

# Professional Development Sessions

**Tuesday 3:00-4:50**

## **ACRS21 Training for High School**

Presented by: Dr. Sharon Freeman, Dr. Natalie Baumgartner, and Rachel Mancebo

Description: The ACRS21 Leadership Team is excited to share how the ACRS21 Certificate Pathway helps students develop the skills necessary for career success. The workshop will include a demonstration of how entries are made in AET, a review of available resources for high school and post-secondary teachers, information regarding scholarships, and the steps necessary to print the award certificates once students have met the requirements. Please join us for an interactive and engaging workshop that can help you better support your students' soft skills development and career readiness practices.

## **Farm Biosecurity Teaching Materials and Learning Activities**

Presented by: Heather Johnson, David Goldenberg, Candice Stafford-Banks, Mikaela Fringer, Joseph Gendreau, Bennie Osburn

**\*\*Please Bring a Laptop\*\***

Join us for this interactive session focused on the importance of on-farm biosecurity for the protection of animal health and the security of our food systems. Hear from experts on the recent high-path avian influenza (HPAI) outbreak in the U.S.. Learn about current efforts to increase on-farm biosecurity in the wake of this disaster. Leave with lesson plans, teaching materials, student learning activities, and a biosecurity demo kit! The UC Davis Western Institute for Food Safety and Security (WIFSS), in partnership with faculty from Woodland Community College and Modesto Junior College, have created teaching materials and learning activities that are freely available to all high school and college faculty. The goal of this project is to increase knowledge and skills in the area of biosecurity for future farmers and agricultural workers. All materials were paid for with a grant from the USDA National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Program (NADPRP). All materials are being made available through the Canvas LMS. Please bring a laptop or other device and learn how to access these materials.

## **Rooted in Relationships: Cultivating Community & Parent Engagement in Ag Education**

Presented by: Dr. Sam Rodriguez and Lisa Rodriguez

Description: This interactive session is designed to empower high school agriculture teachers with innovative strategies and practical tools to foster robust community and parent engagement. In today's rapidly evolving educational landscape, building strong partnerships with parents and local community stakeholders is essential for enriching agricultural programs and enhancing student success. By the end of this session, high school agriculture teachers will be equipped with a comprehensive toolkit for enhancing parent and community engagement. Join us to learn how to cultivate strong community ties and create a vibrant, inclusive network that supports the future of agriculture education.

## **Greenhouse Basics: Guide to Best Management Practices**

Presented by: Jim Bergantz

Description: There are many variables which affect growth and development of healthy plant material. These factors include: style and construction of greenhouse structure, pest and disease management, light, temperature, humidity, choice of growing media, water, and fertilizer. In addition, there are greenhouse maintenance factors which, when employed, promote the healthiest possible environment for seed germination and subsequent plant growth. These include: efficient use and maintenance of the greenhouse facility, clean waste disposal, and careful monitoring of crops by greenhouse students and personnel. This presentation will explore fundamental points to consider in choosing a greenhouse as well as how to get a greenhouse functionally operational, with a goal of the production of plants useful for research, education, and/or sale.

## **Market Goats 101**

Presented by: Jim Brem, Pam Brem, Tyson Brem

Description: We will cover all aspects of the market goat project to include:

Selection

Health Management

Feeding

Training

Showmanship

Fitting

Fair Management

## **CATIP Bootcamp for Incoming Year 2s and their Mentors**

Presented by: Jessi Cardoso

**\*\*Please Bring a Laptop\*\***

Description: Required for all ending Year 1/ incoming Year 2 CATIP participants and their mentors. We will get you on a great start for finishing induction strong! You will have ample time to complete your goals for Fall Semester and hopefully have all your documents submitted by the end of the workshop! Facilitators and Jessi will be available to answer all your questions. Please bring a computer or tablet to work on and have access to your documents. This workshop will serve as your Year 2 Orientation (you will NOT need to attend orientation in September!) We look forward to seeing you there!

## **The Floral Budget Stretch**

Presented by: Kay Wolff, AIFD CFD CC and Lily Chan, AIFD EMC

Description: One set of Flowers Two Design Lessons - Join us for a hands-on session of learning the hand-tied bouquet technique and the contemporary lapel piece. The hand-tied technique is suitable for prom bouquets, bridesmaid and bridal bouquets. This will prepare you to teach your floral design students this versatile technique. Design two of this workshop will allow you to take materials from the hand-tied bouquet to create a contemporary lapel piece with crossover corsage applications. Materials Fee: \$50 payable in advance to CSFA. To register your payment request and payment method, email Ann Quinn at [ann@agamsi.com](mailto:ann@agamsi.com) or call the CSFA office Mon-Thurs. (916) 448-5266

## **ArcLight Dynamics Educational Curriculum**

Presented by: Moses Alanis and Eric Shafer

Description: ArcLight Dynamics / FlashCut Software Demo and Educational Curriculum: How to go through the design-to-cut process, resources for creating a curriculum, exposing students to multiple CAD programs to build out a resume and getting students ready for a career in the industry.

## **iCEV Basics and What's New!**

Presented by: Steve DeRose and Maggie McGill

Description: iCEV is continually updating the online platform to stay up to date with today's educational needs. In the past year, iCEV has added and updated lessons, new grading features, lesson plan styles, course features and more to the platform. Join this session to hear about iCEV's latest plus a preview of what to expect in the coming months.

## **Connecting the Woodworking Side of Ag Mechanics**

Presented by: Caitlin Carpenter and Alex Gutierrez

Description: Tired of feeling like the odd one out in welding-heavy PD sessions? If your passion lies more in saws than sparks, this session is for you! Designed specifically for Ag Mechanics teachers with a focus on woodworking, this interactive discussion will connect you with others who speak your (wood) language. We'll explore the types of projects happening in wood-focused programs, share resources and ideas, and start building a network of like-minded educators. Most importantly, we'll brainstorm what future PD could and should look like to better support your work in the shop. Come ready to collaborate, share, and shape the future of wood-centered Ag Mechanics education!

## **What is the National Chapter Award Program?**

Presented by: Gene Lieb

Description: This workshop is for the school that has opened the application or even completed parts of it, but is working to make that jump to complete and submit the application. Learn a few tools to make the National Chapter Application a breeze.

## **Growing Yourself: Graduate School Journeys in Ag Ed**

Presented by: Kenny Saephan, Dr. Hannah Parker, and Jesse Bower

Description: Thinking about graduate school but unsure where to start? Wondering how to balance teaching, family, and coursework or whether it's even worth it? This session brings together a panel of former and high school agriculture teachers who are actively pursuing or have completed graduate degrees in Agricultural Education. Panelists represent a range of experiences, including online Ed.D. programs, full-time Ph.D. study, and part-time graduate work while teaching. They also serve in roles across K-12 and higher education, offering a full-spectrum view of what's possible. From choosing a program and finding funding, to surviving coursework and building a meaningful career, this session offers candid advice, lessons learned, and encouragement for your own professional journey. **Presenter**

**Biographies:** *Kenny Saephan* - Kenny is a Ph.D. student in Agricultural Communication, Education, and Leadership at The Ohio State University. He previously taught agricultural mechanics and welding for six years at Escalon High School in California. Kenny earned his M.S. from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, and his B.S. from Fresno State. His research focuses on educational decision-making at both the policy and individual levels, including teacher well-being, program evaluation, and teacher agency. *Jesse Bower* - Jesse is a lecturer and university coach in the Department of Animal Sciences and Agricultural Education at Fresno State and a current Ed.D. candidate in Educational Leadership. A native of Le Grand, CA, she developed her passion for agriculture through 4-H and FFA. Jesse taught high school agriculture in Nebraska while completing her masters degree before returning to California to mentor pre-service teachers. Her doctoral research explores women's self-efficacy in teaching agricultural mechanics. *Dr. Hannah Parker* - Hannah is an Assistant Professor in the Agricultural Education and Communication Department at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. She

joined the faculty in 2024 after earning her Ph.D. from The Ohio State University. Prior to that, she taught agriscience in a single-teacher program in Gilbert, Arizona. Hannah specializes in experiential learning and teacher development, with a focus on student-centered approaches in secondary and higher education.

### **Introduction of the new California-Based Project: Development of Teaching Modules to Support California's Vegetable Crops Industry**

Presented by: Jeffrey Mitchell

Description: This session will focus on the new curriculum aimed at agriculture science and technology courses/students in high schools, community colleges and other applied science and trade learning situations. The project has brought together ag science instructors from the University of California, Davis, CSU Fresno, CSU Chico, and Cal Poly SLO, along with partners at Bakersfield College, Madera College, Merced College, Santa Rosa College, and Hartnell College to create, test, and provide learning modules (instructional documentary films) related to various aspects of vegetable crop production in our state. It is sponsored by the California Department of Food and Agriculture's Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. The project addresses the need for training next-generation ag workers and contributors in California in the science, technology, and contemporary production principles and practices that are relevant and emerging for vegetable production. State-of-the-art content is showcased in a variety of video-based modes to augment classroom learning and the need to address students who may not come from Ag backgrounds or who may not have familiarity with agriculture.

### **Fab Contest and CYAE Round Table Discussion**

Presented by: Joshua McKenzie, Wyatt Gibson, Dan Crookham, and Brian Donovan

Description: With the California Youth AG Expo growing, we are introducing a fabrication contest and we want to inform teachers throughout the state about the great opportunities for students. Along with a quorum on any topics about the state wide Fab contest that take place during the school year if anyone wants to start a new team.

### **Proficiencies 101**

Presented by: Julie Luxon

Description: Looking to jump into the world of proficiencies but don't know where to start? This workshop will help you identify projects and award areas, work with students, and prepare your applications to be competitive at the state level.

## Wednesday 10:30-12:20

### **ACRS21 Training for Post Secondary Teachers**

Presented by: Dr. Sharon Freeman, Dr. Natalie Baumgartner, and Rachel Mancebo

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### **Start to SHOWTIME: Best Practices for Managing Swine Projects at the Fair**

Presented by: Rebecca Mendonza and Adam Mendonza

Description: Are you in charge of the pig projects in your department? Will you ever be at some point in the future? Are all your pigs making weight? Are your students making the cut in showmanship? Are you winning Chapter Group? Are your students profitable with their swine SAE projects? The answers to these questions and so much more will be covered in our swine presentation. Selection, nutrition, management, showmanship, show contracts and goal setting will be covered.

### **Building Middle School Farm-to-Table Curriculum & SAE Projects**

Presented by: Becca Duran and Madilyn Smith

Description: Teachers will explore how to build farm-to-table lessons and explore ways to connect this type of curriculum to SAE project opportunities. They'll get ideas for starting small animal or garden projects that grow food for cooking labs, the school cafeteria, or other student-run activities.

## **Looking for Funding to Help Your Students? The Golden State Agricultural Foundation is Your Source.**

Presented by: Michael Bradley, Wendy Hall, and Lori Madden

Description: Our Foundation provides more than \$35,000 each year to local students in California in a merit based program. This session will walk you through the application process ,explain how and what to focus on for success and allow you and your students to better understand the program. The Session will include opportunities to answer any questions you may have. Merit categories include Large Animal Livestock and Dairy, Crop production, Plant science and O.H. , Small Stock, Ag Mechanics and Technology, Tractor Restoration and Culinary programs. Presented by the Golden State Agriculture Foundation Board of Directors.

## **SAE and FFA for All New Teachers**

Presented by: Luis Nichols

Description: This workshop is designed to bring insight into how to achieve 100% SAE and FFA involvement without having to spread ourselves too thin. In this workshop you will hopefully walk out with some new ways to implement SAE projects as well as creating FFA activities that reach a wider variety of students.

## **Green Thumb: Horticulture Unit Planning & Curriculum Guide**

Presented by: Russell Zimmerman

Description: If you are new to Horticulture or been around a while, you have probably found you need a Green Thumb to have success. This workshop will encompass all things Horticulture. Everything from Horticulture Unit Management & Supplies, Special Project Ideas, Dual Enrollment Process, Labs for Horticulture including Propagation Methods, and Horticulture Curriculum for Introduction and Advanced Horticulture Classes. The goal is that you will walk away from this workshop with knowledge and curriculum that can help you prepare future agriculturists for California's largest agriculture sector.

## **CATIP Bootcamp for Incoming Year 2s and their Mentors**

Presented by: Jessi Cardoso

Description: Required for all ending Year 1/ incoming Year 2 CATIP participants and their mentors. We will get you on a great start for finishing induction strong! You will have ample time to complete your goals for Fall Semester and hopefully have all your documents submitted by the end of the workshop! Facilitators and Jessi will be available to answer all your questions. Please bring a computer or tablet to work on and have access to your documents. This workshop will serve as your Year 2 Orientation (you will NOT need to attend orientation in September!) We look forward to seeing you there!

### **Ag Ed Dual Enrollment: How to Partner with your Local Community College**

Presented by: Jacob Vazquez

Description: This workshop will explore how to successfully develop and maintain dual enrollment partnerships with your local community college. Learn best practices, communication strategies, and program structures that work from initial outreach to curriculum alignment. Whether you're just getting started or looking to enhance an existing partnership, this session will provide actionable tools and real-world examples to help your students earn college credit while still in high school.

### **CA Farm to School Program**

Presented by: Michael Ackley-Grady and Jackie Day

Description: How to link agriculture education to school meal programs. Previous grant success stories and funding for the future!

### **SAE Livestock Basics**

Presented by: Brandi Bognuda

Description: The beginners guide to Livestock Projects. What do students need to start the projects, how do I help students pick an animal, pick the feed? Basics in show prep. This is intended to help the new or new to livestock project ag teacher as they navigate the world of large animals. This will cover sheep, goats, beef, and swine.

### **The Floral Budget Stretch**

Presented by: Kay Wolff, AIFD CFD CC and Lily Chan, AIFD EMC

Description: One set of Flowers Two Design Lessons - Join us for a hands-on session of learning the hand-tied bouquet technique and the contemporary lapel piece. The Hand-tied technique is suitable for prom bouquets, bridesmaid and bridal bouquets. This will prepare you to teach your floral design students this versatile technique. Design two of this workshop will allow you to take materials from the hand-tied bouquet to create a contemporary lapel piece with crossover corsage applications. Materials Fee: \$50 payable in advance to CSFA. To register your payment request and payment method, email Ann Quinn at [ann@agamsi.com](mailto:ann@agamsi.com) or call the CSFA office Mon-Thurs. (916)448-5266

### **Meat Math - The Ins and Outs of Food Fundraisers**

Presented by: Courtney Dayhoff

Description: In this session we will discuss ideas for food fundraisers. Are you a new teacher and have no idea where to start? Are you a well seasoned teacher and looking to spice up those tried and true fundraisers. This session will provide you with simple examples and ideas to kick start any food fundraiser for your program.

### **ArcLight Dynamics Educational Curriculum**

Presented by: Moses Alanis and Eric Shafer

Description: ArcLight Dynamics / FlashCut Software Demo and Educational Curriculum: How to go through the design-to-cut process, resources for creating a curriculum, exposing students to multiple CAD programs to build out a resume and getting students ready for a career in the industry.

### **Shop Organization and Tool Selection**

Presented by: Adam Bullard

Description: Ever wonder what tools to outfit your shop with? What brands? What extra parts or consumables should I have on hand? This session will focus on how I organize my shop, the brands of tools I buy, and the consumables I keep on hand to keep my shop running throughout the year.

### **Bridging the Gap: Integrating Administrators, Counselors, and CTE Leads in the Ag World**

Presented by: Sandy Dale

Description: Are you an educator looking to provide insight into your program for your site administrators? Are you continually working to inform your changing administrators about the components of your FFA and Ag classes? Join us for a dynamic workshop to equip you with the tools and strategies to integrate administrators, counselors, and Career and Technical Education (CTE) leads into the Ag and FFA world. In this session we will discuss best practices for communicating and including administrators in your program. We will also review the CA State FFA Administrator Conference and how this event is helpful and useful for your administrative team.

### **Completing AET Records for Awards and Degrees**

Presented by: Shay Williams-Hopper

Description: Learn tips and tricks to help make awards and degree season easier with your students. Set up AET records with ease.

## **AET 101: Helping Teachers and Students Get Started**

Presented by: Roger Hangriff

Description: This workshop's first part will focus on strategies to quickly copy and paste students and some important student profile information to get them added to AET and 100% membership-ready. Next, we will move to the importance of adding agriculture education classes and connecting students to each class or making that a grade for your students to complete on their own. We will then move to how to select your program leaders which can help you in your POA and managing FFA meetings. We will also take a look at some essential steps to help students get started as well as educational guides and videos to help you in the classroom. We will also cover in this session how students can quickly track everyday foundational activities in AET.

## **From the Judges Perspective**

Presented by: Christina Ward and Frank Ward

Description: Get exclusive insider access as an experienced livestock judge reveals what's only seen from inside the ring. Learn the subtle details and secrets that set students up for success—insights most exhibitors never see. Hint: Inside the show ring is only one small component. Don't miss this rare opportunity to transform your students' performance.

## **Wednesday 2:00-3:50**

## **SAE and FFA for All New Teachers**

Presented by: Luis Nichols

Description: This workshop is designed to bring insight into how to achieve 100% SAE and FFA involvement without having to spread ourselves too thin. In this workshop you will hopefully walk out with some new ways to implement SAE projects as well as creating FFA activities that reach a wider variety of students.

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documents. This workshop will serve as your Year 2 Orientation (you will NOT need to attend orientation in September!) We look forward to seeing you there!

### **Electrifying Agriculture: Mastering Circuitry and Multimeter Magic**

Presented by: Richard Chapman

Description: Dive into the world of electrical circuits with this hands-on workshop! Learn the essentials of wiring circuits using the Festo AC/DC trainer and testing them with a multimeter. We'll cover foundational principles like Ohm's Law, Watt's Law, and Kirchhoff's Laws to ensure you have a solid understanding of electrical theory. Whether you're a beginner or looking to refresh your skills, this workshop will empower you to bring electrifying knowledge to your agriculture classroom and better prepare your students for modern careers. Join us for an engaging session filled with practical skills, interactive labs, and plenty of opportunities to ask questions and troubleshoot!

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### **Rabbit Showmanship 101**

Presented by: Julie Luxon

Description: Join us for a hands-on Rabbit Showmanship Workshop where participants will learn the fundamentals of rabbit showmanship. We will be covering the ARBA score card, terminology and tips and tricks to teaching your students how to properly handle their rabbits and do well on the show table.

### **Signed Contract, Here Are Your Keys, Ready Set Go!**

Presented by: Keeley Darrah and Lauren Peterson

Description: This workshop is designed to help you survive your first, second, third, or fourth year of teaching. These little tips and tricks are great to have in your back pocket for a successful teaching career. Members who attend are encouraged to share their experiences and help build resources throughout the year.

### **Agricultural Construction: Building Programs, Sustainability and Careers**

Presented by: Derek Silva

Description: As an Ag Mechanics teacher, have you "inherited" your campuses woodshop and are now responsible for teaching woodshop? Maybe you are getting tired of building bird houses? In this session, I would like to share my experience of teaching traditional woodworking and shifting into Ag Construction that now includes a 3-year sequential CTE pathway meeting A-G requirements that focuses on residential electrical, sub flooring, framing, shear walls, roofing with the creation of a storage shed. This presentation will highlight and connect participants with local industry, start up grants and professional organizations to support your local Ag Construction program in the state of California. Let's talk about how to get this going on your campus!

### **Let's Elevate those National Chapter Applications**

Presented by: Gene Lieb

Description: Have you been stuck at a 1 or 2 star application? Looking to elevate your application to the next level? Come learn tips and tricks to move your application to the top! We will be learning writing techniques so please come ready to actively participate.

### **Breathe Easy & Snip Smart: Budget-Friendly Animal Science Demos**

Presented by: Jeremy Cates

Description: Who says great teaching tools have to break the bank? In this fun and practical workshop, animal science teachers will learn how to build a working lung model to show students how the respiratory system works plus create a simple, classroom-safe model to demonstrate castration techniques for lambs and goats. Hands-on, low-cost, and high-impact, these demos are perfect for engaging students without emptying your wallet!

### **Current Available Documentary Film - Learning Modules to Augment Training and Career Development in Vegetable Crop Production**

Presented by: Jeffrey Mitchell

Description: The focus of this session will be to discuss the availability of new, innovative video instructional material that addresses the dual goals of expanding student understanding of various aspects of vegetable crop production and emerging career opportunities in agriculture in California. Project developers include instructors from UC Davis, Fresno State, Chico State, and Cal Poly SLO, along with partners at five California community colleges and ALBA – the Agriculture and Land-Based Training Association in Salinas, CA. Together, they have created a set of 24 documentary films designed for use in courses and activities in California high schools, community colleges, and universities to provide information about the

various technical aspects associated with vegetable production today, and also with an expressed goal of expanding student awareness of possible career opportunities in the myriad dimensions of production agriculture. Examples of the documentary films will be shared and discussed as well as accompanying evaluation survey questionnaires that instructors may find useful in their classrooms. Jeff Mitchell, Professor of Cooperative Extension and Cropping Systems Specialist at UC Davis, will lead the discussion.

### **Crucial Conversations**

Presented by: Dr. Erin Gorter and Dr. Hannah Parker

Description: There are many times when teachers must address delicate issues with the hope of a win-win outcome. This workshop will help you to increase the chances of a win-win outcome. There will be “hands-on” activities to engage all participants in using the language that will aid in addressing issues promptly and professionally. The instruction is based on the book entitled Crucial Conversations.

### **New SAE Efficiency/Learning Outcome Tools in AET & FFA Award Connections**

Presented by: Roger Hangriff

Description: In this session, we will share a new section of the student’s experience manager in AET and how students can annually develop measurable results from their SAEs and share key outcomes and efficiency values in a way they can also use in FFA awards. The idea is that each year, students develop a few ways to measure SAE success and expand on them each year to track progress. This workshop will share some examples and links to educational resources to help your students.

### **Animal Sciences Standards Update**

Presented by: Shay Williams-Hopper

Description:

### **Ornamental Horticulture/Floral Standards Update**

Presented by: Jackie Ioimo

Description:

### **Ag Align Tier 1 Student Certifications**

Presented by: Dustin Sperling

Description: With the endless list of student certification opportunities available, how can you determine which option is best for your program, students, and local employers? This session is designed to identify how AgAlign Tier 1 Certifications were created by California agricultural teachers to meet the unique student certification needs of California's high school agriculture programs. Participants will leave this workshop with a better understanding of the AgAlign Tier 1 Online Certification Assessments including: student registration, fee payment, proctoring guides, assessment blueprints, and how to access student performance results.

### **California Auctioneering Contest**

Presented by: Justin Kennedy

Description: Interested in the fast-paced world of auctioneering? Join us for an informational workshop on the California FFA Auctioneering Career Development Event (CDE)! This session is designed to introduce FFA members and advisors to the exciting opportunity of competing in a live auction format, where students sell real items to real bidders. We'll cover the structure of the contest, scoring criteria, required materials, and tips for success. Whether you're curious about the chant, want to know how items are selected, or simply want to see if this contest is a fit for your chapter, this workshop will provide valuable insights and answer all your questions. Don't miss the chance to explore this unique event that develops public speaking, confidence, and career-ready communication skills.

### **Managing Livestock Exhibitors & School Farms**

Presented by: Christina Ward and Frank Ward

Description: The real-talk session ag teachers have been waiting for. Get strategies for managing livestock, handling tricky parent dynamics, stretching tight budgets, designing facilities that work, and working with breeders and vets like a pro. Walk away with confidence and fresh ideas—practical tools, and proven systems—so you're not losing sleep all season.

## **Farmers as Scientists, Engineers, and Entrepreneurs: Teaching Critical Thinking for Real-World Ag Careers**

Presented by: Melanie Yelton and Sam Chronert

Description: As agriculture educators, you're tasked with not only teaching the science of crop and animal production but also inspiring the next generation of farmers to think like engineers, scientists, and business leaders. Today's students need more than foundational knowledge—they must develop the ability to solve complex problems, adapt to uncertainty, and make informed decisions in dynamic, real-world agricultural settings. While FFA competitions and classroom projects provide valuable structure and motivation, strict adherence to checklists and rubrics can unintentionally limit students' creativity and critical thinking. This interactive session will explore strategies to foster student innovation without sacrificing academic rigor. Together, we'll reimagine how to guide students toward becoming resourceful, adaptable ag professionals—capable of designing, building, analyzing, and leading in the future of food and farming.