

## Woodlake FFA's Outstanding Accomplishments!



Devani Headrick (11th), Maryisaura Haro (9th), Nayeli Ramirez (9th), Julissa St. Martin (9th), Eric Zacarias (12th), Paige Perez (11th), Jessica Henderso (11th), Nikolai Ponce (12th), Reagan Henderson (11th), Alyssa Coehlo (9th), Janelle Sanchez (9th), Noemi Aldana (9th), Aaron Medina (9th), Jacob Parraz (10th), Anthony Marquez (10th), and Isaiah Cuevas (10th). Not pictured: Isac Sanchez (12th), Melanie Dominguez (12th), Diego Headrick (11th), Manroop Turna (11th), Natalie Palafox (12th), Alonzo Medina (12th), David Mendoza-Ramirez (12th)

### Public Speaking Competitions!

On December 9, 2021 members of the Woodlake FFA chapter competed at the Sequoia Section Public Speaking Competition. We had numerous students show off their skills in the different speaking categories. It was no surprise to discover that a few members won and will be moving on to the Regional Public Speaking Competition. In the Impromptu category, Jacob Parraz placed 3rd. In the Prepared Public Speaking category, Jessica Henderson placed 3rd and Paige Perez placed 5th. In the Extemporaneous Speaking category, Eric Zacarias placed 3rd. All of the students who placed 4th or

higher moved on to compete in the Regional Speaking Competition held February 18, 2022 at the COS campus in Tulare. There, our proud tigers fought hard against the top four speakers from each of the 6 sections in the San Joaquin Region, in their respective competitions. Jessica Henderson gave a wonderfully informative speech on Carbon Credits and how they relate to agriculture earning her 6th place in the San Joaquin Region. Jacob Parraz did well in his first round with his speech on Diversity in Agriculture and Eric Zacarias, the only senior on the regional team, gave a first round speech on How Sustainable Grazing Can Help Ecosystems. We are so proud of these students and their accomplishments!



Isac Sanchez (12th), Sunora Welch (9th), Diego Headrick (11th), Paige Perez (11th), Sage Johnson (12th), Eric Zacarias (12th), Reagan Henderson (11th), and Mr. Thornburg (Advisor/Coach)

## **CSUFresno Mid-Winter State Finals-Citrus Judging!**

Citrus is one of the many fruit crops produced in the Central Valley. For this reason, practicing non-stop, studying citrus defects, and placing classes helps prepare teams for competitions such as citrus judging. In the 2022 Mid Winter Citrus Judging State Finals at Fresno State, Woodlake FFA took

two teams ( A-Team & B-Team) to compete. The kids were faced with many different challenges such as placing various classes of citrus, providing oral reasons, and identification of citrus defects. Ultimately, both of these teams did well and one of the teams became state champions! Our Citrus Judging A-Team, which consisted of Reagan Henderson, Isac Sanchez, Sunora Welch and Eric Zacarias did amazing with many individual and team awards. Our A-Team's team awards consisted of placing 3rd overall in State, 2nd in sub contest of Oranges, 3rd in sub contest of Mandarins, and 3rd in sub contest of Nursery Trees! In our individual A-Team awards, Eric Zacarias placed 3rd in sub contest Oranges, Isac Sanchez placed 1st in sub contest Mandarins and 4th in sub contest of Oranges and lastly Sunora Welch placed 5th in sub contest of Nursery Trees! Our Citrus Judging B-Team, which consisted of Diego Headrick, Sage Johnson, and Paige Perez did a spectacular job by becoming state champions as a team and having a member become a state champion as well! Our B-Team's team awards consisted of 1st in State, 1st in sub contest of Oranges, 1st in sub contest of Mandarins, 1st in sub contest of Nursery Trees, and 4th in sub contest of identification of defects. In our individual awards, Sage Johnson did an amazing job with 1st in State and 2nd in sub contest of Oranges, Diego Headrick earned 2nd in sub contest of Mandarins, and Paige Perez received 1st in sub contest of Nursery Trees and 4th in sub contest of Mandarins. Our chapter couldn't have been more proud!



## Proficiency Awards!

Competing in an Agricultural Proficiency Awards helps honor FFA members who, through supervised agricultural experiences (SAE), have developed specialized skills that they can apply toward their future careers. Those who are selected from their chapter have the honor to compete with their own SAE. Woodlake FFA submitted many applications and came up with a few moving forward and wins as well. Noemi Camarena, Natalie Palafox, Marc Tenney, Isac Sanchez and Eric Zacarias were the members who represented

and submitted their applications for the Woodlake FFA chapter. Noemi Camarena placed second in the Sequoia Section with a Gold Award application in the area of Diversified Crops-Placement. The other members moved onto the San Joaquin Regional finals and competed against the winners from the 6 sections in the region. Eric Zacarias was the only one to win his category at the regional level, with his proficiency application in Environmental Science for his work with Sequoia Riverlands Trust, and is going to compete at the state level! We are so proud of all our Proficiency Winners and entries!

Eric Zacarias- Small Animal Production and Care

Eric Zacarias- Environmental Science \*Regional winner

Marc Tenney- Forestry and Forest Products

Isac Sanchez- Swine Production-Entrepreneurship

Natalie Palafox- Sheep Production

Noemi Camarena- Diversified Crop Production-Placement

## State Degree Applicants!

The State FFA Degree is the highest degree our state association can bestow. To earn the State FFA Degree, students must have earned a minimum \$1000 and worked a minimum of 500 hours in their SAE's, performed at least 25 hours of community service for two different non-educational, non-profit organizations, lead a group discussion on an agriculture topic for at least 15 minutes and a plethora of other requirements. They also have to have a complete record book of all their accomplishments, hours and finances that shows growth and skill development in their SAE and programs of study in FFA. This year, Woodlake FFA submitted 7 applications for approval for the state degree. All 7 of our students were found to be eligible for the degree by the San Joaquin Regional Supervisor and their names have been moved forward for state staff approval. Those students are:



Eric Zacarias (12th)  
Isac Sanchez (12th)  
Devani Headrick (11th)  
Diego Headrick (11th)

Jessica Henderson (11th)  
Reagan Henderson (11th)  
Allyssa Blaswich(11th)

Notifications of approval will go out in the next few weeks and the award ceremony will occur in April. Due to COVID restrictions, students will be limited to 2 guests at the award banquet, but we will all be cheering them on as they receive their degrees!

## Advisor's Message!

We would like to thank the parents, school administration, advisory board, parent group and community for the support they have shown our program thus far this year. Without your support these kids would not have the opportunities to complete the stringent requirements California FFA has in regards to State Degree and Proficiency Awards. The diversity of opportunities our students have to study various facets of agriculture sets our program apart from others. We hope that as our approximately 250 member program grows, we can continue to count on you to help us mold the leaders of tomorrow.

Thank you!  
Don and Renee Thornburg