

For Immediate Release – June 28, 2023

## **Ag Youth Groups Recognized for Outstanding Community Contributions at 2023 Spring Member Appreciation BBQ**

Holland Park West, June 23, 2023 —Fresno Madera Farm Credit’s spring member appreciation BBQ held on June 23, at Holland Park West, recognized and celebrated agricultural producers from across Fresno and Madera counties as well as the exceptional ag youth groups serving the local communities.

This year, five outstanding youth groups were honored for their remarkable work in the community and their success within the FFA and 4-H chapters. Each group was awarded a grant of \$500 to further support their initiatives.

The selection process for the ag youth grants involved evaluating applications submitted by various groups. These applications showcased their notable contributions to the community and highlighted their achievements in their FFA and 4-H chapters. The chosen groups stood out for their dedication, commitment, and positive impact on their respective communities.

### **The winners of the 2023 Ag Youth grants are as follows:**



### **Chowchilla 4-H**

Chowchilla 4-H has demonstrated exceptional community service throughout the year. They have actively worked towards raising awareness for drug prevention during Red Ribbon Week and provided support to their local animal shelter. Their organized drives for canned foods and holiday items greatly benefited local families in need. In addition, they expressed gratitude to the police and fire departments through thoughtful 'thank you' treats and hosted a community Easter egg event.

## Sierra Shadows 4-H

Sierra Shadows 4-H has made significant contributions to their community by educating school children about agriculture and animal projects. They have actively participated in various community events and organizations, making a positive impact. The organization achieved recognition this year at UC Davis 4-H State Presentation Day and the Siskiyou County 4-H State Shooting Sports Contest.



## Fowler FFA

Fowler FFA has been instrumental in making a difference in their community this year. Their initiatives included providing dog chew toys for local animal shelters, creating holiday cards for veterans, assembling gift bags for the Poverello House, and participating in Ag Center visitation days. The chapter's members have earned multiple degrees and awards this year, including the prestigious State FFA Degree, the American FFA Degree, and the Discovery Degree, among others.

## Laton FFA

Laton FFA has actively participated in multiple community initiatives throughout the year. They organized the Laton FFA Canned Food Drive and provided support to the Laton Lions Club during their annual Rodeo food booths. The chapter's members achieved remarkable success, with seven individuals being awarded the State FFA Degree and three earning the prestigious American FFA Degree. Laton FFA is dedicated to providing valuable opportunities for students, including their new greenhouse project and cooperative ventures involving orange trees, egg laying, sheep, and goats.



## Madera-Liberty FFA

Madera-Liberty FFA has consistently served their community through meaningful projects. They collected socks and undergarments for a local homeless shelter and actively participated in Pennies for Patients. The group has also volunteered at the Fresno Poultry Show and organized student-run farmers markets to engage with the community. This school year, seven Liberty FFA members received the State FFA Degree, and two students earned state-level recognition for their proficiency applications.

These remarkable ag youth groups have truly exemplified the spirit of community service, leadership, and dedication to agriculture. Their exceptional contributions have positively impacted their communities, and their achievements in the FFA and 4-H chapters have been truly commendable.

The grants provided to these deserving groups will further support their ongoing initiatives, enabling them to continue making a lasting difference in their communities.

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**About Fresno Madera Farm Credit:**

*Fresno Madera Farm Credit is a member-owned agricultural lending institution serving the farmers, ranchers, and rural communities in the Central Valley of California. As a part of the nationwide Farm Credit System, Fresno Madera Farm Credit provides a wide range of financial services tailored to the unique needs of the agricultural industry. These services include operating loans, real estate mortgages, equipment financing, crop insurance, and rural home loans. With a deep understanding of the local agricultural landscape and a commitment to supporting the success of its members, Fresno Madera Farm Credit plays a vital role in fostering the growth and sustainability of agriculture in the region.*