



Atwater High School Agriculture Department

Atwater FFA

P.O. Box 835 / 2201 Fruitland Ave.

Atwater, CA 95301

www.AtwaterFFA.org



Office 209-357-6025

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May/June 2023

Dear Atwater FFA and Agriculture Education/FFA Supporter,

Atwater High School and its Agriculture department is proud to announce Atwater FFA's Milk Quality & Dairy Foods and Farm Business Management teams as YOUR 2023 FFA state champion team! Both teams will be representing the City of Atwater/Winton, the County of Merced, the State of California, and California's agriculture industry at the National FFA Finals in Indianapolis, Indiana November 1-4, 2023. Both teams placed 1st overall and won the 2023 state FFA championship at the State FFA Finals at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo this past May.

The Atwater High School agriculture program is one of the largest single high school agriculture programs in the nation! Atwater High School's demographic is composed of 80% socioeconomically challenged students/families, and in relation to the agriculture community, is composed of 95%+ non-agriculture background students. The primary goal of the agriculture program has been "to make a positive difference in the lives of young people" and our program strives to provide students the resources for personal growth, academic achievement, and career success through agriculture education. We are fortunate to be part of a very supportive community and industry that continues to provide funding and resources. We look upon the support as an "investment towards our youth", and our staff is passionate and determined to ensure our supporters see a return on their investment through our program and student's success.

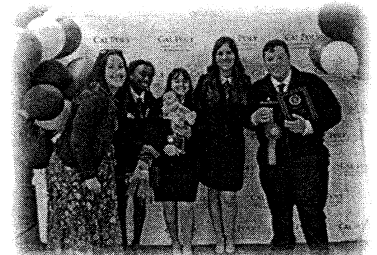
We are in need of fundraising **\$24,000** to cover the costs of sending the two teams to Indianapolis, Indiana for the National FFA Finals competition as well as Washington, DC to participate in a national leadership experience.

If you are interested in supporting the Atwater FFA 2023 Milk Quality & Dairy Foods and Farm Business Management teams and their opportunity to represent our community and California's agriculture industry, please complete the attached contribution form. We will be committed towards ensuring your "investment", generosity, and support brings back a "positive return"!

Thank you for your time, consideration, and support!

Sincerely,

[Handwritten signatures: Danice L., Alex G., and others]



2023 FFA State Champion Farm Business Management and
Milk Quality and Dairy Foods Teams.



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2023 Atwater High School FFA

Farm Business Management and Milk Quality & Dairy Foods Donation Form

Federal Tax ID # is 77-0572114

- | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------|--------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Silver Level | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Gold Level | \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Platinum Level | \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Diamond Level | \$1000 |



Business Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Please complete this form and mail along with a check (made payable to "Atwater FFA") to:

Atwater High School FFA
PO Box 835
Atwater, CA 95301

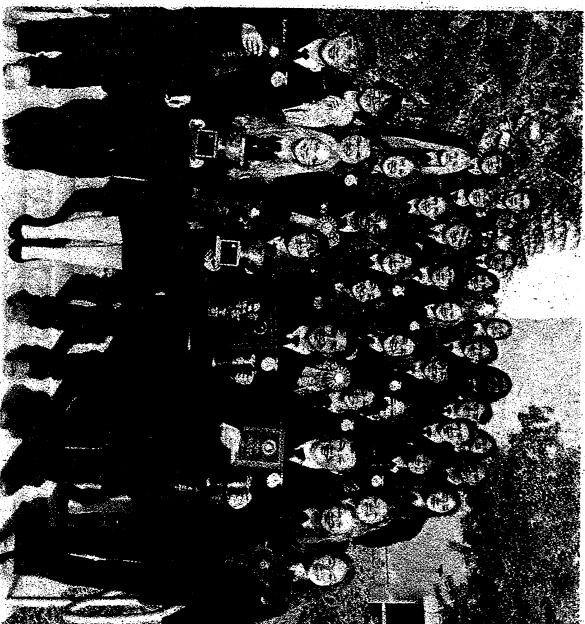


ATWATER-WINTON TIMES

AHS FFA Teams Win State Championships

Two of Atwater High School's FFA judging teams will be heading to the National FFA Finals as the Milk Quality & Dairy Foods team and the Farm Business Management team each won the 2023 FFA state championship at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo on May 6th. Over 1800 California high school agriculture students representing over 150 high schools throughout the state competed in twenty skill-based agriculture-related state Career development (CDE) contests. Both teams will be representing the Atwater/Winton community, Merced

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Nine Atwater FFA state Career Development Event (CDE's) teams competed at the 2023 FFA State Finals Field Day at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo with six "Top 10" finishes including two state champion teams heading off to the National FFA Finals in Indianapolis, Indiana in early November.

FFA

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County, and the state of California at the National FFA Finals in Indianapolis, Indiana in early November. Atwater FFA sent nine individual agriculture CDE teams to Cal Poly, SLO with 6 of the 9 teams placing in the "Top 10" in California. "When you combine great kids and dedicated teachers with the tremendous support of one's school, district, community, and local agriculture industry, you get positive results and tremendous success as demonstrated at the state finals competitions," said FFA advisor Dave Gossman.

The 2023 FFA state champion Farm Business Management (FBM) team was comprised of Joshua Medeiros (1st overall in the state), Allison Garner (4th overall in the state), Hailey Herforth, and Dulce Campos. The FBM contest involves students learning business skills and the application of economic principles to agricultural businesses. By competing, participants demonstrate their ability to analyze agricultural business management information, apply economic principles and concepts of business management, evaluate business management decisions and work together cooperatively as a team.

The 2023 FFA state champion Milk Quality and Dairy Foods team was comprised of Brianna Duran (2nd overall in the state), Allison Brewer (9th overall in the state), Ryan Marshall, and Danica. The contest tests students in their knowledge and skills in milk quality (tasting), cheese identification, dairy vs non-dairy foods, and a written exam on the dairy industry.

The Atwater FFA Poultry team earned a 4th place finish in the state. The team was led by Fernando Prado, (1st overall in the state), Yahaira Carrillo (10th overall



FFA State Officers Brian Kavanagh (far left) and Melanie Orozco (far right) join Atwater FFA Milk Quality & Dairy Foods coach Dave Gossman and team members Brianna Duran, Danica Christofferson, Allison Brewer, and Ryan Marshall to celebrate winning the 2023 state FFA championship held at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.

in the state), Noemi Benitez, and Viviana Roach. The contest binds practical hands-on experiences with a basic knowledge of the poultry industry required for careers in the poultry field.

The Agriculture Issues team earned a 5th place finish in the state. The team was comprised of Ella Boyenga, Hunter Birmingham, Shayleigh Miller, Alexa Bracamontes, and Alany Guzman. The Ag Issues contest is a competitive event that tests students' knowledge of agricultural issues. Teams must design a presentation that addresses multiple viewpoints of a contemporary agriculture issue and present it to an audience.

The Atwater FFA Vegetable Crops team placed 9th overall with a team comprised of Oscar Prado, Nathalie Vasquez, Sebastian Parra, and Nicole DeLeon. The Vegetable Crops contest is designed to create interest and promote understanding in the vegetable crop industry by providing opportunities for recognition through the demonstration of skills and proficiencies.

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The Atwater Veterinary Science team comprised of Zoe Jolly, Guadalupe Millan, Jasmine Monge, and Maricela Perez placed 10th overall. This contest has students working in teams and demonstrating their technical competency with small and large animals by completing a written exam, critical-thinking scenario questions, identifications and hands-on practicums.

The Atwater FFA Ag Mechanics team placed 14th overall with a team comprised of Nic Presto, Adrian Silva, Maverick Shepherd, and Marcos Padilla. The Ag Mechanics contest involves hands on application skills in woodworking, electrical, oxy-fuel welding & cutting skills, tool identification, and a written exam on all aspects of agriculture mechanics.

The Atwater FFA Nursery and Landscape team competed with Jacqueline Velazquez, Johnna Quezada, Haven Kamykowski, and



Atwater High school FFA's Shelby Fishman (coach), Allison Garner, Hailey Herforth, Dulce Campos, and Joshua Medeiros (along with the coach's newborn daughter) celebrate being the 2023 FFA state champion Farm Business Management team at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.

Rodrigo Ramirez placed in the "Top 20" in their first year participating and competing in this CDE. The contest demonstrates knowledge and skills in plant identification, plant selection & evaluation, transplanting, and a written exam on all aspects of horticulture and the horticulture industry.

The Atwater FFA Best Informed Greenhand (BIG) team competed and was led by Parklyn Reed, Grace Agundis, Katelyn Medeiros, and Dylan Cardey. The contest objectives are to understand the aims, purposes, history, and structure of the Local, State, and National FFA student organizations and know the opportunities it makes available as referenced in the current National FFA Manual and State Constitution.

There are over 95,000 high school agriculture students in California representing over 375 high school agriculture programs, and the success of the Atwater FFA agriculture program can be attributed to the agriculture pathway

sequence of courses at Atwater High School, the increased student involvement/participation outside of the classroom, and the tremendous support from the school/district, community, and agriculture industry. "We will say it time and time again," says FFA advisor Shelby Fishman, "We are seeing a positive return on everyone's investment with our students, and we all should take tremendous pride in their accomplishments."

Atwater High School FFA will now focus on fundraising the \$24,000 to send the Atwater FFA Milk Quality and Dairy Foods and the Farm Business Management team to the National FFA Finals in Indianapolis, Indiana in early November along with a Washington DC leadership trip.

For more information on the Atwater High School Agriculture Department and Atwater FFA, please log on the website.