

California FFANEWS

FALL 2015

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CONTENTS



2

AgriCorp Adventures Await!



6

Outstanding Chapter:
O'Neals - Minarets



8

Meet your 2015-16
State Officer Team!

+

Tips for planning the
perfect officer retreat

Food Safety: How safe
is your kitchen?

Alumni in Action

Chapter Scoops



10

One member's quest to carry
on her family's dairy legacy

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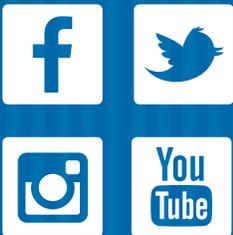
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We want to hear from you...

We are always looking for great stories about members and alumni around our state. Know of a story that we should feature in CA FFA News? Please email Riley at caffainert@yahoo.com.

Submission deadlines:
Fall..... June 1st
Winter September 1st
Spring December 1st
Summer March 1st

*Stay in touch...
"California FFA"*



In much of the world, farming is a socioeconomic condition, not a career choice. Our population is expected to reach 9 billion people by the year 2050 and we will need to produce 60% more food with less land, less water, less fertilizer and less pesticides. Being a part of agriculture education is more exciting than ever because of the relevant opportunities and expanding possibilities that lie ahead.

Do you love agricultural education and FFA? Do you love adventure, travel, and service? If you answered yes, keep AgriCorps in mind for your future! **AgriCorps is a non-profit organization that sends college of agriculture graduates to volunteer in the developing world for one year after they earn their Bachelors Degree.** AgriCorps members teach agriculture in junior and senior high schools and teacher training colleges. They work to start or enhance school-based agricultural education clubs (like FFA and 4-H!) at their schools. With the help of their students, they build school farms that act as learning laboratories for the agriculture classes. The students sell the produce from the school farms and the money goes back to the club

members. Some schools use their produce to start school feeding programs! We believe AgriCorps members are having a real impact on the lives of their students and the food security of their communities.

Trent McKnight, a past National Officer and founder of AgriCorps, stated on a recent trip to Ethiopia, "Wealth creation means to make something from nothing. It is the most basic tenet of capitalism and is what makes capitalism great. Last week I visited young farmers in Ethiopia and one told me, '4-H teaches us

It Is Ghana Be Awesome!

**WRITTEN BY:
AUDREY DENNY
PASO ROBLES FFA ALUMNI**



Students at a leadership camp participate in team building activities!

Sometimes in Ghana, you see pink chickens.



how to raise and sell two sheep so that we can make enough money to buy four sheep next year.' This young man has learned the basic principle that will free him from poverty."

AgriCorps is a new organization and our first team is finishing their year of service in Ghana. In August 2015, twenty new AgriCorps members will arrive in Ghana to start our second year! **We're planning on expanding to more countries in Africa and Latin America over the coming years.**

During an AgriCorps member's year of service they grow tremendously – both professionally and personally. It is impossible to live and work in the developing world and build authentic cross-cultural relationships

without being changed. Our volunteers have a wider world-view and life experience that is critical to work in globalizing agricultural industry. Upon their return home AgriCorps members have tremendous skills to bring to the workplace. We have members who are pursuing graduate degrees, careers in agricultural development and agricultural business, as well as teaching high school agriculture! **If you want to be a part of the solution to help feed 9 billion people by 2050, think about joining AgriCorps when you graduate! •**



The 2015-16 AgriCorps team rocking their traditional Ghanaian outfits!

Audrey Denny on assignment in Ghana



AgriCorps member, John Romo, examines the cornfield at his school with a student.



Members of the Saviour 4-H Club have fun while planting their garden.



If you'd like to keep up with AgriCorps until you are eligible to join, make sure you follow us on these platforms:

www.agricorps.org
Twitter: @agricorps_US
Instagram: @agricorps
Facebook: /agricorps



IT'S RETREAT TIME!

By Danielle Diele, California State Reporter

Goals. Whether it is watching your favorite World Cup soccer team make one, or sitting with your newly elected chapter officer team and planning them for the next school year, goal-setting is an exciting time. With a new school year comes new leaders, new ideas, new challenges, and new perspectives. It is time for us to look forward to having a fresh start, while still upholding and maintaining those unique features of our chapter.

A great way chapter officers can goal set for the upcoming year, as well as get to bond as a team, is through a chapter officer retreat!

At chapter retreats officer teams are allowed to create success for a chapter by creating goals, and make memories as their team bonds and builds friendships.

Officer teams should try to set three different goals in each of three unique areas: Student Development, Chapter Development, and Community Development. Within these three goals, there are five categories in each (see below). Our chapter officer teams should set goals in three areas of the five categories in each!

STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

In Student Development, we can strive to set goals in Leadership (Conferences), Scholarship, Healthy Lifestyles, Supervised Agricultural Experiences, and Ag Career Skills. An example of a goal in this area is to do a chapter meeting as a Dodge Ball Tournament. Not only will members become super-pumped to compete against their peers, but it will also increase attendance, as members don't just participate in the meeting, they are the meeting! This will accomplish a goal in the Healthy Lifestyles category of Student Development.

CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT

In the Chapter Development area, the categories are Cooperation (Officer Retreat), Support Groups, Financial, Public Relations, and Recruitment. How does your chapter engage in Public Relations? One way we can achieve this goal in Public Relations is to start either a weekly bulletin, tweet, or Instagram post every week about the chapter's upcoming events.

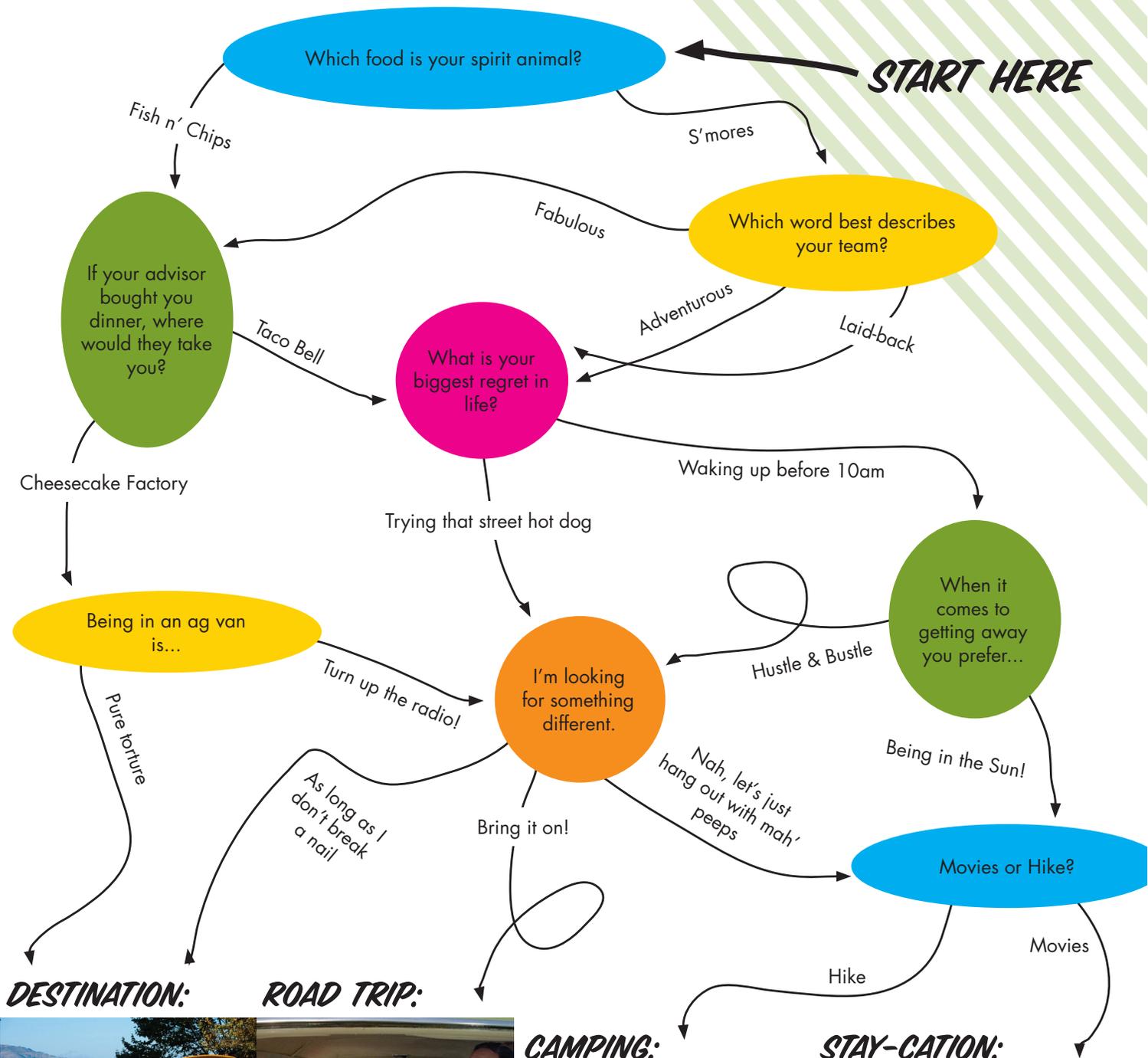
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

In the Community Development area, the categories are Environmental, Citizenship, Human Resources, Economic Development, and Ag Promotion. How does your chapter participate in Citizenship? One way my home chapter sets this goal is through what we call the "Pumpkin Project." During the Halloween season, our chapter carves pumpkins to give to senior citizens at nursing homes. When we deliver these, we play Bingo with the senior citizens and present them with their own pumpkins. Aspiring to set a goal in this can not only start a tradition, but leave an impact on your community.

Now that we know how to goal set on chapter retreats, let's talk some on how the retreat can be a great experience for your team to become a family. Take this quiz to find out where your team's perfect retreat destination could be!

PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES:

Student Development	Chapter Development	Community Development
Cooperation Conferences	Leadership <i>Officer Retreats</i>	Environmental <i>Adopt-A-Highway</i>
Scholarships <i>STUD Night</i>	Support Groups <i>Farm Bureau Projects</i>	Citizenship <i>Senior Citizen Prom</i>
Healthy Lifestyles <i>Dodgeball Tournaments</i>	Financial <i>Fundraising Incentives</i>	Human Resources <i>Breakfast on the Farm</i>
Supervised Ag Experiences <i>SAE Workshops</i>	Public Relations <i>Newsletters</i>	Economics <i>Cans for Cancer</i>
Ag Career Success <i>Career Development Events</i>	Recruitment <i>FFA Week</i>	Ag Awareness <i>Kindergarten on the Farm</i>



Welcome to a retreat full of exciting sights and new experiences! When planning your retreat, consider going somewhere far from your chapter, like a beach house on the California Coast or weekend in San Francisco!



It's not always about the destination, but about the memories made along the journey. Plan ahead to discover various locations a few hours apart of each other, and set out on an adventure with your teammates to reach all those destinations in a few nights while you bond in the ag van. Don't forget the auxiliary cord!



It looks like your team is all for a new adventure and being close to nature! Your team can enjoy going on hikes and spending time around the camp fire telling stories while you spend a few nights outdoors. Maybe backpacking through Yosemite would be your team's dream destination? Or even a cabin in Sierra Nevada? How about creek walking down Grizzly Creek!



Whether you set-up a tent in the backyard, have a massive sleepover in someone's living room, or stargaze all night on the roof, stay-cations are the perfect way to get comfortable with your team. Rent a movie, roast some marshmallows, play endless backyard games, make pizzas blindfolded, and create great memories all from the comfort of your home.

OUTSTANDING CHAPTER

O'Neals-Minarets FFA

The O'Neals-Minarets FFA Chapter is a progressive 21st Century Chapter that holds true to the long established goals of the FFA, by putting a modern twist on those time honored traditions. In 2007, the Chawanakee Unified School District decided to offer all science classes through our Agriculture Department, giving the opportunity for any student to benefit from the leadership offered by the FFA program. As a result, the O'Neals-Minarets FFA Chapter has fostered highly competitive SAE projects, multiple regional and sectional officers, as well as many CDE State Champions. All of these accomplishments can be attributed to the time and devotion each member has put into their individual endeavors.

Striving for success has become a habit in our Chapter. With this mind-set O'Neals-Minarets has gained two National Championships; one for Advanced Parliamentary Procedure in 2012 and one for Livestock Evaluation in 2014.

Not only does this Chapter foster competitive teams, but they offer a plethora of contests and activities for members to get involved in. Aside from Career Development Events, premier leadership is apparent and growing within this Chapter. In its short lifespan, O'Neals-Minarets has had five regional officers as well as multiple sectional officers. All these members have pushed themselves to serve the California FFA and this is illustrated by their involvement in conferences at all



levels whether they are participants or delegates responsible for the representation of their chapter, section, region or state.

O'Neals-Minarets has been diversifying their program to reach out to students who are interested in mechanics, horticulture, floriculture, veterinary science or aquaponics. Over the past seven years we have received a \$4.2 million grant to build a state of the art mechanics and floral facility with

experiment with fish and aquatic plant growth.

However the one thing that makes the O'Neals-Minarets FFA Chapter unique is its welcoming atmosphere. This FFA Chapter draws from the culture set forth at Minarets High School to create a family-like atmosphere within the Chapter and its members. You will often see Minarets Parli Pro members playing games with other Chapters in the holding rooms during a parli-pro contest. You'll find members creating new friendships and talking to everyone at CDE contests, or lending a helping hand to those beginning members at a fair. Wherever or whenever, an O'Neals-Minarets member is sure to be there to lend a hand or create a laugh.

The tradition of success and friendship that stands strong in the O'Neals-Minarets FFA Chapter is still blossoming and shall be amplified in the coming years of this Chapter. While holding true to the traditions set forth in the FFA, O'Neals-Minarets FFA is putting their own 21st century twist on these customs. So the next time you visit our website or you see a tweet, text, blog post or even laugh at that Instagram picture, think of Minarets and join with us in pushing the boundaries on the path to greatness. •

This FFA Chapter draws from the culture set forth at Minarets High School to create a family-like atmosphere...

three shop bays and two classrooms. We have secured another \$130,000 in grants to develop a livestock barn, portable farrowing house and greenhouse. Recently, students in the horticulture class were able to grow and sell succulents as water efficient decorative plants for home gardens and yards. The income brought in from this project went to purchasing new plants as well as expanding the horticulture facility to include a new Aquaponics system allowing FFA members to





Photo captions Opposite page, clockwise starting at top: Minarets FFA members experiencing the 2014 FFA State Conference; members pose at the community service event "Bass Lake Cleanup" after spending the day cleaning the lake; 2014 Chapter Officer Team working on their connections at the San Joaquin Region Bootcamp. This page, clockwise starting

at upper left: Students took their SAEs to a new level, each competing in the 2014 Madera Fair Round Robin; Members pose at Churchill Downs after attending the 2014 National Convention; O'Neals- Minarets FFA week is a big event, here members celebrate FFA Week with the Hay Bucking Contest during lunch; 2014 State Proficiency Winners slaved over their record

books and in their individual endeavors to bring high honors to themselves and Minarets FFA; With dedication and hard work, these Minarets FFA members achieved high honors becoming the 2014 National Champion Livestock Evaluation Team; and Officer Team poses for a picture after working hard at their chapter officer retreat.



Hello
my name is

*Your New
State Officer Team*



President



V. President

Name

Joelle Lewis

Sydnie Sousa

FFA Chapter

San Luis Obispo FFA

Tulare FFA

SAE

Swine, Ag Education and Ag Communications

Dairy Cattle Entrepreneurship

College, to start Fall 2016!

University of Washington

College of the Sequoias

Career Goal

I hope for a job where I communicate for the industry while being creative.

Lawyer

Birthday

March 6, 1997

January 29, 1996

Favorite Movie

Remember the Titans

Australia

Favorite Food

Avocados. I love avocados!

Salmon with Asparagus!

Favorite Book

The Perks of Being a Wallflower

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, Maya Angelou



Favorite Quote

"Be somebody who makes everybody feel like a somebody" - Kid President

"I am not bound to win, but I am bound to be true. I am not bound to succeed, but I am bound to live by the light that I have. I must stand with anybody that stand right, and stand with him while he is right, and part with him when he goes wrong."
Abraham Lincoln

Favorite Song

Feel Again by OneRepublic or Shut Up and Dance by Walk the Moon

Anyways Martina McBride

Favorite Joke

What does a nosey pepper do? Get jalapeno your business. (badumcha)

"As a young boy, Brutus' mother often cautioned him not to run with Caesars." (A total history geek who enjoys puns)

Favorite Sport

Tennis (ping pong is a close second though)

Soccer- who doesn't enjoy screaming GOAAALLL

Biggest Fear

SPIDERS

FROGS! Ew!

Starbucks Drink

Chai Tea Latte

Arnold Palmer

Hobbies

I love to play the guitar, make collages, paint, and watch Netflix!

Being outside, riding my horse, and spending time with friends and family!

Specifically, I am really looking forward to COLC's and SOLC's, but overall I am simply BEYOND excited to meet and interact with so many different members this year.

I cannot wait to see and learn about the plethora of projects, talents, and hard work members have utilized to make their experience in this organization exceptional!

What are you looking forward to most about this year?





Secretary



Treasurer



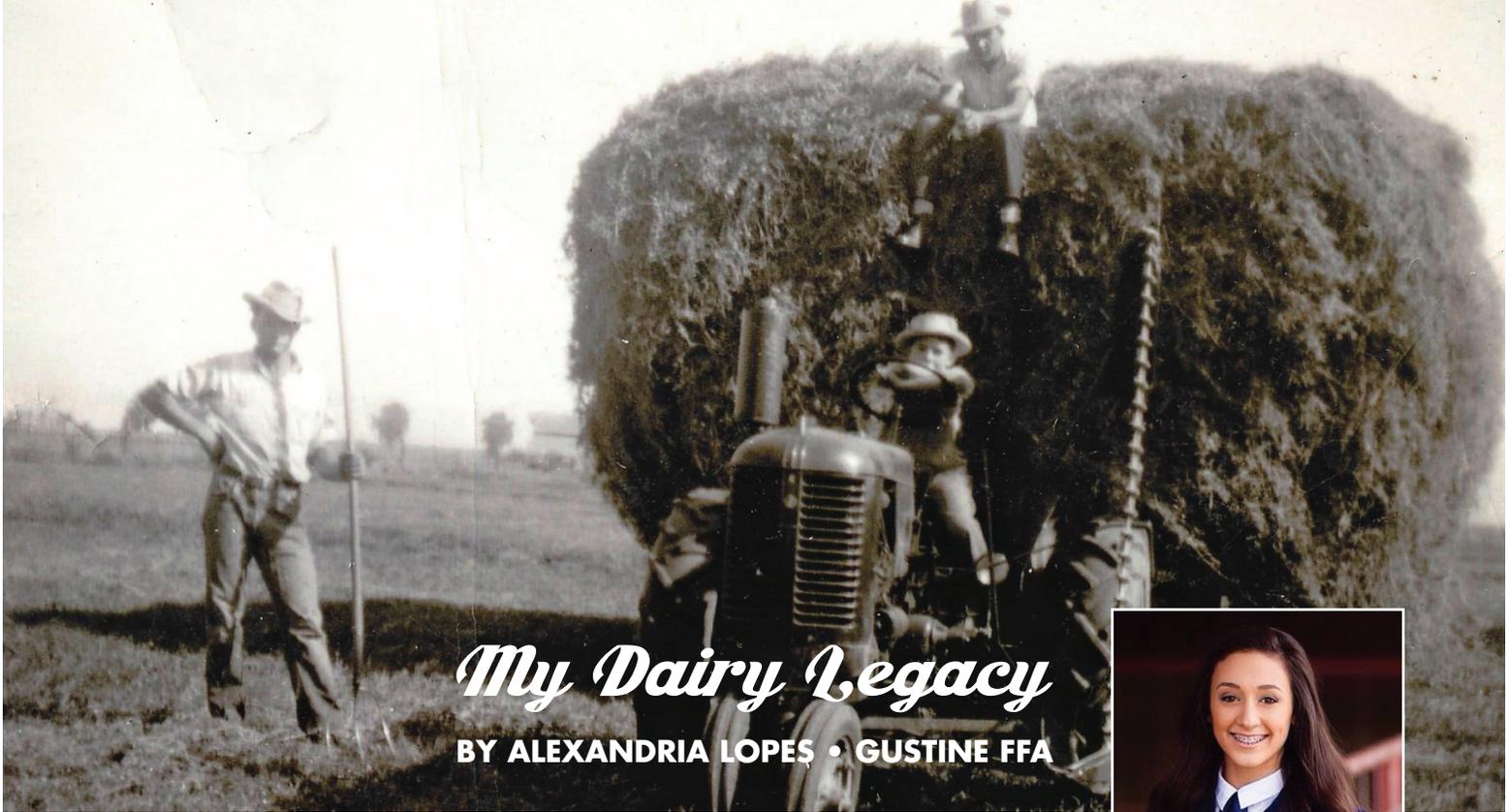
Reporter



Sentinel

Brianna Holbert	Trevor Autry	Danielle Diele	Tim Truax
Lodi - Tokay FFA	Nipomo FFA	Merced - Golden Valley FFA	Pitman FFA
Floriculture	Montezuma Oat hay production and Beef Production	Swine Production and Agricultural Law Internship	Entrepreneurship-Sheep Shearing, Ownership-Market Lamb
Chico State	Junior College for Livestock Judging	Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo	Modesto Junior College in hopes of transferring to Fresno State
Becoming an Ag Ed Teacher	Agricultural Educator	Agricultural Marketing Representative	I plan to earn my degree in Ruminant Nutrition and work as a Consulting Nutritionist
August 18, 1997	September 5, 1997	September 13, 1996	December 14, 1995
Ferris Beuler's Day Off	8 Seconds	Anything with Leonardo DiCaprio	The Guardian
Chocolate	Mexican food	Ice Cream	Anything at Applebees
1984 by George Orwell	Hatchet	40 Chances: Finding Hope in A Hungry World by Howard G. Buffet	Of Mice and Men. It's simple and doesn't take too much thinking to figure it out!
"I'm bad, and that's good. I will never be good, and that's not bad. There's no one I'd rather be than me."-Wreck it Ralph	"Wish It, Dream It, Do It"	"We can complain because rose bushes have thorns, or rejoice because thorn bushes have roses." - Abraham Lincoln	"Life is 10% of what happens to you and 90% of how you react to it"
Iris by The Goo Goo Dolls	This Kind of Town	Bonfire Heart - James Blunt	Friends in Low Places-Garth Brooks
What is red and smells like blue paint? Red Paint	Knock Knock	Do you want to hear a joke about California's number one commodity? Nevermind, its too cheesy!	Why does Snoop Dog carry an umbrella? Fo' Drizzle!
Basketball	Baseball	Water Polo	Golf
Falling off a Ferris Wheel	Rattle Snakes	Letting Others Down	Letting someone down
Caramel Ribbon Crunch Frappe'	Coffee	Caramel Macchiato	I'm simple - white mocha
Playing videos games, board games with friends, and shooting some hoop.	Hunting and fishing, really anything outside!	Skiing, wakeboarding, hiking, surfing	Duck Hunting, Fishing, Shooting, Golfing
Being able to travel the state, meet different people, and gain new perspectives about life and ag.	I can't wait to get to know members on a personal level and make a difference as well as being a part of a family of six!	I am extremely excited and anxious to build relationships with members during chapter visits, as well as learn more about diversity in agriculture!	Getting to know the stories of members from different walks of life. It's important to know the diversity within the organization and how FFA has made a positive difference in their lives!

BELIEVING IN THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE



My Dairy Legacy

BY ALEXANDRIA LOPES • GUSTINE FFA



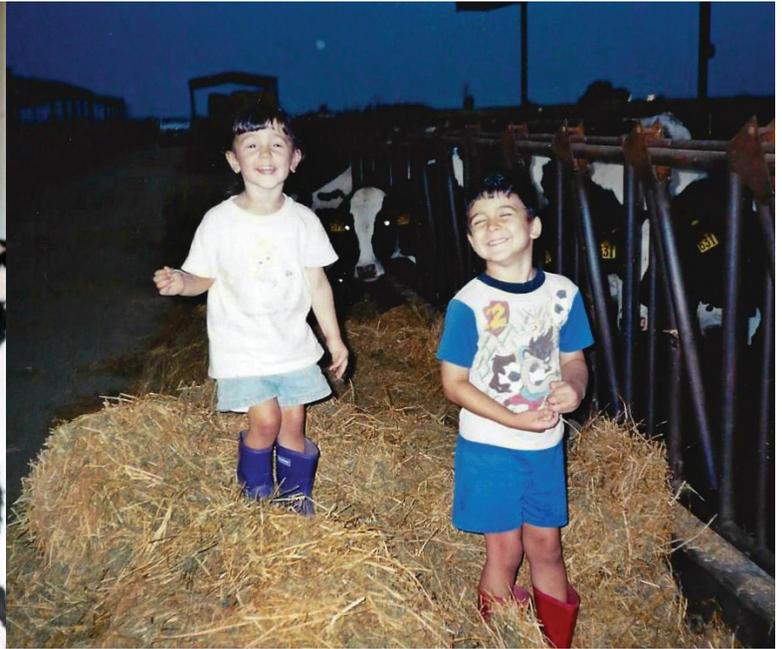
Dairying has been a tradition that long outnumbers my years. Manuel Lopes, my great-grandfather on my father's side came to America from the Azores Islands at the young age of 13. Over time he worked his way west and ended up in California. He had a dream of working in San Diego as a fisherman, but ran out of money. So he got off of the train and took a job milking cows in Gustine, then finally, years later he started his own dairy farm. My Grandfather Tony Lopes was literally born into dairying as his mother was milking the cows when she went into labor. Many years later he would begin his own dairy farm. My Grandparents on my mother's side were also heavily involved in the dairy industry. My grandfather Tony Oliveira has been dairying for over 60 years, as he helped his father run the business from a very young age. Once he

met my grandmother, who was milking cows at the time, they fell in love, got married and soon started a dairying tradition of their own. On both sides of my family, this has occurred within a two-mile radius of where my brother and I have grown up. It's crazy to look around and realize that the old dairies and fields around me are filled with such rich family history.

In my family we have always had a rule, at 8 years old you get to pick one calf from the dairy to have as your own. I had been waiting for my opportunity since as long as I could remember, and finally the day came for me to pick out my very own calf. While on my way to go work on the dairy with my dad one day, a certain newborn calf caught my eye. The black calf was the smallest compared to those around her and I instantly fell in love. Looking back at this moment I can only chuckle at my

naïve choice of this one animal that started my herd, who was selected only because I thought she was cute. Since then I have taken pride in working not only with my personal herd, but at the other dairies as well.

Living on a dairy farm has changed the way I live my life. It has instilled a good work ethic within me, a sense of responsibility, and has built many lasting friendships along the way. Once, when my dad was short a worker to swath alfalfa, I was put on the job. I can remember getting a quick lesson on how to do it and getting told numerous times what buttons NOT to touch. Half way through the field I had to call my Dad back to fix my mistakes because I had lost track of where the levees were. Driving around Gustine you could tell which fields I had done because of all the parts I had missed and all the curvy windrows. Whether



it was fighting with my brother on who's turn it was to go to work with Dad as a child, waking up at 4 am to go pour ice water on the back of my show cows because an old wives tale says it will make their topline grow, or having to feed calves before we could open presents on Christmas morning, these experiences will forever hold a special place in my heart.

When my great grandparents and grandparents got involved in the dairy industry, they had no idea of what was going to come about because of that decision. They

passed down the tradition of dairy farming to their sons and daughters for generations and generations, and I am blessed to be involved in such a great industry today. I am proud to say my foundation in Dairying has made me the young women I am today. •

Photo Captions, clockwise starting on opposite page: The dairying legacy going back to 1945 as my grandfather Tony Lopes and great uncles picked up loose hay to haul to the barn on a wagon (my grandfather

is sitting on the top of the hay); Alexandria showing her replacement heifer, Karisma, this past year in FFA; Alexandria and her older brother, Tony, jumping in the hay as kids after a long day out on the dairy; The Lopes family on the dairy where my Great Grandfather Antonio Oliveira started his roots as a dairyman; and Alexandria's first year showing in 4-H with her calf, Tinkerbelle, at the local county fair, the calf that started it all!





FOOD SAFETY: WHOSE FAULT IS IT ANYWAY?

By: Emma Jones,
Bear River FFA
2015 California
State, Prepared
Public Speaking
Champion



Can you name your favorite Starbucks™ beverage? Maybe it's a caramel Frappuccino® with extra whip and drizzle before a livestock auction, or five shots of espresso anytime you get in the car with your advisor. Perhaps you are more of a shaken-passion-tea-lemonade at a contest kind of person. We each may have different tastes when it comes to our food and drink, but one thing each of these beverages has in common... they don't make us sick. In a perfect world, we can enjoy any coffee without fear of food-borne illness, but in all reality, some foods from time to time, become unsafe which poses the question: whose fault is it?

The initial answer may be "producers." After all, farmers, processors, and distributors have incredible responsibility. These agriculturists take a number of precautions throughout production to prevent this risk. Some products are treated with sprays while others are irradiated. Production facilities use barcodes for produce and ear tags for livestock to trace the steps food items take, minimize potential risk factors, and decrease outbreak response time. Additionally the industry of agriculture sets standards through Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) plans and legislation to ensure safe food operations.

So who comes next in the blame game? In many instances bacteria can contaminate food in our own kitchen. Many consumers do not follow protocols such as using separate surfaces and utensils for meat and veggies, cooking foods through at the proper temperature, or maintaining good refrigeration, freezing, and thawing practices. These necessary household lessons are no longer taught as commonly as before since it is easier to throw some instant macaroni and cheese in the microwave than it is to make a cheese and pasta casserole. Consumers may purchase contaminated food products from a store at some point. In many of these situations, illness can be prevented through proper food preparation at home.

Another way producers ensure safety is through third party auditors. Starbucks uses EcoSure, a company that sets standards in addition to the state and federal regulations. At quarterly intervals, an inspector goes through a safety checklist, ensuring that all standards are met. So,

try inspecting your own kitchen and see if you as a consumer, meet household standards.

Household food safety checklist:

1. Do you designate separate cutting boards for meat, poultry, and vegetables?
2. Is there a working meat thermometer available to ensure temperatures of cooked meats
3. Is the temperature in the refrigerator above 32°F and below 40°F?
4. Does your sink get washed and sanitized every day?
5. Is your kitchen free from expired foods (per expiration date)?

If you answered yes to at least 4 of these questions, you are likely following pretty safe standards. If the answer was "no" to more than one question, you may want to re-evaluate your own "operation" to play your role in food safety.

Photo Captions: top left; Barcodes are used to track produce back to identify how it was shipped, where it was packaged or processed, where it was picked, and even the crew that picked it. Top right; EcoSure takes opportunities to coach on food standards and implementation when there is an opportunity to do so. Right; Logical as they may seem, many consumers do not follow standards, such as these, in their home. Do you?

WASH

SEPARATE

COOK

REFRIGERATE

Alumni in Action...

MICHELLE JIMENEZ FROM SOLEDAD FFA

Have you ever been asked: "What do you want to do when you grow up?" It's a difficult question to answer – a question I never really liked. The world is full of many opportunities, so how do you discover the career that is meant for you? For me, without FFA, I am certain I would not have discovered such a dynamic, challenging and fun career in agriculture. My story starts as a shy, timid freshman joining FFA simply because I thought raising a pig would be fun. I never dreamt selecting an Ag class my 8th grade year would change my life. Not only did FFA allow me to meet my best friends, travel around North America and become a leader, it helped shape me into the person I am. For that, I am thankful!

I look back at my "blue and gold" days and know that FFA helped me secure and advance in the career I have now. While interviewing for my internship at Dole in college, I used my FFA skills to ace that interview (thanks Mrs. Ramirez for pushing me to compete in public speaking). When I became a supervisor, I used my FFA skills to always be professional and present my work via PowerPoints confidently and effectively to senior management (thank you Mr. Beard for teaching me that practice

makes perfect). Now as a manager, I use my FFA skills more than ever! Just like FFA taught me, I have a firm handshake whenever I meet a new farmer, I treat everybody with respect and dignity, and I always remember to lead with passion (Mr. Parker you taught me that passion is all the difference; thank you!).

Choosing a career is not easy; it's not supposed to be. I encourage you to think of what makes you happy, but also challenges you. With passion and drive, any career is possible! •

Photo captions top to bottom; Michelle served as the 2007-08 CA FFA State Secretary when their 80th State FFA Conference theme was Inspiring Excellence; Michelle's days in Food Safety are ever changing. One day she can be in the field with muddy boots; the next, she can be in slacks meeting with executive management. Or she can be jumping on a plane to visit a grower on the east coast or even in Canada! Here is Michelle attending the United Fresh Conference in Chicago, Illinois; Her state office teammates are still five of her best and closest friends. She looks forward to their annual winter reunion every year!



PAST



In 1987 the program "26 Hours of Science and Technology in Agriculture" was created as a senior project at California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, with the goal to promote diversity, encourage students to seek a higher education, and allow participation to explore the many facets of agriculture.

The Latinos in Agriculture, an affiliate student organization at Cal Poly, directed the program, which included applied laboratory workshops, financial advisement for college, and various other events that allow students to experience student life at Cal Poly.

One of the many FFA programs to travel to Cal Poly was Carpinteria Agricultural Science and Technology Academy (ASTA). All of the nine students attending were so excited about their experience and learned a lot. Freshman Cassandra Quintero remembers, "By participating in the different workshops it helped open my eyes to all the different aspects in agriculture. I really enjoyed all the different activities we did, and also how we had a student seminar where everyone who participated got to ask all the college students questions."



Carpinteria students would like to thank their sole ag advisor, Mr. John Avila. He dedicates his time to give his students every opportunity to succeed inside and out of the classroom through programs such as "26 Hours"! •

Submitted by Kayla Meza, Carpinteria FFA



DEL NORTE FFA A Day at the Farm

Submitted by Taylor Jones, Chapter Reporter

This May, the Del Norte FFA chapter in the North Coast Region hosted "A Day at the Farm". We had 120 special needs students from our community come to the Del Norte County Fairgrounds for a fun filled day of learning about agriculture. We had stations with everything from sheep to ice cream making conducted by our members. At each of the animal stations, the kids had the chance to meet the animals and learn about their place in the industry of agriculture. Then they rotated between stations such as Dairy Products and Ice Cream Making to do hands-on activities. A parent of one of the students stated at the conclusion of the day "my son and his classmates had a blast! Talking about it days later you could see the excitement as his eyes and smile lit up. My son doesn't reach for anything, but you can see him reaching to pet the bunny! Big deal for us." We ended the day by giving showmanship demonstrations and inviting volunteers into the ring to try and show the animals.

HUGHSON FFA Camp Sylvester

Submitted by Shania DeJarnett, Chapter Reporter

Our chapter had an opportunity to be a part of an experience of a lifetime. We attended a chapter officer leadership conference at Camp Sylvester. At the conference, chapter officers from the TriRivers Section and Stanislaus Tuolumne Section met with other chapter officers and shared chapter event ideas. Nineteen chapters attended, including 181 students, all under the supervision of 26 advisors. The Hughson FFA officer team learned the duties of our positions, competed in multiple team building activities, and learned many ways to better our FFA Chapter. A key moment of the camp occurred during the team building activities. We learned how to work as a team, the importance of communication, the ability to help out others, and how to step up as a leader. We can't wait to take all of the new ideas, team building activities, and leadership qualities and implement them into Hughson FFA!



Your Chapter FFA

Let Us Know Your Chapter's Scoop! Here's how...

1) Submit a 100-150 word article about your chapter's recent activity.

- a. Please do not include members or advisors names within the article.
- b. The article should be about an interesting/unique type of FFA activity. This is an opportunity to showcase new and innovative chapter activities.

2) Attach a GREAT quality digital photo.

- a. Photos should be in color and help further explain the submitted article.

- b. Photos must include members with appropriate clothing & behavior.
- c. Photos must be sent as individual jpeg files.

3) Email the above information to caffainert@yahoo.com.

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

4) Please reference page two for CA FFA News Submission Deadlines



OAKDALE FFA National Ag Day Celebration and Education

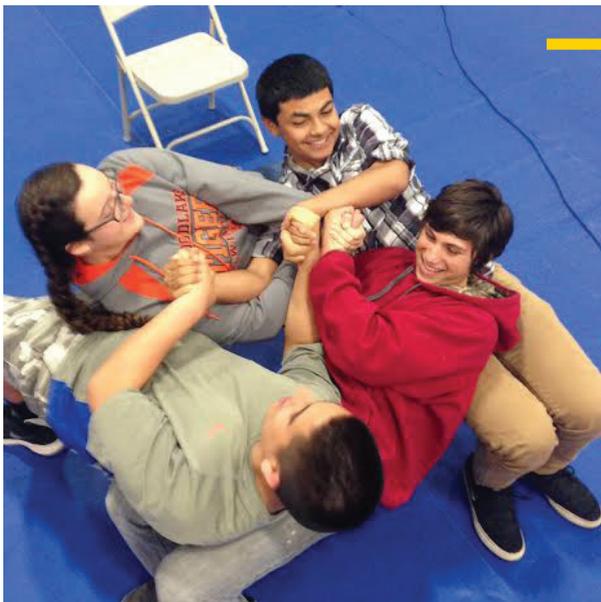
Submitted by Liza Marsella

Central Region's Oakdale FFA chapter celebrated National Ag day with the elementary schools in their community! Eight of their dedicated members spent the day at either Sierra View Elementary or Magnolia Elementary, to teach kids from kindergarten to sixth grade about agriculture and FFA. With a grand total of 1,310 students, they talked about what different things their chapter has to offer with farming and agriculture. They even talked to them about SAE's and what their own projects were to inspire them to become more involved in their communities. Oakdale's team also showed that you don't have to be born on a farm to be a part of an agricultural lifestyle. Talking to younger students is a great way to reach out to our future generations to inspire, connect, and ensure a great future for your community, state, or even country.

SANTA MARIA FFA Memorial Day Ceremony

Submitted by Adriana Arias

With more than 800 members, the Santa Maria FFA has been living to serve this past year by taking part in various community service activities. One recent event involved members working with the local VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars) Organization in order to give back to those who gave their lives for the freedom of our country. In honor of these individuals, Santa Maria FFA members visited the local cemetery on May 24, 2015 for the annual Memorial Day Flag Posting Ceremony. More than 2,000 flags were posted to commemorate the Memorial Day and fallen soldiers. The Santa Maria FFA officer team was also recognized for their efforts in helping with the Memorial Day Ceremony. As FFA members we realize the importance of freedom and we recognize the hard work of those who have fought and given their lives in order to secure it.



WOODLAKE FFA FFA Rally

Submitted by Jason Ferreira

To end a successful FFA Week, the Woodlake Chapter hosted a Blue and Gold themed pep-rally for FFA members. The rally consisted of recognizing the different judging and leadership competition teams Woodlake High School has to offer. To get the crowd pumped up, the Woodlake Chapter Officer Team created games and competitions that related to each of the teams offered. One example included the members of the citrus judging team competing in an orange squeezing contest, where the member who squeezed the most orange juice the fastest won a prize. Members showed their FFA spirit by dressing up in FFA colors and paraphernalia as well as participating in the games. As a recruitment piece, we invited a few of our non-ag members to the rally in hopes of getting more kids enrolled in the Agricultural Education program.

