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**The Calaveras County Fair 2016**

I was at Ag Day when Laurie Giannini walked up to me, slung her arm over my shoulders and asked in a sweet voice, “So, Becca, want to sell tickets this year at fair?”

“Uh...” I replied, “Sure?”

Laurie looked over at Toni Ann Fischer. “There, problem solved,” she said. I wasn’t sure what the problem was, but in a matter of seconds, I had been recruited to work for the Calaveras County Fair and Jumping Frog Jubilee.

“Boots, Chaps, and Cowboy Hats” was this year’s theme for our county fair. This year was the first time I got to work in *the* fair office, which was very exciting for me. Until then, I had only been one of the many child exhibitors—growing up at the Calaveras County Fair,

I have shown chickens, goats, and steers. I also participated in Junior Fairboard on the red team known as the Kool Aidz. I still have my T-shirts for that, too, although they are a little worn now...

Anyway, I got a new T-shirt this year to add to my growing collection. The office ladies got to wear the ones that said, “Boots, Class, and a Lil’ Sass!” made by Mike and Karan Bowsher of Black Diamond Graphics. I loved the shirt so much, I bought another in a different color.

My wardrobe aside, selling tickets before and during fair proved to be no easy task. By the end of each day, I was exhausted. I no longer envy the office ladies (and gentlemen) who worked hard, not only during *(Continued on pg. 2)*

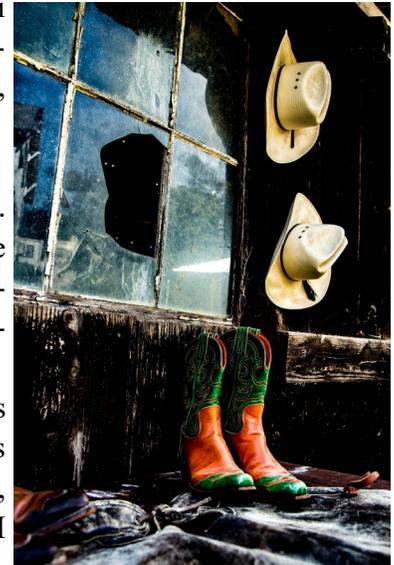


Photo by Mindy Rasmussen

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fair, but all year round, to put on this very special annual event.

My recruiter Laurie was in charge, and I also had the pleasure to work with Toni Ann Fischer, Chris Thom, Amy Roggow, Taylor Campbell, Sherri, Stacey, and David Wu. That is, of course, not everybody; not even close. There were countless others, including those who were in charge of exhibits and auctions, of maintenance, of the animal barns and horsemen events. And a huge shout out to the Friends of the Fair; it is with all their hard work and dedication that the Calaveras County Fair continues to thrive, year after year. And I thought selling tickets was hard!

Thursday was opening day, and a lot of people brought their kids, taking advantage of the “Kids 12 and under are free” discount. Many exciting things happened on Thursday, including both the Saddle Queen contest and Miss Calaveras Pageant. The winner of the Saddle Queen contest was Samantha Smith, 1st princess was Christa Gillio (who was also one of our scholarship recipients! See page 6), and 2nd princess was Melanie Nelson.

One competition I did get to watch was the Miss Calaveras pageant. And let me tell you, it was a tough competition. All of the contestants brought something unique to the stage. Following in both her mother’s and older sister’s footsteps, it was Makayla Ruthraff who was selected as Miss Calaveras 2016. Sierra Stackpole won 1st princess and Brighton Hamari won 2nd princess.

This year was also the first time that a Replacement Heifer auction took place, along with the Junior Livestock auction (although they were not on the same day). Nicholas Ratkovich won Champion Replacement Heifer and Delaney Sullivan won Reserve Champion Replacement Heifer. For a list of all the junior livestock exhibitors who showed champion animals, go to the Fairground’s website at [www.frogstown.org](http://www.frogstown.org) and click on the tab in the menu that says “Fair Results”. I will mention, however, that my younger sister Victoria Fischer won Round Robin. Way to go, Tori!

Friday, I did not work; however, I came back in the evening for the Little Texas concert. I had been invited to go backstage with a couple buddies of mine. I got to shake the band members hands and take a photo with them. As it turns out, not only do they play music, but the band members of Little Texas are also hosts of a potential new show *Back on the Back Roads*, that is planned to premier of Destination America next year (if all goes according to plan, they said in a message). While on stage, they mentioned that they filmed an episode that day. This was not the first time our Frog Jumping Jubilee has made it to the big screen; remember when Larry the Cable Guy came out there for a visit? And that one guy from the Jay Leno show? My older sister and I even saw the frog jumping competition featured on



Photo courtesy of Rebecca Fischer

Animal Planet’s *The Most Extreme* (Is that show even still on?).

Saturday I returned to work. The temperatures had dropped, and by the time I got off work and wandered down the hill to watch the rodeo, it was freezing outside. It was so cold, I could barely focus on what was happening in the arena. I had brought a quilt to sit on, but instead I ended up wrapping myself with it and rigidly stood to watch.



Photo courtesy of Laurie Giannini

The bronc riding and barrel racing were exciting, but the bull riding was a bit...disappointing. I don't think a single cowboy stayed on for a full 8 seconds. In fact, many of them fell off right out of the chute. This year, the bulls were tough!

During the day was the Western Horse Events which I sadly missed, too (I usually watch it as well). This year, Jason Zumbach was awarded as the All Around Cowboy.

Sunday was, of course, the last day of fair. It was the day of the Junior Livestock Auction and the Destruction Derby. And, I kid you not, we sold tickets all day. All. Day. Long. There was no morning rush and afternoon lull. The lines got so long and intermingled, a couple people from our office had to go direct traffic. In the evening, once I got off work, I wandered to the hillside to see how the Destruction Derby was going. The hillside was *packed*. I could hardly see the grass. I don't think I had ever seen it so full before. I got claustrophobic and left. It was just too many people.

But I survived "Fair Week." We all survived. Despite being completely worn out by the end of it, I enjoyed myself. Our county fair is something that is truly unique, and worth every ounce of energy—and more—that is put in to making it happen. We even made record sales with the Junior Livestock Auction! Great job, everybody. I already can't wait until next year; as of today as I write this, there are only 350 days until the Calaveras County Fair and Jumping Frog Jubilee 2017.

-Rebecca Fischer

## **WELCOME, NEW AG TEACHERS!**

Once school starts again in the fall, both Calaveras and Bret Harte high schools will have new agricultural teachers added to their faculty!

For Calaveras High School, Kevin Hesser has been working on Calaveras High School's farm for 3 years, along with many years of experience working with kids, teaching agriculture and landscaping. He also has had a cattle ranch and specialty crop farm for the last 18 years. He earned his Liberal Arts degree with an emphasis in Art from Lutheran University. From there, he earned his Multiple Subject teaching credential with a supplementary Art credential from Sac State and this summer, he earned his Ag credential from CSET.

For Bret Harte, Trevor Airola is also familiar with the campus, because he is Bret Harte Alumni. Since he graduated, he has earned his Bachelor degree and teaching credential in Agricultural Education from Chico State. He worked in Chico's beef and dairy units, crops, and pasture management and maintenance. He also worked for Ironstone Vineyards for four years as assistant manager to the vineyard and cattle ranch.

While I'm sure we're all excited to welcome these new teachers, we are sad to see their formers go. Abigail Ferrall with Calaveras High School has gotten a new job up in Oregon closer to her family and Roy Beck with Bret Harte recently retired. We are so grateful for their hard work and time put in to help our students achieve their agricultural goals and provided them opportunities to expand their horizons and network with others.

Good luck to all of you, coming and going!

# Ag Day 2016

Ag Day 2016 was a very exciting day; even though it was overcast, it fortunately didn't rain. I somehow managed to run all over, introduce myself to all the presenters in hopes of getting a picture of them on Facebook (which was hard, because I am both introverted and not athletic at all). I found myself wanting to linger and learn more about what they were presenting.

There were ducks, chickens, bunnies, sheep, alpacas, a miniature horse, and a dairy cow, and a couple stations about their byproducts. And bugs. All kinds of "good" bugs, from bees to butterflies. There were stations about various fruits, like oranges, blueberries, and walnuts, and even a station on how to can them. There was a cattle truck; there was a logging truck. So much to learn about, so little time...I had to quickly wolf down my tri-tip sandwich that was cooked in a smoking barrel next to the wash racks before heading off to class.

It was a busy day, and it wouldn't have happened without the people who volunteered their time to help put it on. Thank you to the presenters for coming out to talk to kids about the importance of agriculture, in their station order:

Rich Lokey—Cattle Truck  
Pam and Rick Brady—Alpacas  
Kimberlee Youman—Dairy Mobile Unit  
Tamara Blakely—Beef Presentation  
Randy and Susan Metzger—Walnuts  
Lisa Larsen—Dairy  
Melissa Ratkovich—Goats  
Scott Oneto—Farm Advisor, Blueberries  
Grace Garcia and Alondra Terrones—Bret Harte FFA Rabbits  
Jennifer Goerlitz—Calaveras County 4-H  
Terri Bishop, Lynn Darmsted, and Deanna Correa—Master Gardeners  
Kathy Mewhinney—Logging Truck  
Chis Thom—Beekeeping  
Steve Farris and Catherine Talbot—Calaveras County Ag Commissioner  
Sue Moshacher—Master Food Preservers  
Libby Kassik and Sandy Rader—Sheep  
Jim Bertand and Family—Horse Shoeing  
Lucas Hill—Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

And thank you to Steve Kafka, Darryl Giannini, Mark Fischer, and Tim Folendorf for cooking the tri-tip for lunch. Thank you to the Calaveras County Fairgrounds for co-sponsoring this event. And thank you to the Calaveras and Bret Harte FFA students who showed up and worked as tour guides and gave presentations themselves. Without your help, we at the Calaveras County Farm Bureau would not have been able to put on this very important event. So thank you.

Turn the page to check out some of the photos from that day. You can also see more photos on our Facebook page. Like a few if you want!

We're doing things a bit differently this year! So make note that our:

# **ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS**

**WILL BE HELD ON:**

**OCTOBER 11, 2016**

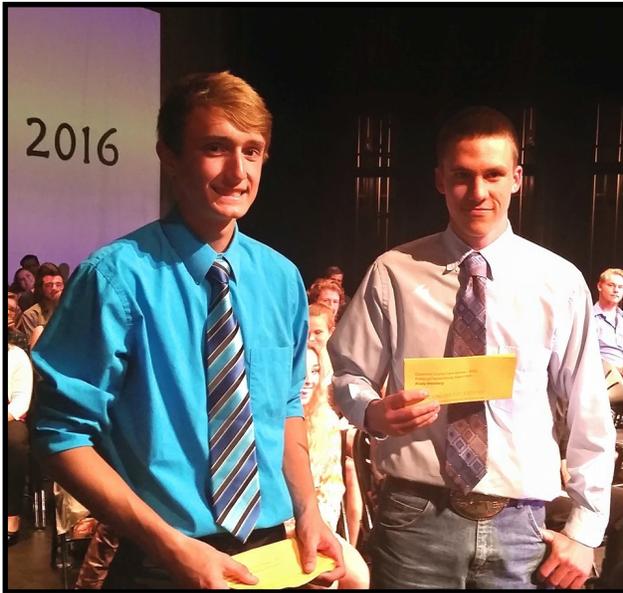
At the Grange Hall in San Andreas, CA  
7:00 PM

For information about our  
**Annual Barbeque Fundraiser**  
Please see back for you invitation!



In December 2015, several of our board members went to the California Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting. Here pictured are board members (left to right) Steve Kafka, Eloise Spence, Michael David Fischer, and Toni Ann Fischer with 1st V.P. Kenny Watkins. Thanks to new members, Calaveras County Farm Bureau was presented an award for Annual Bonus Membership Goal.

HERE ARE THE WINNERS OF  
THE 2016 CCFB SCHOLARSHIPS!



CLINTON KAFKA  
&  
BRADY WESTBERG

BRET HARTE  
HIGH SCHOOL



CHRISTA GILLIO

CALAVERAS  
HIGH SCHOOL



CONGRATULATIONS!



At our Christmas Meeting and Party, we collected \$130 and 170 pounds of canned goods for Santa's Express with the Resource Connection! Thank you to all who donated! The box was overflowing!

## THANK YOU!

To Placer County and Dan Macon for your generous donations to youth projects affected by the Butte Fire. To date, distribution of the funds have been made to Skip Sharp of Mountain Ranch 4-H Wood Working Projects. Thank you to Skip for maintaining this project under the extreme circumstances. At this time, **we still have funds to distribute.** Please contact us if you know of a youth whose fair project(s) was affected by the Butte Fire.

# CALAVERAS COUNTY FARM BUREAU

## ANNUAL BARBEQUE FUNDRAISER

**AUGUST 20, 2016**

Social Hour 5:00 PM ~ Dinner 6:00 PM

Followed by Live Auction

**The Ranch House** at the

**Calaveras Country Fairgrounds**

This event is our Agricultural Education Fundraiser  
Ag Day, Scholarship, and other educational opportunities

Sponsorship Tables Available:

\$250 includes 4 Dinner Tickets ~ \$500 includes 10 Dinner Tickets

E-mail or call if you would like to donate an item for the auction

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Names \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Names \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner Tickets (\$25) # of Tickets \_\_\_\_ (6 & under free) \_\_\_\_

I would like to be a Sponsor, \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed.

Unable to attend, but will donate \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for Ag Education.

Please RSVP by August 12th. Mail reservation to:

P.O. Box 206 Altaville, CA 95221

or call (209) 772-2830 or email calcofb@aol.com

Please make check(s) payable to: CCFB.