

December 8, 2022

Woodlake FFA Puts Another Fair in the Books!



Advanced poultry showmen, Jacob Parraz and Damian Galvan, sport their Blue Jackets while exhibiting their birds at the 2022 Tulare County Fair on September 14th, 2022.

Tulare County Fair Results

The week of September 12-19 weather was bright, sunny and cool, showing the signs of fall. The air smelled of fresh cut hay, pine shavings and manure so we knew we must be at the fair! This year Woodlake FFA had over 40 different livestock exhibitors showing everything from market rabbits to market heifers and everything in between. Woodlake Agriculture students also entered over 65 different indoor projects ranging from delicious chocolate chip cookies to beautiful handcrafted woodworking projects and metal fabrication items that were sold in the silent auction. Below is a list of the various competitions that WHS FFA students participated in and their awards.

Market Poultry



Woodlake had 14 pens of Cornish Cross broilers entered in this year's fair. We would like to say a big Thank You to Foster Farms for donating the chicks at only 1 day old! This year Woodlake placed 4th in the market show with Jacob Parraz closely followed by Laci Stone and Damian Galvan who were also in the final drive. In Poultry Showmanship, Woodlake held the Reserve Champion, third and fourth place with Jacob Parraz, Paige Perez, and Damian Galvan. In the novice Poultry Showmanship division Alonso Velazquez and Laci Stone placed 4th and 5th respectively. Nice work Woodlake!

Market Rabbits

This is the first time in 5 years Woodlake FFA has had Meat Rabbits at the fair. Although the pens did not make weight, our ladies proudly showed their bunnies! This year, we had 5 novice showmen, but one competed as an advanced showmen because she has shown cattle her entire life. Woodlake Novice showmen placed 4th with Senior Mia Lopez and your Novice FFA Rabbit showman was sophomore Nayeli Ramirez. Devani Headrick, senior but also a first-time rabbit showmen, competed in the advanced division against students who have shown rabbits before. She not only won first place in the Advanced competition, but she went on to compete in Small Animal Round Robin, where she learned how to show a chicken and pygmy goat and placed second to be your Reserve Small Animal Round Robin Champion.



Market Goats

4 brave souls took on the challenge of showing a market goat this year. Autumn Hawes, Isabelle Medina, Alyssa Coelho and Jessica Henderson made Woodlake proud in the show ring with their boar influenced goats. Jessica Henderson placed first in the light-weight market class and Isabelle Medina, a close second. Autumn placed second in her market class of mid-weight goats with Alyssa Coelho placing 6th. Both Jessica and Isabelle showed in the final drive of all classes and Jessica came in as the Reserve Supreme Champion Market goat. The ladies also did well in showmanship with the novice



Coelho placing 4th, and Jessica Henderson, an advanced beef showman therefore showing as an advanced goat showmen, despite this being her first year, was the Reserve Champion Market Goat showman overall.

Medina, a junior in the Woodlake Agriculture Department, also showed her Boar breeding doe, Frita, and placed as the 2022 Champion Breeding Doe ages 2+. Frita is an excellent specimen of what a quality breeding doe should look like. Congratulations ladies!



Market Lambs

This year Woodlake FFA had 10 market lamb exhibitors show at the Tulare County Fair. As seen in the picture (left), Aaron Medina, experienced class exhibitor, braces his lamb to show off its finest carcass qualities. The team did well this year with advanced showman, Natalie Palafox taking the highest placing for the team in her market class with a 3rd place showing. Others placed 4th in their class with Janelle Sanchez and Vanessa Palafox, and rounding out the placings was Aaron Medina placing 5th in his market class.

Market Hogs

Woodlake Hog numbers are staying pretty consistent for the past few years, but they are expecting a much bigger team next year. 4 members showed their piggie prowess at the fair this year and what a great group of kids is was! Three year hog show team veteran and recent graduate, Isac Sanchez, mentored three brand new showmen on how to properly care for and show their market hogs. 2022 graduate Eric Zacarias, senior Diego



Headrick and sophomore Chris Gomez all spent their summer keeping their hogs cool enough to gain the required 220 pounds to sell at the fair. Diego won his market class with his crossbred gilt, Peppa and went to the final drive in his market class. The others made strong showings in their respective classes and made Woodlake proud. Next year we will have a fresh group of showmen with only Chris and Diego being eligible to return to the show ring. Thank you to our graduates for sticking with it one more year. Their earnings will go towards their FFA American Degrees and help pay for their college expenses.



BEEF!!!

Woodlake FFA always brings its beef game to fair! This year we had 6 showmen in the barn with many of them showing in multiple classes. Starting with next year's project in mind, Autumn Hawes placed 1st with her Grade Heifer Jenny. Jenny will be bred in January to be shown and sold at next year's fair as a Bred Heifer so be on the lookout for her returning to replace one crown with another. Autumn also had the highest showmanship placing in the Beef barn for Woodlake rounding out the top 4. In the Commercial Bred division, Woodlake had the top spots with first-time showman Marc Tenney coming in as your Reserve Champion; and Advanced showman, Jessica Henderson won the top honors as the Supreme Champion Bred Heifer owner. This is Jessica's 4th year showing beef animals for Woodlake FFA and her final time as she is graduating with plans to move out of state for college. Also showing Commercial Bred Heifers for Woodlake were seniors Reagan Henderson (3rd place), Diego (5th place) and Devani Headrick (6th place). Finally, in the steer competition, Jessica Henderson took the top prize with her Registered Angus Steer earning Grand Champion with a beautiful specimen. Reagan also competed in this division and won the Reserve Champion title.



Up and coming showman, Lance Davis, from Woodlake Valley Middle School, had a fantastic showing at the fair. Lance is an 8th grader and will be in the Woodlake FFA next year. He placed 3rd overall in the Market Steer division and was the Reserve Grand Champion for the colored steer division. We are looking forward to him joining the Tiger Agriculturalist next year!



Agriculture Mechanics Silent Auction

Woodlake had the most entries in the Agriculture Mechanics Silent Auction this year with 11 students exhibiting and selling their projects. The students were required to start and complete their project in this school year. Students entered everything from welding projects like BBQ's and metal signs to wooden picnic tables and corn hole boards. In total, students earned \$6450 from their silent auction earnings.



Indoor Entries

This year Woodlake FFA can proudly boast that we filled the junior barn! Everywhere you looked there was sure to be a Woodlake members project with a winning ribbon. 9 students spent all day the Friday before the fair, setting up their displays and helping to drop off, label and move over 70 indoor entries made by our students. Our officers and the Chapter Booth Committee, with special thanks to senior FFA member Kyle Finney, won first place, and a grand Prize of \$200, with our display

with the fair theme “Jam Packed Fun”. The booth displayed various preservation methods for local farm products utilizing antique and modern implements used for canning and drying. Miss Kelley's Floral Design class made a wall hanging in the shape of a canning jar as well to enter in the Class Projects category. Mrs. Thornburg had 16 students enter succulent, cactus or houseplants/flowers in the junior floriculture competition with Autumn Hawes taking both first and second with her succulent arrangements and third going to Noemi Camarena with hers. Junior, Diego Sanchez, placed third with his homegrown Spider plants in





the houseplant division. There were 30 different photography entries this year with several class and division winners from Woodlake. You can see everything from fireweed in Alaska to a bear taking a break in a water trough to beautiful pictures of the valley's agriculture, all taken by our Woodlake FFA members. Member Mia Lopez took first place with her crocheted baby blanket and FFA President Paige Perez showed her sewing skills with her Halloween themed pillow case (yes she does it all)! New members Lilli Mathiesen and Ellen DeLaCruz showed their love of cooking with pickles and

bread and cake, both placing in the top three. Table settings is a dying art but, ribbons were brought back by 5 Woodlake FFA members! They had to create a menu and design and implement a single table setting. Some chose a funny theme and others did a formal setting, but all were beautifully done with Victoria Zisumbo winning the top spot! Finally, Trinity Thomas, a sophomore WASA member, one Best of Show with her acrylic painting of an orange. She is quite the talented artist and her paintings are always spectacular. The silent auction items were also displayed in the Junior Building until they were taken away for the auction. Several of them were class winners and all were an outstanding representative of the skills they learn in the Ag. Mechanics class. Well done Woodlake FFA!



Sequoia Section COLC: Discussions on Self Care

This year at the Sequoia Section Officers decided to branch out on their own and break away from hosting the Chapter Officer Leadership Conference with the Tulare-Kings Section. This is the first time in over 10 years that the Sequoia Section has run their own conference. The officer team, which consists of students from Porterville, Tulare, Lindsay and our very own Diego Headrick from WHS FFA, changed up the traditional workshops for chapter leadership. This year the officers held workshops that focused on issues that our students are still dealing with after the return to “normal” school activities after the COVID-19 pandemic shut them down for over 2 years.

Workshops had topics such as Time Management, Self Care and the Do's and Don'ts of Social Media. Each Sectional Officer decided on a topic that they could relate to and they worked with industry partners, school counselors and their own FFA Advisors to design hands-on and engaging workshops for over 100 chapter officers.

Diego Headrick, the Sequoia Sectional President and WHS FFA Vice President had this to say about designing a workshop on his own, “It was a great experience to take real-life problems that students may have and address them in a safe workshop environment. I hope that they were able to take some tips back to their chapters to develop long lasting habits that can help them become better leaders.”

Paige Perez, WHS FFA President, attended the section COLC. “This was really different from what we had last year. I appreciated hearing the stories of the struggles they have had with all their responsibilities from the Sectional Officers. It was very real!” All Woodlake FFA officers attended the conference hosted at Monache High School. Thank you to all the sectional officers who put in time to create and present the workshops and to the industry professionals who provided support to each of them.



Sequoia Section Officer Team: Emily Padilla, Lindsay HS.-V.P., Diego Headrick, WHS- President, Allyson McLaughlin, Porterville HS-Reporter, Hailey Carothers, Porterville HS,-Treasurer, Brenda Monje, Tulare FFA-Sentinel, John Michael Riberio, Tulare FFA-Secretary

Sequoia Section Fall Activity

On September 27, Woodlake FFA along with other FFA chapters from the Sequoia Section, broke out their skates and inlines at Roller Towne in Visalia for the first Sectional Activity of the year. Over 300 students were in attendance for the activity. Special guests included the V-Town Derby Dames who skated with, and around and around, our chapter members. This activity brings the chapters from around the section together in a non-competitive environment to socialize and share their experiences in FFA.

Opening Closing Competition

On October 18th, Woodlake FFA competed in the Sequoia Section Opening/Closing competition held at Tulare Union High School. 7 teams, consisting of 49 members, took on the roles of chapter officers



and opened and closed a meeting following proper FFA Parliamentary procedure. They have been practicing for months in preparation with their advisors and the chapter officers. “It was a great experience for my first time competing in this contest. I got to meet a lot of new people at the contest and even worked with members from our chapter that I didn’t really know. I would totally do it again,” said sophomore Woodlake FFA member Juan Chavez. Juan was on one of the two Woodlake teams that placed in the top three at the competition. We had some great accomplishments as individuals at the competition as well. WHS

FFA President, Paige Perez received Outstanding Chapter Officer for her role in conducting the Opening/Closing Ceremony. Also receiving Outstanding president for their respective divisions were sophomore Julissa St. Martin and senior, Marc Tenney. WHS senior, Giselle Frausto-Perez won Outstanding Secretary in her division as well. Another strong showing for Woodlake FFA!

Advisor's Message!

We would like to thank the parents, school administration, advisory boards, parent groups and our community organizations for the support they have shown our program thus far this year. Without your support these kids would not have the opportunities to compete in the activities and competitions we travel to. As we continue to grow our chapter, we are at over 300 students in the program, we appreciate the support provided by our school teaching staff, coaches and other mentors who help guide our students as they navigate participation in our leadership and community projects while still being student athletes, band members and involved in other extracurricular activities. We have some great teams practicing for mid-winter and spring competitions so be on the lookout for more great things to come!

Thank you!

Don and Renee Thornburg and Miss Jessica Kelley



Upcoming Events:

- 12/8- Citrus Judging competes at Exeter
- 12/9- Citrus Judging visits UC Lindcove
- 12/10- Woodlake Christmas Parade
- 1/7- Citrus Judging at Porterville Fair Grounds
- 1/14- Citrus Judging at Tulare School Farm
- 1/19- Woodlake FFA Meeting- Breakfast for Dinner
- 1/31- Sequoia Sectional Spanish Creed hosted by Woodlake FFA