

Tomales FFA Update

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April 2016

Member of the month: Megan Marx

By: Jeanette Furlong

Megan Marx is a sophomore this year at Tomales High School and this has been her first year as a member in the Tomales FFA Chapter! Megan's SAE project this year is a garden where she grows basil, parsley, tomatoes, and other various herbs. When asked what Megan's best quality is, a friend replies, "Megan is very determined." Throughout her year in FFA, Megan has attended numerous community service and FFA activities. Some of these events included the MALT dinner at Tomales Town Hall and working at our annual Tomales Ag Booster Dinner. Megan is excited to be attending the FFA State Convention this month in Fresno. The Tomales FFA Chapter is very honored to have had Megan join this year, and we are excited to see where this next year takes her!



Words of WISDOM

By: Mr. Costanzo

Things at the Ag Department are going well this year. We are involved in several grants for the next 3-4 years. They are: purchasing a new FFA van this summer, paying for new Ag Science course materials, leadership conferences for students, substitute costs for me and training. One of the grants will also be providing enough funds to build the school farm. I am hoping that we will be able to get the first phase done this summer. We have also done well in public speaking contests this spring, with two students (Haylee & Jeanette Furlong) moving on to the state finals in Fresno this month. Jeanette Furlong was also elected to the North Coast Officer Team and she is also a State Proficiency Finalist. We also had 4 students receive their FFA State Degrees.



On another note, the funds from the Ag License Plates are helping out the California FFA which in turn helps out local chapters. The California FFA get 85% of the funds that are raised by the program and another 10% is available to region, section and local chapters in the form of grants that promote agriculture. The last 5% goes to the California Department of Agriculture. Last year the program brought in approximately \$200,000 for the State FFA. The funds were used to lower the costs of all FFA leadership conferences and helped to pay down the loan on the FFA Center in Galt. I encourage you to buy an Ag Plate for your trailer or car to support the FFA, the cost is only \$50 to purchase your Ag Plate. You can purchase your plate online at www.dmv.ca.gov.



Tomales High School's Ag Advisor and teacher Bill Costanzo

Keynote Speaker: Kid President

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Tomales FFA Update

Buying Baby Chicks!

By: Keziah Kirkpatrick

As most people know, baby chicks hatch during the springtime, meaning that March-May is the best time to buy chickens for a new flock. Baby chicks are sold at many places, including some pet stores, chicken farms and some local feed shops. If you are looking for only hens in your flock, in order to harvest eggs, it is important to check with the person selling the chicks that the chicks have been sexed by a professional. Sexing a chicken is just another term for determining the gender of said chicken. If you do not check with the seller, or the chickens were not sexed correctly, or at all, there is a 50% chance that any of the chickens could end up as roosters, which may not be what you want. It is also important to have all of the supplies necessary to care for baby chicks, which includes special feed made to help chicks grow, a small water container that the chicks cannot drown in, sod, wood chips, or hay within the container that they are being raised in (if not in a coop, which may not be safe), and a heat lamp to help keep the chicks warm. It would also be a good idea to keep the chicks in a place that they will be safest from harm.

Ag Facts n Funnies

By: Mr. Costanzo

Like snowflakes, no two cows have the same spots.

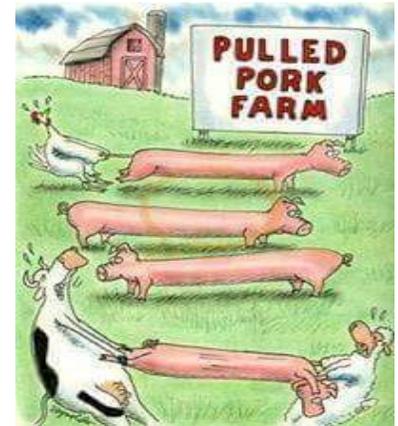
There are 47 different sheep breeds.

One pound of wool can make 10 miles of yarn.

Elevators in the Statue of Liberty use soybean based hydraulic oil.

The longest recorded flight of a chicken is 13 seconds.

One acre of soybeans can make 82,368 crayons.



Recipe of the month: 3 minute fudge!

By: Jeanette Furlong

Ingredients

- 1 can Sweetened Condensed milk (14 ounces)
- 2 cups (1 12 ounce bag) semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Instructions

1. Butter a square pan and line with parchment paper for easy removal of set fudge. Set aside.
2. In a microwave safe 2 quart bowl, heat chocolate chips and sweetened condensed milk, on high for 1 minute. Remove from microwave. Let sit for 1 minute, then stir to combine. If needed, heat an additional 30 seconds. Stir until chips are completely melted and chocolate is smooth.
3. Stir in vanilla extract. Pour fudge into prepared pan. Let fudge cool completely before cutting into 1 inch squares. (you can place in the refrigerator for 1 hour to speed up the process.)
4. Store in an airtight container. Fudge does not need to be kept refrigerated.



Concert: Thomson Square

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Tomales FFA Update

Chapter inspiration for the month!

Submitted By: Kiara Bush

(This article is from Monsanto “Beyond the Rows” and was written by Vance Zacharias)

Throughout life, we make choices, choices that define who we are as individuals. One choice that has defined me as an individual is the choice to join the FFA. Throughout the past six years, the FFA has effectively made me the individual that I am today. The FFA’s focuses of premier leadership, personal growth and career success, prepared me for the future. To me, the FFA is more than just an organization – it is a part of me that continually affects my future. The FFA has defined me, networked me and prepared me for the future of my choice.

Everyone defines themselves differently. The FFA allowed me to discover my own definition. I can now be defined by the way I act, talk and think. Leadership training, experiences, positions, Career Development Events and Proficiency areas have all given me knowledge and skills to act professionally. Training seminars and speaking obligations crafted my speaking skills and confidence. Time away from home, which effectively took me out of my comfort zone, enabled me to realize what’s important in life, what values to uphold and what dreams to embrace. My personal definition can also be linked to the network that the FFA has created.

Networks link friends, colleagues and other personal contacts. The FFA has networked me with friends, teachers and professionals for a lifetime of success. It is unreal how every person that I associate with seems to have a tie to the FFA. Whether I’m at college, visiting businesses or socializing with friends, the FFA is a common thread that binds us together. The network continues to grow each year, and it has proven its capabilities. It’s because of this connection that I’ve been prepared for the future.

Preparation is the key to success. Through all of the preparation for the future, the FFA has effectively given me the key to my own success. I have prepared, studied, practiced and embraced information relating to my future. The FFA has inspired me for the future. Through the FFA, I have learned that by 2050, an estimated 9 billion people will inhabit Earth.

Agriculturalists must double global agricultural output to provide for this population, yet reduce the inputs used for agriculture. Agriculture’s future role shapes my goals and ambitions on a daily basis. The goals and ambitions that I seek are to help feed the world in the future. Every conference and seminar I attend helps to motivate me for the future, connect me with other great minds across our nation, and open my eyes to new possibilities and opportunities. My future goals and ambitions relating to production agriculture can be tied to the infinite potential of agriculture that the FFA has shown me throughout the past six years. As an African Proverb once stated, “Tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today.” Because of the FFA, I can confidently say that tomorrow belongs to me.

“The FFA allowed me to discover my own definition. I can now be defined by the way I act, talk and think.”

Premiere Leadership- Personal Growth- Career Success

Election of the 2016-2017 State Officers!

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Tomales FFA Update

This month's calendar of events!

May 2016

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1	2 FFA Meeting	3	4	5	6 Sonoma Section Officer apps due	7
8	9	10	11 Sonoma Sec- tion Meeting	12	13	14
15	16 Project Comp. Dinner	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

