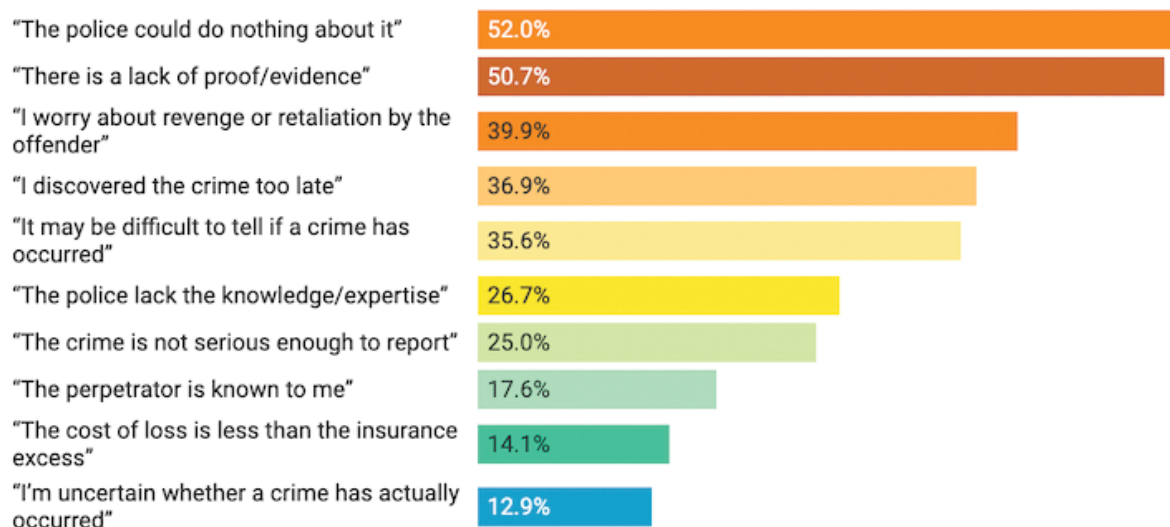


Chart: NSW Farm Crime Survey 2020 • [Get the data](#)

Living the Legacy: The FFA Creed after the Blue Jacket

By: Andrew "Ranger" Kielak
Agricultural/ Weights and Measures Inspector, Stanislaus County
Agricultural Commissioner's Office

"I believe..." These two words permeate through every FFA member's experience. Whether they competed in CDE's, worked on their livestock SAE, led their chapter, or any combination thereof- the FFA Creed is what carried us through our time wearing the blue jacket. Some knew it by heart, and others only just saw it plastered on their classroom's wall. Despite each individual's level of memorization, it is what connected each of us- from the state of Alaska to Puerto Rico, and from the state of Maine to the Virgin Islands!

While the Creed helps guide members through their time in the organization, eventually we all faced the question, "Well... what comes after?" After the graduation caps are thrown and the jacket is hung up for the last time, how can FFA members use what they learned during that time in "real life"? Whether you are a graduating senior looking forward to the future, or an alumni looking to get involved and mentor others, the Creed can be a way to ground yourself. Here is how alumni can find inspiration and guidance from the FFA Creed.

"Not of words, but of deeds"

The first paragraph of the Creed is all about action, admiration, and hope. This paragraph reminds us that thoughts are nothing without action and gives due credit to those that have made a

positive impact on the industry as a whole.

When it comes to alumni, this means recognizing that our actions, each and every day, exert an impact on our community. But that impact doesn't just happen overnight; it is a constant progression day by day. We can continue to live the virtues outlined in this paragraph by taking it upon ourselves to participate in community events, mentor the next generation of agriculturalists, and continuously educate ourselves on the industries we work in.

An example of this could be attending continuing education courses and industry events. These educational opportunities will keep you up to date on policy change and best practices, while also giving you actionable items to use in your business.

By ensuring that we not only think, but act, we are living the first paragraph.

Finding the pleasantries in challenges

To live and work on a good farm, or to have a good life, one must know that it will not always be easy. The second paragraph reminds us that our lives, whether we are in agriculture or not, will be full of the good, the bad, and the ugly.

In order to continue on when things get tough, you need something stronger than a moldboard plow, tougher than a bull, and more resilient than a weed: you need a WHY. To put this a step further, think, "Why is this lifestyle important to me?" or "Why do I want this?" Your "why" transcends beyond the day-to-day tasks or the goals you may have. It is our purpose.

See BLUE JACKET on page 24

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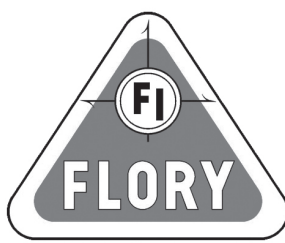
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From Review on page 5

that would assist groundwater sustainability agencies in fostering discussions among diverse water management interests and local agencies as they strive to implement the act. Staff: Peter Ansel; pansel@cfbf.com

SB 361 from Senator Bill Dodd has been introduced. Its focus is to improve data gathering and management from the state's network of stream gages. The bill would require the Department of Water Resources and the State Water Resources Control Board, upon appropriation of funds by the Legislature, to reactivate, upgrade, and install new stream gages and would require the department and board to use the recommendations and data provided in the California Stream Gaging Prioritization Plan 2022 to complete specified actions by 2030. The bill would require the data from all stream gages operating with any public money to be published as provisional data within 10 days of collection and made publicly available on the state's open water data platforms. SB 361 would require the department and board to develop and adopt a set of standards and processes for assessing, tracking, and reporting the accuracy of stream gages, evapotranspiration data, water meters, and other critical data inputs for water management, as provided. The bill would require the department and the board to consult with interested stakeholders to develop a plan to identify the gaps in the network of automated weather stations and eddy covariance towers to ensure accurate and comprehensive data collection. Staff: Peter Ansel; pansel@cfbf.com

Senator Anna Caballero has introduced SB 366, a spot bill that would state the intent of the Legislature to enact future legislation that modernizes the California Water Plan, including the establishment of long-term water supply targets. Staff: Peter Ansel; pansel@cfbf.com

Wildfire

SB 310 has been introduced by Senator Bill Dodd. Current law provides that no person shall be liable for any fire suppression or other costs otherwise recoverable for a prescribed burn if specified conditions are met, including, among others, a burn boss, as certified through a certification program developed by the State Fire Marshal, has reviewed and approved a written prescription for the burn, the burn complies with that written prescription, and either the landowner has pro-

vided written permission or the governing body of a Native American tribe has given approval, as provided. Current law exempts cultural burns conducted by a cultural fire practitioner from those requirements that a person certified as a burn boss review and approve a written prescription and that the burn be conducted in compliance with the written prescription. SB 310 would expand the definition of burn boss to also include a person qualified for specified positions through

the National Wildfire Coordinating Group, as provided, and limiting the tribal approval condition to the approval of the governing body of a California Native American tribe. Staff: Peter Ansel; pansel@cfbf.com

Wildlife and CESA

This week, the Fish and Game Commission (Commission) discussed the petition to list the Western Joshua Tree (WJT) under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA). This topic has been discussed at

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several meetings over the last year, although the ultimate decision keeps getting pushed to a future date. This meeting was no different. The department discussed legislation that was released on Tuesday aimed at addressing the WJT conservation efforts. The bill may be formally introduced as a budget trailer bill later this year. The Department of Fish and Wildlife created the bill in response to the Commission's request. In a past meeting, Commissioners shared the mentality that "the WJT is deserving of special attention and requires a novel approach to ensure the long-term conservation of the species and alternate protection before it declines further." This bill would prohibit any person or public agency from importing into the state, exporting out of the state, or taking, possessing, purchasing, or selling within the state, a western Joshua tree or any part or product of the tree. It would also require the Commission, beginning in 2026 and at a public meeting, to annually review the status of the WJT and the effectiveness of the permitting and mitigation program established under the act. The Commission discussed tracking the new piece of legislation as it moves through the process. If it is in fact incorporated into the budget process, its fate might not be known until July – or possibly beyond. The Commission will monitor the bill's progress and set it for a hearing date as its fate becomes clearer. Staff: Katie Little, klittle@cbbf.com

CDDA SELECTS 17 PROJECTS FOR 2021 STATE WATER EFFICIENCY AND ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM SOUTHERN DESERT REGION PILOT GRANTS

California Department of Food

and Agriculture (CDDA) is pleased to announce the projects selected for 2021 State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program Southern Desert Region Pilot (SWEET) grant awards. Seventeen agricultural operations located in parts of Riverside and Imperial counties have been selected to receive funding, totaling \$2.7 million. These projects will improve crop irrigation systems, resulting in an estimated 48,500 acre-feet of water savings over the course of 10 years. The 2021 SWEET Southern Desert Region list of selected projects is available online. "We are proud to continue investing in water use efficiency in agriculture to help address our changing climate," said CDDA Secretary Karen Ross. "Farmers involved in this program are making positive on-farm changes to grow food with more efficient watering systems in an important agricultural region of the state."

CDDA's SWEET team prepared a pilot solicitation targeted at agricultural areas located in the southern desert region, a region defined as Imperial County and Riverside County, east of the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains. With guidance of CDDA's Environmental Farming Act (EFA) Science Advisory Panel (SAP) and the SWEET Ad Hoc Advisory Group, a \$2 million portion of the 2021 SWEET allocation (\$50 M) was dedicated to projects located in the southern desert region, a region, which due to its unique water distribution and energy systems, has historically received low levels of funding from SWEET. An additional \$700,000 was remaining from the 2021 SWEET solicitation and was combined with the \$2M reserved for this targeted solicitation for the total \$2.7M

awarded.

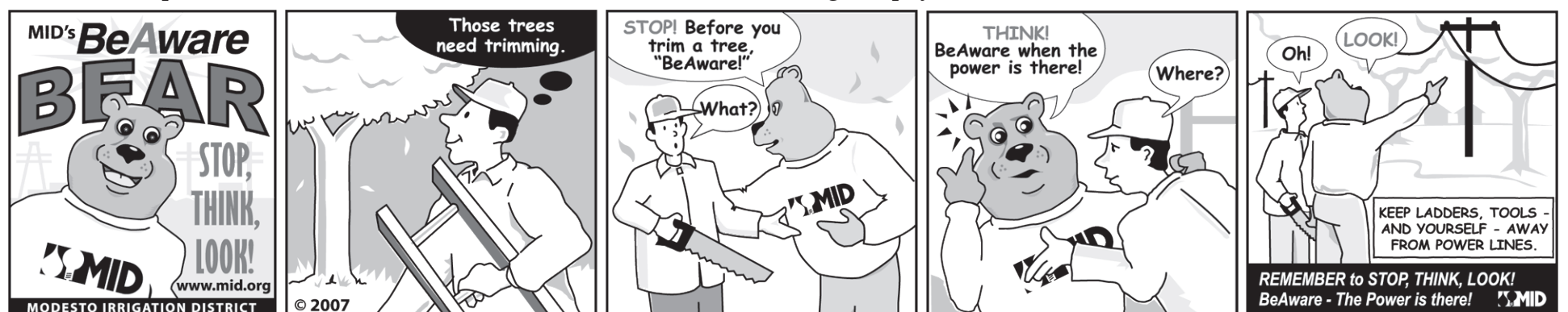
Projects funded through this Pilot program must demonstrate water savings from proposed irrigation improvements but will not be required to reduce GHG emissions from irrigation pumping. Projects must not result in an increase in GHG emissions. Fifty agricultural operations applied for funding through the 2021 SWEET Southern Desert Region Pilot solicitation process. Applications were reviewed by a team of irrigation specialists from the University of California and California State University systems. The program is part of CDDA's Office of Environmental Farming and Innovation (OEFI) Climate Smart Agriculture portfolio.

CDDA ANNOUNCES 2023 PREVENTION OF ANIMAL HOMELESSNESS AND CRUELTY VOLUNTARY TAX CONTRIBUTION FUND FUNDING

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDDA) is currently accepting applications for the 2023 Prevention of Animal Homelessness and Cruelty Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund (Prevention Fund) Program. The Prevention Fund is supported by California taxpayer contributions for the sole purpose of spay and neuter activities to eliminate cat and dog homelessness. CDDA anticipates awarding up to \$184,000 on a competitive basis to be distributed to municipal animal control agencies and eligible affiliates. Grant Applications must be submitted electronically to CDDA's Office of Grants Administration at grants@cdca.ca.gov and received by Wednesday, March 8, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. PT. For further information and grant application materials, please visit: <https://www.cdca.ca.gov/SpayNeuter/>

CDDA NOW ACCEPTING RESEARCH GRANT PROPOSALS FOR CALIFORNIA FRUIT TREE, NUT TREE, AND GRAPEVINE IMPROVEMENT ADVISORY BOARD (IAB)

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDDA) is now accepting applications for the California Fruit Tree, Nut Tree, and Grapevine Improvement Advisory Board (IAB) research grant proposals. The IAB funds research to promote the production of fruit tree, nut tree, and grapevines resulting in improved nursery stock. The intended research should address important disease and pest problems or other cultural aspects of fruit tree, nut tree, and grapevine nursery stock production. Funding is made possible from industry assessments. Projects funded through IAB commonly include elements such as research of diseases and genetic disorders, variety identification, education and outreach, alternative treatment methods, and rootstock advancements as it relates to the production of high-quality tree and grapevine nursery stock. Applicants should review the research proposal solicitation materials posted on the IAB webpage [HERE](#). The research grant proposals submission window opportunity will end by April 3, 2023 at 5 p.m.



Procedures to protect suckerfish frustrate Klamath farmers lacking water

After three years of drought and little to no water allocated to Klamath Basin farmers and ranchers, new temporary operating procedures for the Klamath Water Project are prioritizing protected fish over needs of agriculture. The directive for meeting Endangered Species Act requirements for suckerfish is increasing frustrations for irrigators. Despite recent rainfalls that boosted accumulated water to 100% of normal, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation said the Klamath Basin remains in a "severe to extreme drought status."

Demand for cut flowers is no longer just a seasonal passage
Fresh cut flowers have seldom been so coveted. Floral sales are soaring as Valentine's Day approaches, and it's more than just the season that is driving the trend. The cut-flower sector has seen a renaissance due to the pandemic, as many floral customers have come to see home bouquets as a regular part of self-care. Valentine's Day typically trails only Mother's Day in volume of flowers sold and is often the highest revenue event of the year.

California cling-peach sector 'in best overall position' in years

Customer demand for California's cling peaches is exceeding current farm production. That was the overview offered recently at the annual meeting of the California Canning Peach Association in Sacramento. "Our industry is in the best overall position that it has been in for many years," association president and CEO Rich Hudgins told the gathering. However, speakers advised growers to be cautious on decisions to plant more acreage. They said planting and overcontracting mistakes in 2016 and 2017 created several years of oversupply.

Tulare County gears up for crowds at acclaimed World Ag Expo

California's largest agricultural gathering comes to Tulare County on Feb. 14-16 when the 2023 World Ag Expo opens at the International Agri-Center. The annual event is expected to draw 100,000 attendees from California, other states and more than 30 countries, organizers say. The expo will feature more than 1,200 exhibitors and 2.6 million square feet of show space. The event highlights agricultural innovations. Among new ones this year is

a robotic system that conducts surveillance of bee colonies to protect tree-nut growers from colony collapse.

Program to provide financial relief for organic dairies

Skyrocketing production costs, especially for organic feed, have pummeled organic dairies for the past two years, forcing some to sell their cows and leave the business. But California's organic dairies are beginning to see a glimmer of relief. Last month, the U.S. Department of Agriculture offered up to \$100 million in financial aid through

a newly created Organic Dairy Marketing Assistance Program. The funds are expected to be released in the late spring or summer. They will target small to medium-sized organic dairies.

Hard-hit Colusa County celebrates its ag heritage at annual farm show

Farmers in the Sacramento Valley and beyond turned out at the Feb. 7-9 Colusa Farm Show to check out agricultural equipment and technology to

See FARM on page 21

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My name is Daniel Gomes Jr. I am 18 years old and a senior at Orestimba High School. I have been a member of the Newman FFA Chapter since my freshman year. My SAE placement is at the Gomes dairy, where I help with the nutritional needs and feeding of heifer calves. I have chosen the animal systems pathway for this reason. I plan after graduation to continue working at the Gomes Dairy. This year I will exhibit dairy-cattle for Newman FFA.

I believe FFA and the advisors have given me the opportunity to expand my knowledge of agriculture and do community service to follow the FFA motto... Learning to do, Doing to learn, Earning to live, Living to serve.

I am a proud member of the Newman FFA Chapter.



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These are Beyer High School Ag students working in the citrus orchard on their school farm. The Ag teacher and students are picking Mandarins and Oranges. We are thankful to Burchell Nursery for their assistance and guidance with this orchard SAE.



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This is the 1964 Winning FFA Dairy Chapter Group. Left to right: Standing, Ray Souza, on the halters are Edmund Vierra, Loren Lopes, Mike Lucas, Robert Percy, and Joe Morais



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From FARM on page 14

boost farming outcomes in future crop years. The event celebrated farming in a hard-hit region. Last year, more than half of California's rice fields, particularly in Colusa County and the Sacramento Valley, were fallowed due to drought. Speaking at the farm show's annual breakfast, California Farm Bureau President Jamie Johansson called for state action on infrastructure to address future water needs.

Report: San Joaquin Valley water supplies could shrink by 20%

Average annual water supplies for the San Joaquin Valley could decline by 20% by 2040, with shortfalls largely driven by mandates of California's 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. That's according to a new report from the Public Policy Institute of California. The institute's policy brief said America's most bountiful farming region faces a future with less water for irrigation. It said nearly 900,000 acres of farmland could be fallowed and almost 50,000 jobs lost without new water system investments and water trading programs.

California table olive growers applaud continued duties on Spanish imports

The U.S. will continue to impose countervailing duties on imports of Spanish ripe olives after it lowered rates of the tariffs to satisfy findings by a World Trade Organization dispute settlement panel. California table olive growers have praised the move. Elizabeth Carranza, director of trade and technical affairs for the Olive Growers Council of California, said she was pleased that the U.S. Trade Representative and the government "decided to continue to uphold these safeguards, which have made a huge impact for the table olive industry in California."

Central Valley FFA Newsletter
The Rising Sun

Written by: Dasjeet Pattar

Annual Fall Festival

The fall festival is where CV invites 2000 students from grades kinder to 2nd grade at our district farm. We were in charge of making presentations to teach the kids about the various ag related subjects such as pumpkins, dairy, tractors, seeds and livestock. It taught us leadership skills and how to work with little kids. It was a special moment to see all the little kids faces light up when they got to visit each station with different treats and stickers.



NATIONAL CONVENTION

Written by: Liria Lira Trinidad

At the end of October CV's FFA department was able to take 12 students to go visit the 95th FFA National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. In the week we were there, we were able to visit many places like the Kentucky Derby Museum, Louisville Slugger Museum and Factory, Indy 500 race track and museum, Indianapolis Zoo and many different restaurants for lunch and dinner. The most important part of going to Indianapolis was seeing the FFA convention and listen to a special keynote speaker, Tamika Catchings, and her belief in the word BOLD. We were also able to shop at the FFA shopping center where most of us bought a lot of FFA merch and gear to bring back home. Overall, this trip brought a lot of memories to us and all of the other FFA members around the country in this once in a lifetime opportunity.



Don Pedro High School FFA Chapter is up to great things!! We are a small school located in Tuolumne County and have big things happenings.



On October 3rd two of our State Officer Abigale Jacobsen & Melanie Orozco, visited our chapter.



On Feb 10th and 11th our students traveled to Modesto for the Made for Excellence and Advanced Leadership Academy Conferences.



On October 4th our Greenhand and Officer Teams traveled to Oakdale's Opening and Closing Invitational Contest.



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Turlock FFA

Written By: Alexis Dias, Chapter Reporter

At Turlock FFA we make it a priority to influence our students and community for the greater good. We introduce numerous community service opportunities as well as events to better help our students gain the knowledge they need, to be able to go out into The Agricultural Industry and succeed. We focus on the implementation of knowledge of what the future of agriculture will look like. Turlock FFA shows students what the Industry looks like to better inspire our youth to be involved and help influence the future of Agriculture.

Throughout this school year Turlock FFA has had immense success within our community. As we look at what we have

accomplished thus far we can acknowledge the impact Turlock FFA has had on its members as well as on the community. By participating in community service related activities, our chapter has taught us that giving back is essential to being a productive member of our community. Just this year we have participated in community service activities such as a clothes and blanket drive for the We Care Men's Shelter, helping at the Can Tree Breakfast, working the Modesto Model A Club Annual Swap Meet, donating flowers to Brendel Manor, toy drives, and a full meeting dedicated to gathering canned food to donate to those in need. As Turlock FFA members we firmly believe in the importance of teaching youth that caring for and uplifting your community is a crucial part of being an up-standing citizen.

At Turlock FFA we take pride

in the variety of judging teams that we offer. Some of the teams we offer include Floral Judging, Farm Power, Vegetable Crop Judging, BIG, Livestock, Cooperative Marketing, and many others. Turlock FFA takes the time to advertise these teams to make sure all students who are interested are included. We also take part in many speaking competitions such as reciting the FFA Creed, Impromptu Speaking, and Prepared Speeches. This year Turlock FFA members participated in Spanish Creed, a brand new speaking event. At the Sectional Speaking Competition, Turlock FFA took home the top four placings in Advanced Spanish Creed and first place in Novice Spanish Creed.

Turlock FFA participates in numerous events throughout the year to keep chapter members inspired and help them learn more about not only the agriculture industry but about themselves as well. This year thirty Turlock FFA members had the opportunity to go to the National FFA Convention and Expo in Indianapolis, Indiana. While we were there we were able to tour places such as Ball Nursery, Purdue University, University of Notre Dame, and many tourist sites around Chi-

cago. Turlock FFA members got two watch two Turlock FFA alumni, Deegan Walters and Wyatt Wool, obtain the highest degree achievable in the FFA, The American Degree.

Turlock FFA will be soon celebrating National FFA Week with school-wide agriculture related activities and dress up days. For example, Turlock is creating a petting zoo experience for a nearby elementary school to teach the students about agriculture. We will finish the week strong with an FFA meeting. FFA week is always a fun, interactive experience that not only brings in new members but also showcases agriculture to students outside of the FFA.

To sum up what it means to be a member of Turlock FFA we have to acknowledge the effect that our advisors have on the future of our members. Our advisors dedicate themselves to teaching FFA members through facts and experiences of their own. They keep our students inspired and involved. Members of Turlock FFA are known to grow up to be industry leaders of tomorrow. Thanks to our Ag teachers and dedicated members that will continue to hold true.



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From BLUE JACKET on page 10

By developing a strong “why”, we ensure forward progression even when things get tough! Leading ourselves and others through respect and Playing square with those who need it The FFA Creed culminates down to one thing: we have an obligation to make our communities a better place. When we were in FFA, we were told that we were capable changemakers and leaders-and that hasn't changed! The third and fourth paragraphs of the creed paint a vivid picture of what it means to be a leader.

Not only do we need to be strong leaders in our community, but we need to work to create even more leaders. By empowering others through our work, we provide opportunities for the continued advancement of our industry as a whole. This is where mentoring others comes into play. How can you develop others with the skills you have gained over the years? Can you get involved in organizations that promote the development of others?

When we think through the lens of “how can I help someone else?” we make ourselves, and the world around us, better.

The Best of America's Traditions

When you think of the best of American traditions, what comes to mind? Brotherhood? Cooperation? Inclusion?

The final paragraph of the Creed speaks to the need for a strong commitment each of us has to our nation as a whole. At the end of the day, it is up to the individual to uphold what is considered to be the best traditions that hold our country together.

The most impactful way to practice this paragraph is to remember one thing: We are all connected. Whether we work in research, production, pest control, education, or enforcement, we have the same goal: To make American agriculture an industry that will lead the

world for generations to come.

Final Thoughts

The FFA Creed provides a powerful and inspiring vision for alumni and members alike. Each paragraph speaks to the values and missions that are pivotal to the mission of, not only the organization itself, but the broader agricultural community. Each of us, every day, has the opportunity to make a positive impact on our commu-

nity through advocacy, innovation and collaboration. We have the opportunity to shape the future of the agriculture industry and make a lasting impact on the lives of others.

Who better to take on that inspiring task, than those who have donned the blue corduroy?

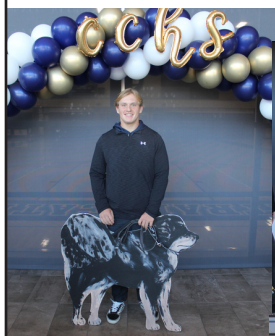


Central Catholic Agriculture AG Veterinary Sciences (H)



Our Veterinary Science class has been able to do some really fun and interesting labs this year and had the opportunity to visit Taylor ER in Turlock

In Vet Science, our students are learned about sutures and injections. They practiced on "patients" & practiced different injection techniques on bananas and sutures on steer hearts!



CCHS Raider County Dog Show! This year the students put on the first dog show. They created AKC lifelike dogs out of craft supplies! They did an incredible job and started a new tradition!

MODESTO FFA

2022-2023

NEWSLETTER



Our Ag Teachers



New Building

The Modesto FFA Chapter has had such a great year so far. We've come such a long way as a chapter because of the new addition to our staff. Tammy Burris & Rex Mendonza have really impacted our chapter in the best way possible.

Thank you to Mrs. Burris and Mr. Mendonza for deciding to be a part of our chapter this year, we can't wait to see what you'll do for our chapter in the future!



Leadership Team At Camp Sylvester

Our chapter has traveled quite a lot this year, whether it be for conferences, competitions, and/or meetings. In mid-September the officer team went to Camp Sylvester in Pinecrest, CA for a leadership retreat. Everyone had so much fun and even won "Most Spirited" out of the many chapters that went.

In the following month in October we competed in OCC. The officer team placed 4th in the section. Our intermediate teams also placed in they're league (Modesto Black - 1st Place & Modesto Red - 5th Place). Some of our individuals won awards as well.



Opening And Closing Teams



Not only have we had an addition to our staff, we are also excited to share that we have new classrooms and a greenhouse being added to our Ag Department. We hope to be in the new classroom sometime in March.

Congratulations to the following for winning awards: Katie Higgins (Outstanding President), Angel Cuevas (Outstanding Treasurer), Kylie Phelps (Outstanding Sentinel) and Jasmin Madrigal (Outstanding Reporter).



Katie Higgins
Outstanding President



Angel Cuevas
Outstanding Treasurer

Some other activities we've done include fundraisers such as our annual Omelette Breakfast to help fundraise some of the activities we do. Because of the fundraisers we've done we were able to cover the expenses of our weekend trip to MFE/ALA that took place in Monterey, CA.



Kylie Phelps
Outstanding Sentinel



Jasmin Madrigal
Outstanding Reporter



Before the trip in early January our chapter got the chance to meet two state officers, Hunter Haslem & Morgan Oliveira. They taught us so much on how to work better as a team.

We've done so many great things this year. Modesto FFA would like to thank everyone that contributed to our chapter's success this year. We can't wait to see what other great things our chapter accomplishes.



Jasmin Madrigal

Galilea Meza

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Emergency Conservation Assistance Available to Address California Storm Damage

Source, Brian German, Ag News Director, AgNet West

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is accepting applications for the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP). USDA's Farm Service Agency is accepting applications in relation to the recent storm damage many growers experienced. FSA State Director Blong Xiong announced that the application window will close on April 14. A total of 41 counties are considered eligible for the assistance that is being made available.

ECP supports producers with the recovery and restoration of farmland damaged by severe storms a few weeks ago. Practices such as debris removal, fence restoration, grading, shaping, and leveling are eligible for program assistance. Restoration of conservation structures and other installations can also qualify for ECP funding support. Applicants that are approved for assistance can receive up to 75 percent of the cost of restoration. Certain socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers and ranchers could receive up to 90 percent of costs. Alameda, Colusa, Contra Costa, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Humboldt, Kings, Lake, Los Angeles, Madera, Marin, Mariposa, Mendocino, Merced, Mono, Monterey, Napa, Orange, Placer, River-

side, Sacramento, San Benito, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Tulare, Ventura, Yolo and Yuba counties are all approved for the emergency conservation assistance being made available.

Advanced payments of up to 25 percent of costs for all ECP practices have been authorized under the recent announcement. Assis-

tance is also authorized for producers leasing Federally owned or managed lands, along with State land. No more than \$500,000 in cost-sharing support will be issued to a single eligible applicant.

Producers that have suffered storm damage will need to apply to ECP before any repair work is conducted. Producers are encouraged to consult with their local FSA office or visit the online resource for more information on the program.

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INNOVATION THROUGH THE YEARS

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135 YEARS

By: Zac Christianson
Chapter Vice President
Citizenship, Environmental
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LOOK OUT THERE IS A DUCK!!! Now that I have the attention... when has teamwork shown up in your day to day experiences? In FFA we show teamwork all of the time. Some examples that I will be discussing is: as an officer, in a CDE, and for big events. Now that the duck left we can get down to business.

In my experience my favorite part of FFA is being on a team of some kind, but the best is being an officer. In my first year of FFA, I was a Denair FFA Greenhand Officer. I learned skills such as: how to set-up and host FFA meetings, how to grow as a team, and was given the opportunity to gain experiences with others. This last year and current year I had the opportunity to be a Chapter FFA Officer and was given the chance to be a team member to a whole new team, with addition of helping the new Greenhand Officers. Being on these teams we had many fun and hilarious experiences, such as, during our

Officer Retreat, we accidentally forgot to close the garage door to the cabin, and we went to find the BBQ and we couldn't find it. Some officers said that they heard the alarm go off all night multiple times. We made the running joke that a man came in, took the BBQ, and was hiding out in the cabin. Don't worry, we found the BBQ, or did we? Then Fernando, a chapter officer went to take a shower, the alarm went off, and he didn't come back. For the mysteries: Fernando was in the shower, for a long time because he wasn't feeling well; for the alarms, Fernando kept going outside and everytime a door was open it made a beeping sound. Lastly, the garage door was opening as we were leaving, the man's face was going to be seen once and for all, it was none other than... Ms. Jacobsen, our ag advisor!!! That is one on my favorite stories on the officer team. However there were a few small ones, such as: Thomas, another chapter officer, falling up and down the stairs because the stairs were too small for any of us to walk up, the running joke with Tali, another chapter officer, because she thought I was trying to hit her when trying to give her a

high five, and just laughing and joking with each other all of the time. This current year we were trying to get Dakota, our chapter president, to lose her bet with her sister: which was to get her to drink water from a plastic bottle and not her cup, and the ensuing water fight which ended with getting soaking wet because Christianson, our Advisor, poured a bucket of water on her. We will always remember these experiences. However, you don't have to be on an officer team to make teamwork experiences. What a CDE is? Well a CDE is a Career Development Event. You compete at these events with a team. The team travels all over the state to compete and there are over 43 CDES in FFA. As a Freshman, I was on the Ag Mechanics CDE team and competed in the Creed LDE, Leadership Development Event. Although I wasn't able to go to too many events, I did get to participate in the State Finals Ag Mechanics Competition. Here I had many pleasurable, and some uncomfortable experiences, like, Conner, an Ag Mechanics Competitor, talking to a guy for hours about what type of tractor was their favorite or us talking to a couple at a hole in the wall diner in the middle of nowhere. I also got to spend those experiences with not only my team, but also the Horse Judging team for the State Competition. Now I have talked about very small teams, but you don't have to be in a small group to be on a team. Have you ever been to the Denair Truck and Tractor Pulls, or other events hosted by Denair FFA? With my next experiences I will discuss the

big teams I have been apart of. This can be anywhere from Football BBQ's for football games, Truck and Tractor Pulls, Pancake Breakfast, and Ag Day. With all of these experiences I have been able to work with so many members of the Denair FFA Chapter. If you do not know, Ag Day at our school is a day where the Denair FFA Chapter teaches younger students(elementary) about ag advocacy. With experiences like this I loved how well the Ag department as a team worked together and gave an amazing experience to each other as well as the younger students. Although all of these are wonderful experiences, you don't have to be on a team to be a part of one.

Last but nowhere close to least, has anyone gone to a conference? Well in FFA, we have many different conferences where you will make amazing memories with your chapter. Like everyone always falling asleep and joining the Hall of Z's, having to run to the Conference hall in the rain at State Conference and taking a soaked selfie, going to the beach during Camp Sylvester and recreating an old photo, and going to the very muddy, Scream Park for National Conference.

There are so many experiences that can be made with a team, mine were through FFA, but I challenge you to join a team, it doesn't even have to be in FFA, but these experiences are the best experiences you will most likely ever have. From officer teams, CDE teams, event teams, or just as a chapter, "Teamwork Makes the Dream Work." Oh and we did find the BBQ.



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