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Agriculture Awareness Day 2019

Story and pictures by Rebecca Fischer

On March 14, the Calaveras Country Farm Bureau hosted its annual Agriculture Awareness Day - or "Ag Day" for short - at the Calaveras Country Fairgrounds livestock area. The event was organized by Rosemary Giannini and Toni Ann Fischer. Around 600 fourth- and fifth-graders from elementary schools in Calaveras County attended the event and were introduced to not only a variety of presentations based on agriculture, but other things that affect the agricultural industry, like animal and rural safety, transportation, nutrition and environmental systems. The Calaveras County Department of Agriculture, the Calaveras County Sheriff's Office, Master Gardeners with UC Cooperative Extension, the Dairy Council of California, Sierra Pacific Industries, as well as members of local 4-H chapters and both Calaveras and Bret Harte FFA volunteered their time to teach the students about agriculture.

According to calaverasfarmbureau.org, "Agriculture Awareness Day allows children in the community to have hands-on experience learning about agriculture in a safe envi-



A 4-H member shows the students how to handle small dairy goats.

ronment."

While several of the presenters have volunteered their time for Ag Day for many years, including Kathy Mewhinney, Libby Rader-Kassik, and Chris Thom, there were a few new faces. For Jammie Lam, Community Nutrition Advisor with the Dairy Council of California, this was her first time presenting at Ag Day.

"The kids were really enthusiastic," Jammie said, "They surprised me. They know a lot about nutrition and the 5 food groups. It's important that they know where their food comes from. But they also knew that health is more than just food, but

Continues on page 2

Table of Contents	
Ag Day	1
Gold Country YF&R	4
Announcements	6
"Cattle in the Sierra" film	8

physical activity as well.” She taught the kids more about food nutrition by playing Jeopardy to make it fun.

Students also learned about programs they could participate in later on in high school, like FFA. Calaveras High School FFA members Mia Remus and Logan Weatherby taught kids what they learned through the FFA program. Mia asked the students what they wanted to be when they grew up. One girl said she wanted to work with animals, another said he wanted to be an astronaut, and one even piped up and said he wanted to be a Youtuber. “All of these jobs have something in common,” Mia said, “They all require leadership and communication skills.” She went on to note that FFA helped prepare her for job interviews.

The Calaveras County Farm Bureau also had several volunteers on hand to help give directions to groups and provided lunch for FFA guides and Ag Day presenters. Lunch was prepared by Toni Ann and Michael David Fischer and Steve Kafka.

The students, as always, were excited about what they were learning and asked plenty of questions, keeping the presenters on their toes. Crowd favorites seemed to be the donkeys with the Master Gardeners (Master Gardener Debbie Powell teamed up with Barb from Half Ass Adventures to discuss how to compost donkey manure), the baby goats shown by Angelus Ramus 4-H volunteer Kasey Musachia, and of course, the cattle truck. The kids always love climbing in and out of the cattle truck. They also enjoyed being weighed on the cattle scale. The class from Rail Road Flat Elementary School laughed and were amazed when they learned that they weighed about 1,150 pounds all together.

Thank you to all the volunteers who gave their time, labor, and knowledge for Ag Day. And thanks to the Calaveras County Fairgrounds for hosting our event once again. Can’t wait for next year!

Though yet another Ag Day has come and gone, the Calaveras County Farm Bureau is always looking for new presenters for next year. If you are interested in becoming a presenter or would like to know more about Ag Day, contact the Calaveras County Farm Bureau at 772-2830 or calcofb@aol.com.



2019 Ag Day Presenters

Craig Joses - Cattle Truck

Kathy Mewhinney - Log Truck

Chris Thom - Bees

Libby Rader-Kassik - Sheep

Rachelle Snitchler, Mother Lode Saddle Queen - Rodeo

Kasey Musachia - Goats

Amanda Berry - Poultry

Debbie Powell and Barb of Half-Ass Adventures - Master Gardeners and composting

Jason Markovitz of the Calaveras Sheriff's Office - Boat Safety

Joseph Emmi of the Calaveras Sheriff's Officer - 4-Wheeler Safety

Sigga Sharp of Mountain Ranch 4-H - Guide Dogs for the Blind

Jammie Lam of the California Dairy Council - Nutrition

Justice Rasmussen - Calaveras County Agriculture Department

Mia Remus and Logan Weatherby - FFA

Katherine Sharp of Mountain Ranch 4-H - Rabbits

Bella Rose of Calaveras FFA - Animal Nutrition

Rebecca Proctor of Animal Services - Animal Safety

Jacob Lile - Storm Water

Ag Day 2019 Photo Gallery

For more photos, follow us on Facebook or check out our website at calaverasfarmbureau.org.



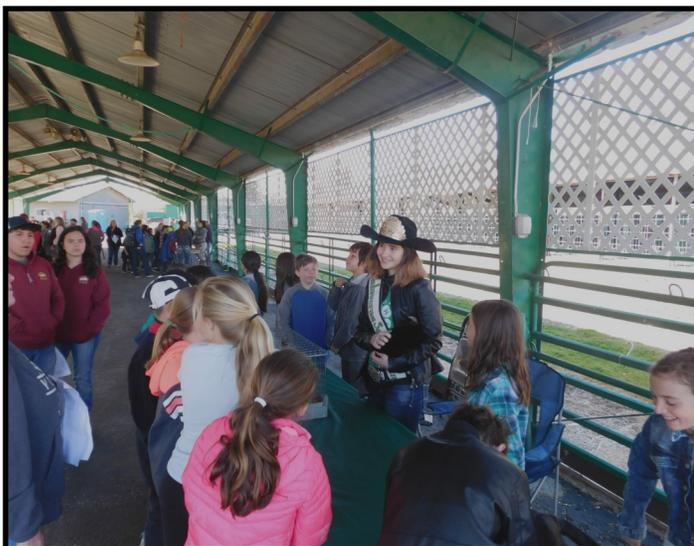
Opposite page, top: Brady Dubois of Sierra Pacific Industries holds up one of the Ponderosa pine seedlings passed out to students to take home at the end of the day.

Amanda Berry, co-chair of the Gold Country Young Farmers & Ranchers, wears her protective suit as she gives a presentation on chicken diseases and biosecurity in chicken production.

Middle right: Sigga Sharp of Mountain Ranch 4-H teaches kids how to train dogs for Guide Dogs for the Blind.

Bottom right: Calaveras FFA member Bella Sharp has many questions to answer during her presentation on animal nutrition.

Below: Katherine Sharp, 2018 Calaveras Saddle Queen and 4-H member, doesn't just know a lot about horses; she showed that she knows a bit about rabbits as well through her presentation.





Gold Country YF&R Spring Updates

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Follow us on Facebook at Gold Country Young Farmers and Ranchers or Instagram @goldcountry.yfr



The Gold Country YF&R has had a quiet couple of months since December. We participated in the Murphys Christmas Parade on December 7, 2018.

We had tried to schedule tour of the Amador Flower Farm for February, but had to cancel due to bad weather. We are still interested in touring the Amador Flower Farm as well as other agricultural commodities in Amador County. We considered planning a tour on April 13, but we are hosting a tour for San Joaquin YF&R and decided that trying to cover both Amador and Calaveras would be a lot of driving, so we will be planning an Amador tour for a later date.

For upcoming events, as I stated, we are having a social/tour on April 13 that we are tentatively call-

ing the “Highway 4 Corridor Tour” with San Joaquin YF&R as our guests. . Final plan will be posted on Facebook and our website.

We are also forming a Frog Jumping team for the Calaveras County Fair. We are going to be challenging the Calaveras Wine Grape Alliance, Calaveras Cattlemen’s and San Joaquin YF&R and possibly Stanislaus YF&R as well. We challenged these groups last year (except for Stanislaus), and only the CWA rose up to our challenge. We won.

Our next meeting is April 9 and will be held at Rolling Dough Pizza in San Andreas at 5:30 p.m. Beer and pizza will be provided by us. Young adults (or anyone) interested in the GCYF&R and agriculture are welcome to attend this meeting.

Gold Country YF&R Photo Gallery

Brrrr! Calaveras County farmers and ranchers are doing their best to get through these very wet and cold winter and springs months.

Have a photo of your farm or ranch? Share it with us!



CCFB Christmas Potluck 2018

On December 11, the Calaveras County Farm Bureau hosted their annual Christmas Potluck. There was plenty of food to go around, and everyone had a great time.

Check out the full photo album on our Facebook page!



Top left: Members and guests brought canned goods and monetary donations for the Resource Connection Food Bank.



Middle left: Andy and Paige Landreth enjoy decorating gingerbread houses with sticker candy, thanks to Laurie Giannini.

Bottom left: District 12 Representative Paul Sanguinetti and CCFB board member Tim Folendorf sit with the Valentés and chat over dinner.

Below: CCFB members and guests are ready to eat!



Missed your chance to give someone the gift of a Farm Bureau membership last Christmas? That's OK! You can give the gift of membership to anyone throughout the year!



Announcements

“Save the Ranch Barn Dance”

Information below is pulled from a press release written by Ken Fleming, President of the Tuolumne County Farm Bureau:

Tuolumne County Farm Bureau (TCFB) is proud to present the “Save the Ranch Barn Dance” on April 19, 2019 from 7 to 10 p.m. at Hurst Ranch Barn, 17415 Highway 88, Jamestown. This is going to be a great night filled with fun, dancing and, best of all, community support of local high school agriculture programs.

TCFB is hoping to park the barn and raise money for the Tuolumne County Farm Bureau Legal Defense Fund that will go toward the pending lawsuit involving the sale of Sonora Union High School’s Wildcat Ranch. The Wild Cat Ranch is such a critical part of the community and it gives many students the opportunity to learn about agriculture. Generations of graduates from Sonora High School have utilized the school’s ranch and the sale of Wildcat Ranch will leave a tremendous scar on the community.

TCFB wants to bring in the great community

who value this program. There is an incredible outpouring of support each year at the Mother Lode Fair Junior Livestock Auction and as this sale began to show on school board agendas, so did the rally of community members looking to preserve the ranch for students in the district.

In order to put on this event, TCFB is asking for local businesses and community members for support through sponsorships of the “Save the Ranch Barn Dance.”

The “Save the Ranch Barn Dance” will feature live music from the band Gunpowder and Lace, as well as appetizers, dessert, beer and wine. Tickets are \$30 apiece. There are also four different sponsorship levels to choose from, ranging from \$250 to \$1,000.

If you are interested in more information regarding this event, tickets, or sponsorship opportunities, contact Tuolumne County Farm Bureau at 533-8386 or tucfarmbureau@gmail.com. There is also more information about this event on the Tuolumne County Farm Bureau Facebook page.

Presenting Sponsor (\$1,000 for 8 tickets) - Main event sponsor; logo will be displayed on all promotional material, souvenir cup, water bottles, logo in photo booth and banner displayed in dining area (donor to provide). Will be recognized in media prior to event, in event material, and in the Stanislaus County Farm News, Tuolumne Edition

Entertainment Sponsor (\$750 for 6 tickets) - Band sponsor; logo on souvenir cup and water bottles and banner displayed in stage area (donor to provide). Will be recognized in media prior to event, in event material, and in the Stanislaus County Farm News, Tuolumne Edition

Bar Sponsor (\$500 for 4 tickets) - Bar sponsor; logo on souvenir cup and banner displayed in bar area (donor to provide). Will be recognized in media prior to event, in event material, and in the Stanislaus County Farm News, Tuolumne Edition

Dessert Sponsor (\$250 for 2 tickets) - Sponsor of appetizer and dessert area; logo on souvenir cup and banner displayed in food service area (donor to provide). Will be recognized in media prior to event, in event material, and in the Stanislaus County Farm News, Tuolumne Edition

UCCE Master Food Preservers Class



Information below is pulled from a UCCE Master Food Preserver press release:

On April 13, 2019 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) Master Food Preservers of Amador and Calaveras County are hold a class on jams and jellies preservation. This 3-hour introductory class takes students through the process of making and canning

jams and jellies. Master Food Preserver volunteers will discuss in detail the key ingredients: fruit choices, sugar and alternative sweeteners, the importance of lemon juice, and the role of pectin as a thickening agent. Step-by-step demonstration will include preparing the fruit and other ingredients, followed by making a freezer jam and two canned jams using boiling water and atmospheric steam canners. Students will leave this class with several recipes and the knowledge and skill to safely can jams, jellies, and other fruit spreads at home.

This class will be held at the Calaveras Senior Center at 956 Mountain Ranch Road, San Andreas. To register for this free class, go to http://ucanr.edu/apr13_mfpclass. Walk-ins are welcome. For more information, go to cecentralsierra.ucanr.edu or call 223-6482.

Missed this class? Not a problem. The UCCE Master Food Preservers offer a variety of classes throughout the year. Visit their website often to see what's new!

Dogs attacking livestock

In some of CCFB's recent meetings, there have been several reports shared about dogs attacking and injuring livestock.

If you or someone you know is having problems with dogs attacking livestock, the Calaveras County Farm Bureau encourages you to report it to both the Calaveras County Sheriff's Office and Animal Services. Reports help establish history and a paper trail that is easier to monitor and assists in these local services in dealing with this issue.

To report dog attacks, contact the Sheriff's Office at 754-6500 and Animal Services at 754-6509.



“Cattle in the Sierra” documentary explores the controversy of cattle grazing in the mountains

On February 24, a documentary called “Cattle in the Sierra” was shown at the Old Timers Museum in Murphys. The documentary was produced by Julia Costello and Judith Marvin and explored the controversy on cattle grazing in the Stanislaus National Forest. The documentary was posted on YouTube by CalaverasCommunityTV and can be found by typing “Cattle in the Sierra” into the search bar.

Calaveras County Farm Bureau President Mindy Rasmussen, whose family was one of the group of cattle ranchers filmed up on their allotment, attended the showing. She said it was standing room only and that there was a very positive response from the attendees in support of cattle in the mountains. Many of them had questions after the film and Sue Forbes with the Stanislaus National Forest, who was also in the film, was there at the showing to answer those questions.

Mindy stressed the need for cattle ranchers to let their voices be heard when it comes to grazing on allotments on forest service land. It can be intimidating to be interviewed or to speak out, but it is incredibly vital to do so if their story is going to be heard. Several YouTube commenters also mentioned dis-

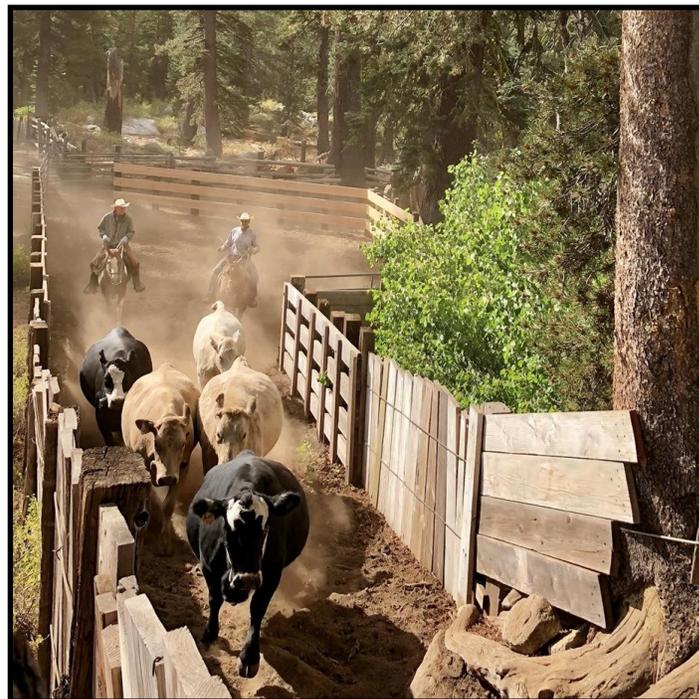


Photo by Mindy Rasmussen

CCFB President Mindy Rasmussen won second place in the California Farm Bureau Federation 2018 Photo Contest with her photo of their cattle in the mountains.

pointment in ranchers not being interviewed in the film along with the forest service and activists, despite being the topic of the film.

If you haven't seen it yet, watch “Cattle in the Sierra” on YouTube and share it on Facebook.

Have a story you'd like to share? Write to us!

We want to hear from you! Whether you're a cattle or sheep rancher, a bee keeper, a wine-grape grower, a crop farmer (walnuts, olives, tomatoes, oranges, potatoes - you name it), CCFB wants to know what's going on in your neck of the woods here in Calaveras County. Give us an update on the wine-grape industry. Tell us how your livestock are doing. Share a favorite recipe with us. Shine a spotlight on some locally grown and raised foods and home goods, like honey, vegetables, essential oils, wine, fresh meat, eggs, cheese...the list goes on and on.

Are you a high school ag student or teacher? We want to hear from you too! Give us an update on how the school farm is doing, what FFA conventions you've been to, what events or dinners you're hosting.

We care about what is happening in the agricultural industry of Calaveras County. Stories can be 250 to 1000 words in length. So if you have some important information to share, please contact us at: calcofb@aol.com or call (209) 772-2830.