

SALINAS REGION HIGHLIGHTS



SALINAS BRANCH STAFF Front Row: Bob LaBrier, JoAnn Wall, Wendy Brule, Selenia Delgado, Mark Franco, Roseann Villareal, DeeDee Miletich, Scott Clifton • Back Row: Heather Callens, Sarah Hoban, Allison Renz, Karen Carstens, Gary VanSchuyver, Sarah Hernandez, Jim Cooper, Brent Plemmons • Not pictured: Brian Shiffman

■ ANDY MATSUI AWARDED AGRICULTURAL LEADERSHIP AWARD



In September, 2006 the Salinas Valley Chamber of Commerce and American AgCredit awarded orchid grower, Andy Matsui the Agricultural Leadership Award. This award has been co-sponsored by AAC for 17 years. The Agricultural Leadership Award acknowledges the individual, company, group, association or agency that has made the most significant contribution to the agricultural community in the Salinas Valley.

Matsui Nursery is the largest orchid producer in the world, producing 50% of California's orchids, 25% of the

nation's orchids, and 5% of the international supply. Mr. Matsui's operation, located just south of the City of Salinas, has over 2.8 million square feet of greenhouse space, as well as, laboratories, office, cold storage, and packing areas.

In 2004, Andy created a not-for-profit corporation, the Matsui Foundation, and a scholarship program to send children of farm laborers to college. Over the last two years, twelve worthy students have each received a \$40,000 scholarship, and Andy plans to expand his scholarship program in the future.

Mr. Matsui has been a Farm Credit customer for over 25 years. ❖

■ 2006 EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR WILL FOCUS ON FRESH PRODUCE TRENDS IN CHINA

The Salinas Region of American AgCredit will host an educational seminar on Friday, November 17. The seminar, "Who is Producing, Trading, Processing and Retailing China's Fruits and Vegetables... Trends and Implications for California," features Dr. Scott Rozelle. Dr. Rozelle is a professor in the Department of Agricultural and Resource

Economics at the University of California, Davis and is an expert on fresh produce trends in China. This seminar is the second in a series and is offered for the benefit of our borrowers and partners.

Contact JoAnn Wall at jwall@agloan.com or 831-424-1756 for more information. ❖

AgYOUTH PROGRAM SUCCESS



Lindsey Linares, Salinas Valley FFA.

■ **IN 2004, AMERICAN AgCREDIT** introduced the AgYouth Program as part of our commitment to Young, Beginning, and Small Farmers. This program targets students who have exhibited an interest in agriculture

by joining 4-H and FFA chapters. Under the AgYouth Program, the American AgCredit staff provides financial and educational assistance, as well as, emphasizes the importance of accurate records,

budgeting and honoring obligations to repay. Over the last year, we have received numerous letters of thanks from program participants.

Contact your local branch for more information. ♦

■ *“Businesses like yours help kids like me make their FFA dreams come true.... I wouldn't be in FFA and I couldn't have had this experience without you.”*

LINDSEY LINARES, SALINAS CHAPTER FFA TREASURER

■ *“This was my first fair ever and first year in FFA.... With the help of you and my advisor I did very well. I received reserve weight champion for FFA and 8th in novice showmanship.”*

KAYLA BRADLEY, SALINAS HIGH FFA

■ *“I learned that it is a big responsibility to take care of someone other than myself. Thanks for your support.”*

KALID CORTES, EVERETT ALVAREZ HIGH SCHOOL FFA

■ *“My pig has taught me responsibility and how to manage my money. I also learned that if you try hard you will succeed.”*

JACOB TIDWELL, SALINAS HIGH FFA

■ *“Without your support people would not have had the opportunity to raise animals like I did.”*

MARIANA GARZA, EVERETT ALVAREZ HIGH SCHOOL

■ SALINAS BRANCH HOLDS LOAN CONTEST FOR CAL POLY STUDENTS

The Salinas branch of American AgCredit will again sponsor a loan contest in conjunction with the Cal Poly AgriBusiness Department. Students from the advanced lending class will compete and

participation is required as part of the course curriculum. Students group together in teams and the top five teams travel to the Salinas branch to present their recommendations to a panel of credit

officers. The contest takes place throughout the fall quarter and ends with the final presentation in the Salinas office in December. The winning team is exempt from taking the class final exam! ♦