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# Aggie News

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## National FFA Proficiency Finalist

Tomales High School FFA member Amanda Moretti won the State FFA Dairy Production Proficiency last April at the Fresno State FFA Convention. Amanda has been an active member of the Tomales FFA since her freshman year. She competed in the FFA Creed Contest and Prepared Public Speaking Contests placing at the state level several times. Amanda was also a Tomales FFA Chapter Officer, Sonoma Section Officer and North Coast Region Officer during her time in high school. Amanda attended a variety of leadership conferences and was selected to be a delegate for the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis twice.

Amanda started her dairy project in 4-H and trans-



*Amanda Moretti at the 2011 Sonoma County Fair*

ferred it over to FFA when she started high school. Her project grew from 20 head of Holstein and Jersey cattle to 70 head the end of her senior year. Amanda's project was selected to be a National Finalist out of over 50 applicants for the national award.

All applicants for the national award must win their state level contest first before they can apply for the national

award. To apply for the national award each of the applicants must submit an application for the proficiency area. The application are reviewed and graded by the National FFA. The top 4 applicants in the nation are then selected to run for the top award. Each applicant must then participate in an interview with the selection committee and the winner is announced at the National Convention in October.

Amanda received word in August that she was selected to be a National Finalist for Dairy Production. Amanda graduated in June 2011 from Tomales High School. She is attending Cornell University and is majoring in Ag. Business and Dairy Science.

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## Tractor Restoration Project

The Tomales Ag. Mechanics shop will be starting a tractor restoration project this fall. An early 1950's Minneapolis Moline Row Crop Tractor was donated to the program last spring by Jack Schrock of Petaluma. The tractor will be restored to its original condition and placed in local parades and

celebrations in the area. Several students are excited to start working on the project as soon as the shop is finished from the high schools remodel this September.

Mr. Costanzo, the Agriculture Teacher at Tomales High School, plans on entering the tractor at the

local fairs and in a national tractor restoration contest when the project is completed.



*Minneapolis Moline Row Crop tractor*

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*Supporting Agriculture Education!*



## A Note From Mr. Costanzo....

*Everyone is excited about the recent remodel of the high school that included a new larger Ag. Classroom and a reconfigured Welding Shop. This year the Tomales FFA plans on competing in a variety of public speaking competitions and increasing attendance at leadership conferences. In addition we also plan on having two judging teams for students to participate in. Mr. Steve Potts will be coaching our Welding Team and Mr. John Monahan has decided to coach a Livestock Team for the chapter. My students are very excited to be able to participate in the judging contests.*

*I would like to thank all of our sponsors and donors to the Tomales Friends of Agriculture Annual Dinner and Auction each year. Without you, the student success and the items highlighted in this newsletter, would not be possible. Thank you again!*

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## First American FFA Degree in Over 10 Years!

The Tomales FFA is very proud to announce that Lianne Nunes has been awarded her American FFA Degree. The chapter has not had an American Degree recipient in over 10 years. The degree is difficult to attain for most Sonoma and Marin County FFA members, due to the financial commitment required to have an SAE project. Also, the Sonoma County Fair does not allow fifth-year FFA members to show and sell market animals, which hurts many students' chances of receiving this award.

Lianne Nunes was a 2009 Tomales High School graduate and Tomales FFA member for six years. She has earned her American Degree this year with her Dairy SAE project. Lianne was an active member of the Tomales FFA.



*Lianne Nunes 2010  
2nd Alternate Dairy Princess at  
Sonoma County Ag Day*

currently attending Cal Poly San Luis Obispo majoring in agriculture.

Students wishing to attain the FFA's American Degree must meet sev-

eral requirements. These include: being enrolled in a high school agriculture course for three years, being out of high school for a year, having earned their State FFA Degree, being an active FFA member, having earned or invested \$7500 and having worked 2250 hours. In addition, students must also have at least a 2.0 GPA. Students may continue to participate in the FFA until age 21, so that they can earn this award.

Lianne will receive her award at the National Convention in October. If you would like to watch Lianne receive her award, tune in to the RFD-TV cable channel, which plays each of the general sessions of the 2011 National FFA Convention.

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