

Mendocino County Farm Bureau Celebrates 100 Years in Mendocino County and Awards Scholarships

In 1917, several Mendocino County farmers recognized the value of bringing an Agricultural Extension Service into the county and began the process of forming a Farm Bureau. An official Farm Bureau needed to be organized prior to a county petitioning for a U.C. Farm Advisor position.

Redwood Valley was the first to form a Farm Bureau center by obtaining 40 signatures for their roll. Redwood Valley's effort was followed closely by Ukiah, Potter Valley, Willits and Fort Bragg. A petition of 280 signatures from these districts were presented to the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors at the December 10, 1917 meeting along with the unanimous support from Anderson Valley which had just held their first discussion on the subject.

With the approval of the Board of Supervisors in December 1917, the Farm Bureau was officially recognized which allowed for Mr. Charles Myszka to enter the county in January 1918 as the first U.C. Farm Advisor for Mendocino County. The first meeting of the Mendocino County Farm Bureau took place in February of 1918 where the bylaws were written and officers were elected.

Now 100 years later, the Mendocino County Farm Bureau is still working to protect and promote agriculture in the county. To celebrate the last 100 years, Mendocino County Farm Bureau hosted a centennial celebration on June 30th. Although the temperatures were hovering around 106 degrees that day, close to 400 people were in attendance to help celebrate. With historical displays, music by the Gibson Creek Bluegrass Band, tasting of the 2015 CORO wines, local beer provided by Hare In The Forest brewing from Potter Valley, a live historical reenactment by the Roadshow Players as well as the after party with Waylon and the Wildcats, the event was a greatly enjoyed by all who attended.

Part of the celebration included the annual recognition of the local high school and college students who were selected to receive scholarships from Mendocino County Farm Bureau. This year, with generosity from many donors and proceeds from our annual fundraiser, we were able to provide \$30,000 worth of scholarships to local high school graduates and students continuing in higher agriculture education programs.

High school graduates receiving scholarships were: Cassandra Renteria from Fort Bragg, Katie Penry and Javier Alvarez from Potter Valley, Jocey Thieman from Round Valley and Gracie Silva from Laytonville

College students receiving scholarships were: Alison Morse, Natasha Looney, Emma Braught, Matthew Delbar, Aaron Becerra-Alvarez, Casey Looney, Charles Lucchesi, Jamie Connor, Andres Aceves, and Ashley Hautala.

For more information on the Mendocino County Farm Bureau or the scholarship program, please contact the Farm Bureau office at (707) 462-6664 or admin@mendofb.org



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Charles Lucchesi, Jamie Connor and Alison Morse



Assemblymember Jim Wood, Mendocino County Farm
Bureau President Frost Pauli and Congressman Jared Huffman
with the recognitions provided for the centennial celebration.



The Roadshow Players present the "Promise of Paradise",
a historical reenactment assembled from primary source material
focused on agricultural related accounts from 1917-18.

- Photos provided by Mary Thornton