

The FFA Update

Tomales FFA

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WINTER EVENTS — LAUREN NUNES

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As the holiday season quickly approached us, our chapter was as busy as ever. To kick off the month of December, some of our members volunteered their weekend serving at the Valley Ford Crab Feed where members were able to not only gain community service experience, but also mingle and connect with community members. On Wednesday, December 7, we held our monthly chapter meeting where we discussed our upcoming tri-tip lunch for active mem-

bers of last month's pie sale. On Thursday, December 8, two of our officers attended the Sonoma Section Activity Night at the Redwood Food Bank. The members of the section packed over 250 boxes of food for the hungry in Sonoma County. Finally, to round out the month, the officers held their annual winter retreat at Mr. Costanzo's house.



AMERICAN AGRICULTURE — ABBY SPALETTA

American agriculture is constantly growing and changing in ways once unimaginable, and the Ag industry is continually creating new jobs. A recent article in Business Wire, discussed how the Ag industry, in America, adds nearly 60,000 jobs annually, yet only a small percentage of students will actually consider agriculture as a job opportunity. A recent survey, conducted by America's Farmers Grow Ag Leaders, a program that is funded by Monsanto, found that fewer than one in five students were aware of the many career paths available in

agriculture, 13% of high school/college students actually feel they understand agriculture career opportunities, and a whopping 3% identify it as the best work field. With this survey, misconceptions about the agricultural industry came to light. For example, the survey found that only 35% of high school/college students believe careers in Ag are driven by technology. America's Farmers Grow Ag Leaders aims to help students to learn about the vast amount of jobs and opportunities available within agriculture, and that agriculture is in

fact driven by cutting-edge technology. Monsanto funds AFGAL, which provides the program with \$500,000 worth of scholarships. These scholarships are available in \$1,500 increments for students who are attending or planning to attend a trade school, community college, or four-year university and are pursuing an Ag-related career. Any students under the age of 23 are able to apply for membership to the scholarship program from now until February 1, 2017. Go to www.GrowAgLeaders.com to learn more.

WINTER GARDENING TIPS — BEBE SPALETTA

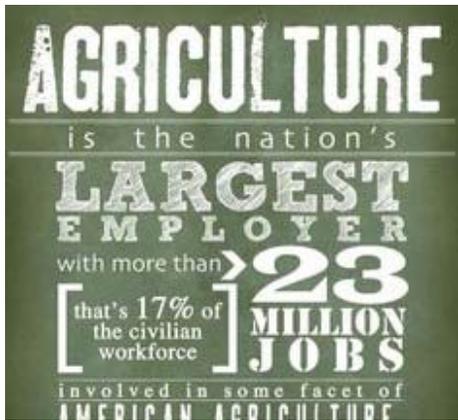
December brings cold weather! It is the time to keep all plants and flowers in a warm, frost-free environment. Dahlia tubers need to be lifted and stored when their leaves become blackened by frost. Move containers of bedding plants and shrubs to a sheltered place. It is a great idea to cluster the roots close together to prevent frost damage. Check to make sure all rose climbers are securely fastened with plant ties. If the ground is not yet frozen, there is still time to finish planting tulip bulbs. Bring all

potted bulbs into a warmer place to flower for the winter. It is also important to take root cuttings of oriental poppies and continue to grow them in cold frames. Christmas is almost upon us, so it is a fun and festive time to harvest holly with berries to make special holiday garlands and wreaths.



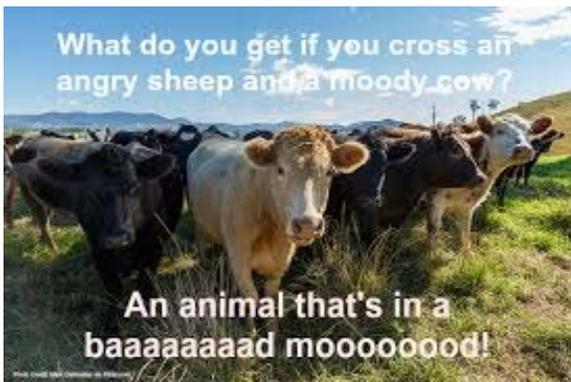
“Stay positive, Work hard, & Make it happen”

AG FACTS AND FUNNIES — NATALYA FELICIANO



9%
of all milk produced in the U.S. is used for ice cream production.

90%
of all Americans enjoy eating ice cream at least once each year.



- \$133.1 million of American agricultural products are shipped throughout the world.
- In 2010, the organic food industry saw a 7.7% growth rate.
- All cows have different and unique spots.
- California's 22,000 beef producers care for more than 5 million head of cattle and about 37 million acres of rangeland. Many California cattle ranches have been owned by the same family for four or five generations and most ranches are family-owned and operated.

WINTER RECIPE: HOT CHOCOLATE — KIARA BUSH

Ingredients for 4 servings:

- 3 tablespoons cocoa powder (preferably Dutch-processed), plus more for serving
- 3 cups whole milk
- 6 ounces semisweet chocolate (preferably Schaeffer Berger), finely chopped
- 3 tablespoons Demerara or granulated sugar
- Lightly sweetened whipped cream (for serving)

Preparation:

Bring $\frac{3}{4}$ cup water to a simmer in a medium saucepan over medium-high heat. Whisk in 3 Tbsp. cocoa powder until no lumps remain, then add milk and return to a simmer. Whisk in chocolate and sugar and cook, whisking frequently, until mixture is smooth and creamy and chocolate is melted, about 5 minutes. Divide hot chocolate among mugs. Top with whipped cream and dust with cocoa powder.



The AG INDUSTRY WELCOMES PERDUE — BEBE SPALETTA

Recently, after the inauguration of President Trump, there has been controversy over his picks for Cabinet and Counsel. However, the Ag industry is overjoyed to learn that George “Sonny” Perdue will head the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), though many are offended that Trump announced the Secretary of Agriculture last, as though agriculture is not a priority. Yet, many are still excited with the news. Serving as a former Georgian governor from 2003 until 2011, Perdue has developed and maintained the trust of

many agricultural politicians, including the president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, Zippy Duvall, who is happy with Trump’s decision. They have worked side-by-side, and Duvall knows that Perdue will be fully committed to addressing the issues facing ranchers/farmers in the nation such as, the impact of immigration reforms and trade agreements/regulations. Many CEOs and presidents of other associations agree with Duvall’s statement, saying that they have high hopes for Perdue and what

he will accomplish for our country. To read more, visit www.capitalpress.com.



“Agriculture is the most healthful, most useful and most noble employment of man.”

-George Washington



THIS FFA ALUMNI OF THE MONTH — NADIA SOTO

Our alumni for this month is Marcos Gonzalez. Marcos attended Tomales from 2008-2012. He was an officer for three years, as well as, being on the opening and closing team. After high school he went to study Kinesiology at SRJC.

Q: How is Ag Education important?

A: It's important because since we live in a community that is heavily influenced by agriculture, it opens doors to job opportunities that one may be interested in and helps one understand the

importance of agriculture in the world.

Q: How do you see FFA benefiting the lives of young students?

A: I see it benefiting them in opening the doors for more opportunities and allowing them to see that there are different job experiences.

Q: How will or how has Ag impacted your life?

A: It has impacted my life by giving me the chance to travel to different part of California and experience different job opportunities in the agri-

cultural field.

Q: What was your favorite memory or experience in FFA?

A: Being part of an officer team, the ability to learn different skills such as how to deal with people, public speaking, marketing, and the ability to have the chance to travel to major Ag cities in California

"Begin each day with an open mind, and end it with a full heart"

