

# ***PRESS RELEASE***

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## ***SACRAMENTO COUNTY FARM BUREAU***



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### **Six Agriculture Ambassadors lobby at the Capitol**

**Elk Grove, CA** Six Agriculture Ambassadors from Elk Grove gathered at the Capitol yesterday to lobby on issues affecting agriculture, the Sacramento County Fair, and programs like FFA and 4-H which are dependent on state and local funding.

Agriculture Ambassadors is a three month program sponsored by Sacramento County Farm Bureau with the support of the Sacramento County Fair. It is designed to give high school aged students, interested in government and legislative affairs, an opportunity to gain a grassroots understanding of lobbying for agricultural issues at both the county and state level. Ag ambassadors will educate local leaders on issues and the enrichment provided by FFA and 4-H programs.

Those chosen for the program are Jake Carlson (Elk Grove FFA), Ellesse Flores (Pleasant Grove FFA), Jenna Forster (Pleasant Grove FFA), Konner Triplett Gold (Pleasant Grove FFA), Tom Hardesty (Elk Grove FFA), and Kayla Mitchell (Pleasant Grove FFA).

The beginning of their three month program started yesterday in Sacramento at the California Farm Bureau Leaders Conference in which they listened to speakers such as California Department of Food and Agriculture Secretary, Karen Ross who encouraged them to inform government of regulations that impede food production without improving food quality. California State Senator, Juan Vargas also addressed the group. Senator Vargas was born and raised on a California farm and understands many of the challenges facing California agriculture. The Ag Ambassadors joined Sacramento County Farm Bureau leaders in afternoon meetings at the Capitol with Assembly members Huber, Buchanan, Dickinson, and Pan and Senators Wolk and Gains. The Ag Ambassadors asked their representatives to oppose Assembly Bill 95 which would completely eliminate county fair funding without offering any alternatives or administrative relief. "Fairs are an interregal part of local communities," stated TJ Plew, Fair Manager. "Sacramento County Fair provides free educational events benefitting 12,000 school aged children, teaching them about agriculture and science, as well as, youth who have various fair projects that teach business, leadership and social skills," Plew added. "We must preserve this opportunity for our youth because it develops life skills and keeps them out of trouble," added Charlotte Mitchell, Farm Bureau Executive Director.

The Ag Ambassadors will meet again in May in Sacramento to continue their training.

The Sacramento County Farm Bureau is a non-profit grass roots organization working to protect family farms and ranches throughout Sacramento County. For more information contact the Farm Bureau at (916) 685-6958 or visit us on the web at [www.sacfarmbureau.org](http://www.sacfarmbureau.org)

For more information about the 2011 Sacramento County Fair, be sure to visit [www.sacfair.com](http://www.sacfair.com) for future updates or visit [www.facebook/saccofair.com](http://www.facebook/saccofair.com).

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