

California's new FFA officers embrace growth

By TIM HEARDEN
Capital Press

FRESNO, Calif. — California FFA's newly elected state officer team pondered a future of growth and opportunity as the organization bid farewell to its 24-year state conference home.

Luke O'Leary of San Luis Obispo, the 2017-18 state president, said he wants to focus the coming year on increasing diversity within the FFA while maintaining unity.

"We have a lot of challenges," O'Leary told the Capital Press. "With just the size of the association, we have to find a way to serve everyone."

The organization's growth is why the FFA is cutting ties with Fresno's Selland Arena and adjacent convention center after moving its state convention there from San Luis Obispo in the early 1990s.

The convention had roughly 1,000 attendees when it moved, and now nearly 6,000 of the state's 79,500 FFA members attend the gathering. Members are scattered at various hotels in downtown Fresno, prompting state advisers to search for larger venues with more concentrated lodging.

The conference will now alternate between Anaheim and Sacramento, with the Anaheim Convention Center the site of the 2018 and 2019 gatherings, assistant state adviser Josiah Mayfield said.

"We're excited for what it's going to offer our students in terms of opportunities for growth," Mayfield said.

The convention will help to do without as much help from California State University-Fresno, which hosts an afternoon of workshops and



Tim Hearden/Capital Press

Newly elected California FFA state officers pose for photos April 25 before being taken by limousine to their first lunch together. They are, from left, Vice President Jasmine Flores, Secretary Genevieve Regli, President Luke O'Leary, Treasurer Armando Nevarez, Sentinel Robert Marchy and Reporter Hunter Andrade. The announcement of the new team capped the annual state FFA convention in Fresno.

has its students handle everything at the conference from set-up to publicity.

Mayfield said he'll try to engage all of the state's major agriculture colleges — Fresno State, California Polytechnic University-San Luis Obispo, Cal Poly-Pomona, CSU-Chico and the University of California-Davis — to help out.

"We're grateful for everything that Fresno State has done for us," he said.

The change of venue will be a key order of business for the leadership team headed by O'Leary, 19, a freshman at Texas A&M University who's taking a year off college to handle his FFA duties. O'Leary is among the 3 percent of California FFA members who are already high school graduates.

He is joined on the 2017-18 state officers' team by Vice President Jasmine Flores of Atwater, Secretary Genevieve Regli of Ferndale,

Treasurer Armando Nevarez of Holtville, Reporter Hunter Andrade of Tracy and Sentinel Robert Marchy of Turlock.

The new officers were announced after each of the outgoing state officers had taken turns over the course of the April 20-25 conference in giving heartfelt speeches about their time in office. Each also had their parents and advisers on stage to thank them in moving tributes.

Outgoing President Andrew Skidmore of Atwater themed his speech on integrity and respect. He apologized for using an off-color word to describe himself during candidates' speeches last year, and said the controversy taught him to value the respect of others.

"We need to hold ourselves accountable for our decisions," Skidmore said. "Respect is the communication of values to others. ... No acts of greatness have ever been achieved by

people who do not care."

Skidmore and his sister, Secretary Amanda Skidmore, were the first-ever twins to serve together at the state level. They and their fellow 2016-17 state officers — Vice President Lauren Milang of Woodland, Treasurer Sam Looper of Apple Valley, Reporter Conner Vernon of Nipomo and Sentinel Jace Neugebauer of McArthur — ceremonially retired their trusty blue-and-gold jackets amid wild cheers and tearful embraces.

In her farewell speech, Milang told of a moment that a butterfly landed on her shoulder and she thought later it was a divine message, as soon afterward she learned her best friend had passed away.

"Remember that there's beauty in change," she said. "You just have to find it."

California has 317 high school FFA chapters and more than 760 FFA advisers and agriculture teachers.

Ag community gives thumbs-up to new USDA secretary

By CAROL RYAN DUMAS
Capital Press

Agricultural organizations were quick to weigh in with enthusiasm to work with new USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue following his Senate confirmation on Monday.

In statements, they noted confidence in Perdue's real-world experience as a farmer, businessman and veterinarian and as governor of an agricultural state.

"He understands the impact farm labor shortages, trade agreements and regulations have on a farmer's bottom line and ability to stay in business from one season to the next," said Zippy Duvall, American Farm Bureau Federation president.

The National Association of Wheat Growers echoed that statement, saying Perdue's appointment comes at a critical time as negotiations to reauthorize the farm bill are underway and the administration drafts a new trade agenda.

"As farmers face challenging economic times, we have confidence Governor Perdue will bring the agriculture industry back on track," said David Schemm, NAWG president.

The National Corn Growers Association stated confidence in Perdue to bring strong leadership to USDA.

"That begins with strong trade policy and continued investment in renewable fuels. It also means protecting risk management programs during a weak economy and beginning preparations for a new farm bill," it stated.

The National Farmers Union said farmers and ranchers are relieved Perdue has finally been confirmed and are



Sonny Perdue

hopeful he will provide rural America "with a strong voice in Washington."

"Following his confirmation, Perdue will need to work immediately to address the depressed farm economy, offering assistance to struggling farmers across the country," said Roger Johnson, NFU president.

National Milk Producers Federation is "eager to work with him on the challenges facing the nation's dairy farmers — issues he's already indicated he will tackle" at USDA, said Jim Mulhern, NMPF president and CEO.

Those include trade issues, obstacles to foreign labor and an effective safety net for dairy farmers, he said.

U.S. Meat Export Federation is confident Perdue will be a "champion for U.S. agriculture" and will help the administration build strong relationships with key trade partners.

His track record as governor and recent Senate testimony "leave no doubt that he understands the important role of international trade in enhancing the profitability of U.S. livestock producers and the entire U.S. supply chain, and that he is very committed to expanding U.S. exports," said Philip Seng, USMEF president and CEO.

National Cattlemen's Beef Association stated, "We are excited to have a secretary that comes from the industry, understands the complexities of our business, and is willing to stand up and fight for hard-working men and women in rural America."

Washington lawmakers OK new way to deter wolves

By DON JENKINS
Capital Press

OLYMPIA — A bill creating a new program to prevent wolves from attacking livestock in northeast Washington has been sent by lawmakers to

Gov. Jay Inslee.

House Bill 2126 directs the state Department of Agriculture and conservation district board members in Ferry, Okanogan, Stevens and Pend Oreille counties to oversee the awarding of money to non-profit groups to protect herds, including by hiring range riders. The groups would be required to consult with resource agencies such as the Department of Fish and Wildlife and U.S. Forest Service.

HB 2126 proponents hope locally organized efforts to prevent depredations will be efficient and gain acceptance among producers.

"It needs to be a community-based approach where ranchers up here are largely steering the boat," said Jay Shepherd of Conservation Northwest, an environmental group active in wolf recovery.

The program would be in addition to WDFW's depredation-prevention program.

Some ranchers have been reluctant to enter into formal agreements with WDFW.

The bill would assign to the state agriculture department for the first time a role in reducing livestock losses to wolves. WSDA stayed neutral on the bill because it wasn't in the governor's budget proposal, but will carry out the legislation if signed by Inslee, a department spokesman said.

The bill passed the House and Senate unanimously. It's

unknown how much money would be available to deploy new deterrence measures. The Legislature has not set aside money to fund the program. The bill creates an account in which grants, donations and state appropriations can be deposited.

"This is an important bill that will help us resolve the issue in wolf country," said the bill's prime sponsor, Aberdeen Democrat Brian Blake, chairman of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. "It creates a pot

to put contributions into to help fund the efforts to keep wolves and people and livestock separate."

Cattle Producers of Washington President Scott Nielsen, who's also vice president of the Stevens County Cattlemen's Association, said he liked the bill's intent to involve local residents in making decisions.

But he said that he feared a new program could be used to justify delaying lethal removal of wolves in some cases. Ranchers who have lost livestock to wolves were using non-lethal deterrence measures, he said.

"We already know it has real limited effects," Nielsen said. "I don't know that there needs to be more money thrown at it."

The Department of Fish and Wildlife, which manages wolves, supported the bill.

LEGAL SECRETARY OF STATE NOTICE OF TEMPORARY RULEMAKING

Oregon Department of Agriculture, Plant Program, Administrative Rules Chapter #603, Sue Gooch, Rules Coordinator, (503) 986-4583. AMEND: OAR 603-052-0127. RULE SUMMARY: Amends current Japanese beetle quarantine rules to state when the need for eradication is triggered and to establish a quarantine in Washington County where conditions have triggered the need for eradication. The quarantine in Washington County describes mitigation of Japanese beetle in the quarantine area. The rules also establish other regulations that apply to nurseries operating in Washington County. 17-7/#4

LEGAL PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 819

Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 5/9/2017. The sale will be held at 10:00am by SKYLINE FORD 2510 COMMERCIAL ST SE, SALEM, OR 2006 FORD F350 VIN = 1FTWW31P36EA89659 Amount due on lien \$19,169.17 Reputed owner(s) TIMOTHY HAMMOND SELCO Comm CU legal-17-2-7/#4

LEGAL PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 819

Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 5/08/2017. The sale will be held at 10:00am by WILTSE'S TOWING 3120 CHERRY AVE. SE, SALEM, OR 2006 HARLEY DAV HERITAGE VIN = 1HD1BWB146Y074151 Amount due on lien \$800.00 Reputed owner(s) JERRY LEE RUNDGREN legal-17-2-7/#4

LEGAL PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 819

Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 5/5/2017. The sale will be held at 10:00am by RANDY'S TOWING 925 WILCO RD., STAYTON, OR 2007 FORD FUSION VIN = 3FAHP07257R105863 Amount due on lien \$3,078.00 Reputed owner(s) KAMERON BOWEN THE EQUITABLE FINANCIAL CAPITAL AUTO SALES LC legal-16-2-7/#4

LEGAL CHERRY AVENUE STORAGE

2680 Cherry Ave. NE Salem, OR 97301 (503) 399-7454 Sat., May 6th • 10 A.M. • Unit AS-26 Shurley Wallace • Unit 138 & 185 Rachel Choudry Cherry Avenue Storage reserves the right to refuse any and all bids legal-16-2-7/#4

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING TO: ALL OREGON TALL FESCUE GROWERS

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held pursuant to ORS 576.416 (5), on Thursday, May 18, 2017, at 6:00 p.m., at the Cascade Grill Restaurant, 110 Opal St. NE, Albany, Oregon, upon a proposed budget for operation of the Tall Fescue Commission during the fiscal year July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018. At this hearing any producer of Oregon-grown Tall Fescue seed has a right to be heard with respect to the proposed budget, a copy of which is available for public inspection, under reasonable circumstances, in the office of each County Extension Agent in Oregon. For further information, contact the Oregon Tall Fescue Commission business office, P.O. Box 3366, Salem, Oregon 97302, telephone 503-364-2944. The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. Please make any requests for an interpreter for the hearing impaired or for other accommodations for persons with disabilities at least 48 hours before the meeting by contacting the Commission office at 503-364-2944. 17-2/#4

LEGAL NOTICE OF BEEF COUNCIL PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public meeting will be held pursuant to ORS 577, the Oregon Beef Council Statute, by Conference Call on Thursday, May 18, 2017, at 8:00 am upon a proposed budget for the operation of the Oregon Beef Council during Fiscal Year July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018. At this meeting, any producer of beef in Oregon has the right to be heard with respect to the proposed budget, a copy of which is available for inspection, under reasonable circumstances in the Oregon Beef Council office in Portland. Any producer of beef in Oregon may join this conference call by calling toll free 1-866-210-1669. Participant login number is 7890221. For further information, contact the Oregon Beef Council office at 1827 NE 44th Ave., Ste 315, Portland, Oregon 97213. The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. A request for an interpreter for the hearing or for other accommodations for persons with disabilities should be made at least 48 hours before the meeting to the Oregon Beef Council at 503-274-2333. Dated this 24th day of April, 2017 ATTESTED: Jason Chamberlain, Chairman William N. Wise, CEO legal-17-2-7/#4

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