



Strathmore Agriculture Department

Tulare County Fair

Upcoming Events:

<i>Greenband Conference in Visalia</i>	<i>Oct. 6th</i>
<i>Butterfield Stage Days</i>	<i>Oct. 16th</i>
<i>Sectional Activity @ Visalia Adventure Park</i>	<i>Oct. 21st</i>
<i>Career Day</i>	<i>Oct. 23rd</i>
<i>FFA Meeting and FFA Boosters Meeting</i>	<i>Oct. 26th</i>
<i>National FFA Convention</i>	<i>Oct. 29th-31st</i>

The week of September 14th-20th, was the Tulare County Fair. Strathmore FFA had three exhibitors: Hayley Tharp with beef cattle, Tyson Brem with market goats and hogs, and Amanda Farquharson with hogs. All three exhibitors did an outstanding job, placing well in their breeding and market classes. Tyson Brem was awarded Champion FFA Crossbred, and Reserve FFA Champion for his crossbred market hog, and Grand Champion Commercial Doe for his Boer goat. Hayley Tharp won 1st place in the Carcass Contest with her Market Steer. In showmanship, all three did outstanding. Amanda Farquharson received 5th place in Advanced Hog Showmanship, Hayley Tharp took 1st in Experienced Beef Showmanship, and Tyson Brem was 1st in Advanced Market Goat Showmanship. Hayley and Tyson were eligible to move on to Round Robin Showmanship, where they got to compete in showmanship with all the large animal species, and both took 1st place in their divisions. Congratulations to our three exhibitors, you represented Strathmore FFA well!

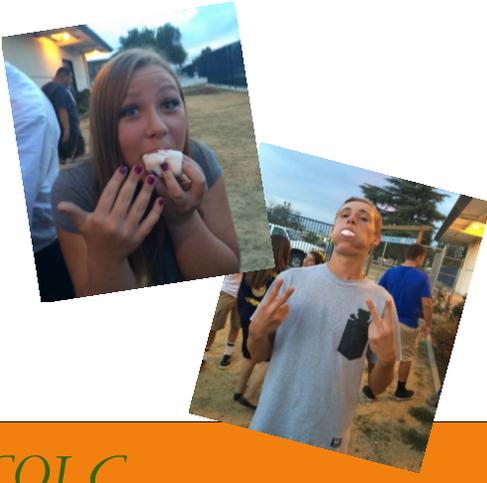


Mt. Whitney Opening and Closing Ceremonies Contest

On Tuesday, September 29, 2015 the Strathmore FFA Open and Officer teams went to Mount-Whitney High School to compete in the opening and closing ceremonies speaking contest. Different high schools within the region came to this event to compete against other novice, open, and officer teams. At the end of the speaking competition awards were handed out to the highest individual office on each team and awards for high teams, 1st through 3rd place. Denise Valle from Strathmore's Open Team 1 was awarded high individual secretary and Jade Church from Strathmore's Open Team 1 was awarded highest individual reporter. Everyone did well, and are well prepared for our next competition!



-Jade Church



September FFA Meeting

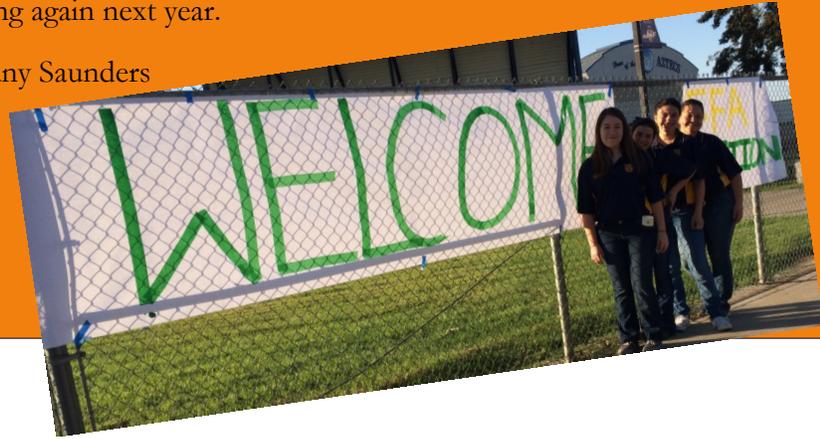
On Monday the 28th of September Strathmore FFA hosted the second meeting of the year at 6:15pm. After the business was over the food relay began. Two teams battled in a relay of pie eating, donut eating, apple bobbing, and marshmallow stuffing. It was a great evening filled with good laughs and great memories.

-Hayley Tharp

COLC

On September 26th the officer team attended COLC at Farmersville High School. We attended 5 workshops to help us serve to our best ability. We learned many great things we can apply to running the chapter. We also had the opportunity to compete in a lip sync battle which was extremely fun. The officer team overall had a wonderful time at COLC. I look forward to going again next year.

-Brittany Saunders



We Heart Pets

On the Saturday morning of September 12th, the Strathmore FFA began the We Heart Pets community service event. Twelve Strathmore FFA students participated in this event earning community service hours as well as helping out the Central Valley Rescue Railroad Animal Shelter. We handed out flyers in Porterville notifying them we would return the following Saturday to pick up any items they would like to donate for the charity. This event was to get donations for the Central Valley Rescue Railroad Program which is a program who saves and shelters dogs until they are better and are put up for adoption. That following Saturday on September 19th Strathmore FFA members returned to Westwood Estates neighborhood in Porterville to collect the supplies left on homeowners steps that they left to be donated. On the 25th we took the supplies to the Central Valley Rescue Railroad Shelter to be donated. This event was a huge success and we are looking forward to making it an SHS FFA tradition!

-Rosario Gutierrez and Shaylie Logan



Produced by: Shaylie Logan, Student FFA Reporter

Newsletter Advisor: Amanda Larson

The Sophomore Class EAT Pathway Project

The sophomore class in the Emerging Agriculture Technology Pathway at Strathmore High School is conducting an experiment with pumpkins to find if plastic mulch is a better use than using no plastic mulch at all. The colors of plastic mulch the sophomore class is using is red, black, clear, and none at all. At Strathmore's school farm we have eight rows of pumpkins in total. Four out of eight of the rows are Connecticut field pumpkins. One row of the Connecticut fields have red mulch laid down, one row with black mulch, one row with clear mulch, and one row with no plastic mulch. The other four rows are howden pumpkins. One row of the howden pumpkins have one row with red mulch, one row with black mulch, one row with clear mulch, and one row with none at all.

In the sophomore's Integrated II math class they are going to the school farm and collecting data. The data they are collecting includes: circumference of the largest pumpkin, soil temperature, and soil pH. In the freshman's Integrated I math class they are going to the school farm and collecting data as well. The data they are collecting includes: height of the pumpkin, how many pumpkins there are, and the longest runner. After the freshmen collect all the data from the pathway project they will turn over the data to the sophomore class and then they will analyze the collected data and use it for the project.

In the sophomore's English class they are researching what colored plastic mulches are useful when growing pumpkins. After researching the better mulches they are writing a research report that includes information of: disadvantages, advantages, black mulch, red mulch, clear mulch, and no mulch. The reason for researching this information is for the students to learn how to use the scientific method. The students first started off with a question then created a hypothesis, and now they are researching the better types of mulch. The research will help them find an understanding for the different types of mulches jobs and which mulches are better for the pumpkins.

There has been a lot to be learned for this pathway project. In the students' agriculture classes they are learning about the scientific method and how irrigation both play a role in the pathway project. In their math classes they are learning how to collect and analyze data and how to put the data into tables, charts, and graphs. In their English classes the students are learning how to research and how to write a research paper.

The Emerging Agriculture Technology Pathway at Strathmore High School is partnering up with Exeter Landmark Irrigation. Exeter Irrigation did Strathmore High School a huge favor by donating and installing a high-tech irrigation system. Exeter Irrigation installed a tower at Strathmore's school farm that puts out a signal so on any computer with internet the staff or students are able to see what is happening in the ground on the computer screen. It will tell the soil moisture so the students can determine whether or not the pumpkin plants need water. Exeter Irrigation also installed a soil moisture probe with sensors in it at 8 inches, 16 inches, 24 inches, 40 inches, and 48 inches which determines the soil moisture at those depths so the students can find how much water the plants need; this prevents over watering.

Exeter Irrigation came to Strathmore's school farm on Wednesday, September 30th of 2015 and installed the equipment. The freshman and sophomore classes were able to go out the school farm and watch the equipment be installed. Edward Blocher, the South Valley District Manager, at Exeter Irrigation was there at the school farm explaining to the students the equipment they were installing and what the equipment does. Mr. Blocher was very kind and answered any questions the students may have had.

After all the information and data is collected the students in the Emerging Agriculture Technology Pathway will take everything they've done and collected to answer the question, "If you were a pumpkin farmer which method of plastic mulch-if any-would you use and why?"

-Shaylie Logan

