



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Immanuel Schools FFA Chapter Ranked in California Top Ten

REEDLEY, California – The Immanuel High Schools FFA Chapter has been named as the number 6 top chapter in the state of California, based on the 2018 performance.

Immanuel is the smallest chapter in the region (37 members) to receive such a high ranking, and is also the highest ranked single teacher department in the state for the second year in a row.

The ranking is based on student performance and leadership involvement, including total number of American FFA Degrees, State FFA Degrees, State Proficiency Awards, State Championships and State FFA Executive Committee Members. Nipomo was ranked the top chapter this year, followed by Madera South, King City, Tulare, and Frontier in Bakersfield.

Immanuel FFA teacher Jean Myers said “Although our ranking isn’t an official award, it is an incredible honor for our young program to be ranked so high”, about being recognized in a high ranking position as such a small department.

Along with the small size of the Immanuel FFA chapter, it is also one of the youngest in the state, entering its 5th year since being established. Many of the other 334 chapters in California have been in existence for decades, some as long as 50-100 years.

“Three years ago when I first came to Immanuel, I had goals for our program to grow and achieve success,” Myers said. “Today I am overwhelmed at how far we have come. Without the dedication from our administration and students, and continued trust and support of parents and community members, we would not be the young, successful FFA chapter we are today.”

Most recently, 12 Immanuel FFA students competed at the Big Fresno Fair, showing 3 species of livestock. Sophomore Mia Barbosa received high honors with her Reserved FFA Southdown Market Lamb.

“This years’ Fair meant so much more to me than winning a few ribbons,” shared Barbosa. “It helped me build stronger relationships with family, friends and teachers that have helped me along the way. It takes a lot of support and commitment not just from me, but from those around me.”

Graduate Hunter Ward, also competed in the Fair this year, with high recognition as Champion Master Showman for Advanced FFA with his showing of 6 different species. Ward received Reserved FFA Champion for his Market Lamb as well.

“This year at the Fresno Fair was very successful in many ways, but there’s more to the fair than just winning,” Ward said. “It’s about investing in skills that will be used throughout life, building lasting relationships, and most importantly continuing agriculture to the next generation.”

On the heels of winning the Gragnani Family Memorial Scholarship for Outstanding Livestock Exhibitor at the Fair, San Joaquin Regional President Drew Vogt, is heading to Indianapolis as a National Delegate representative. Vogt says, “I’m excited to represent California FFA, and vote to help improve things for the future of agriculture.”

Next up is the start of Proficiency Applications for Immanuel Chapter members. Graduates Taylor Lovewell and Kallie Huebert were both named National Proficiency Gold Winners for the 2018 season, setting a steep goal for this years’ students to strive for.

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