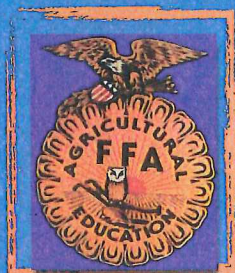
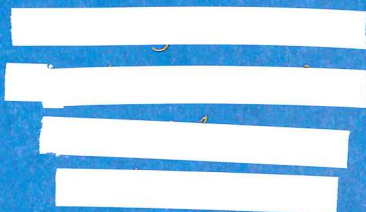


AGRICULTURE ISSUES FORUM

S.744: America's Immigration Fix-All?



*National FFA CDE
Agricultural Issues
Career Development Event*



S.744 IMMIGRATION REFORM

1. List course(s) in which instruction occurred including the number of students involved.

Related instruction occurred in the following courses at Galt High School: Agriculture Economics, 32 students; Agriculture Biology, 93 students; Agriculture Anatomy and Physiology, 58 students; Agriculture Leadership 30 students; and Agriculture and Environmental Science, 102 students. Total: 315 students

2. Why is the issue important now?

The last comprehensive reform of American immigration policy occurred in 1986 with the passage of the Immigration Reform and Control Act (Walters, 2008). In the nearly three decades that have followed, the changing nature of American society has dictated a need for a new immigration policy (Shubert, 2014). Upon election to office and in subsequent State of the Union addresses, President Barack Obama has declared immigration reform to be one of his highest priorities (Obama, 2014). Several years later, the issue of immigration continues to be unresolved and appears in news publications, on television and in magazines (Altman, 2014). After several years of seeming inaction, in June, 2013 the U.S. Senate passed S.744, the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act (Schumer, 2013). A bipartisan effort created by the so-called "Gang of Eight", the bill sought to address the concerns of various stakeholders through a one-size-fits-all solution to America's immigration woes. However, due to myriad concerns with the issue, the US House of Representatives has not yet taken up S.744's companion bill, H.R. 15 (Immigration Policy Center, 2013). The need for reform is compounded by the antiquity of our current immigration law. As a result, there is significant momentum to address the growing issues associated with immigration with a package reform that seeks to solve a variety of challenges.

Namely, the issues S.744 seeks to address include the large number of existing undocumented immigrants, the need for a migrant guest labor force, the security of U.S. borders and the economic and moral ramifications of immigration reform (Schumer, 2013). Due to recent efforts to improve homeland security, greater attention has been paid to America's land borders and our protocols for admission. However, these efforts have been one factor that has affected the availability of labor in several industries (Chassamboull, 2014). American agriculture has significant need of a reformed immigration policy, with several sectors of the industry relying on temporary laborers and guest worker programs (Taylor & Charlton). Leaders of industry have advocated for a reform that secures a reliable and legal labor force that will meet the needs of producers and processors alike.

Additionally, the United States currently is home to an estimated 11 million undocumented immigrants who are seeking further assimilation into American society by obtaining legal status (Office of Immigration Statistics, 2013). This creates a complex ethical argument regarding the rule of law, with many questioning the moral implications of rewarding those who have broken America's laws in the first place. Finally, this issue has significant potential for economic impacts on both the positive and negative sides, with social services, law enforcement, remittances and tax revenue all entering the conversation (Congressional Budget Office, 2013). Regardless of which side of the aisle a citizen may sit in respect to S.744, the issue of immigration reform is timely and necessitates action.

3. What is the nature of the issue?

The issue of immigration reform is divided among those who seek broad reforms such as those sought in S.744 and those who believe a piece-by-piece approach is best (Chacon & Shannon, 2014). Each side has invoked economic and moral arguments to further their cause and have inflamed passions among supporters. Those who seek the passage of S.744 and H.R. 15 value the deliberative nature of the bill's creation as well as the comprehensive examination of the entire immigration issue (Kim, 2013). Those in support of S.744 are agriculturists and border-security proponents who value the bill's heavy emphasis on those two topics (Wolgin & Galvan, 2014). Those who believe the bill is not the appropriate course of action take issue with the breadth of the bill's reach as well as the economics of immigration reform and any associated amnesty clauses in the bill (Verduzco, 2013).

4. Who is involved in the issue?

Lawmakers in both houses of Congress seek to craft a solution that will meet the needs of several stakeholders. Those who most often are cited as being driving forces in the immigration reform movement are members of the agriculture industry, border security proponents, economists, immigrants and nationalists who seek to protect America's character (Stiles, 2014). However, this is an issue that affects a large number of American citizens and has riled passions in unexpected locations. Irrespective of facts, many Americans have strong opinions on the issue of immigration reform and as constituents are guiding many conversations in the halls of the United States Congress (Cillizza, 2014).

S.744 IMMIGRATION REFORM

5. How can the issue be defined?

The issue of immigration reform is both vast and complex, but the specific nature of S.744 creates a dispute that divides those who seek a comprehensive approach and those who seek targeted policies that remedy specific issues one-by-one. In the U.S. House of Representatives, much issue is being taken among Republican lawmakers regarding the blanket approach of S.744 and H.R. 15 (Nakamura, 2014). However, the U.S. Senate and many Democratic Representatives in the House appreciate the comprehensive nature of these proposed policies (Cook, 2014).

6. What is the historical background of the issue?

Modern American society was founded by immigrants, establishing this country as one whose strength came from vigorous innovation and the blending of cultures. American immigration occurred in four eras: the colonial period, the mid-19th century, the start of the 20th century, and post-1965. Each period brought distinct national groups and ethnicities to the United States, with the current era bringing immigrants primarily from Latin America and Asia (History.com Staff, 2009).

Guest worker programs for agriculture and industry became institutionalized with the inception of the Bracero program. The Bracero program was initially prompted by a demand for manual labor with the U.S. government bringing in a few hundred experienced Mexican agricultural laborers to harvest sugar beets in the Stockton, California area (National Museum of American History, 2010). At the request of U.S. growers, who claimed ongoing labor shortages, the program was extended under a number of acts of Congress until 1948. The program was voted out of existence by Congress in 1964, under criticism for exploiting Mexican workers and depriving jobs from American workers (National Museum of American History, 2010).

After the conclusion of the Bracero program, the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965, also known as the Hart-Cellar Act, abolished a system of immigration quotas pertaining to country of origin (Stockweather, 2011). Finally, the Immigration Reform and Control Act, enacted November 6, 1986, reformed immigration most recently. The act required employers to attest to their employees' immigration status, made it illegal to knowingly hire or recruit illegal immigrants, legalized certain seasonal agricultural illegal immigrants, and legalized approximately 3 million illegal immigrants (Equal Opportunity Employment Commission, 2013).

7. What caused the issue?

The Immigration Reform and Control Act, though effective at the time, did not establish long term procedures that would meet America's needs. Agriculture's economic viability is in question due to the lack of a reliable and affordable workforce, the border remains less than fully secure, the country hosts a significant number of undocumented residents and the economic impact of immigration is undetermined (Nakamura, 2014). In order to negotiate the challenges presented by immigration, a new policy designed for current and anticipated circumstances is in order.

8. What are the risks?

If S.744 passes, there could be economic risks to US in terms of expenditures on social services and further job displacement. Some sources indicate that the passage of the IRCA amnesty added nearly \$79 billion to federal expenditures for social services such as public assistance, nutrition benefits, education and law enforcement (Congressional Budget Office, 2013). Additionally, a proposed amnesty may incentivize further law-breaking by legalizing immigrants who initially broke the laws of this nation, further adding to the potential risks associated with the passage of this bill (Chassamboull, 2014).

9. What are the benefits?

The two primary benefits associated with the passage of S.744 are a stable workforce for agriculture and secure border. Proponents of S.744 and H.R. 15 cite studies indicating the proposed reforms will benefit the American economy by providing labor for our most essential industry as well as securing our land border (Congressional Budget Office, 2013). Advocates stress the need for a large-scale, inclusive reform that solves many issues associated with immigration in our country (Kim, 2013).

10. Is there strong disagreement on how the issue should be solved?

Each side in the debate over immigration reform is currently working hard to ensure their case is heard and potential laws meet their needs. All citizens and groups associated with this issue seek to influence policy and the direction of immigration law that meet their needs, with emphasis remaining on agriculture, border security, economics, and the ethical consequences of immigration reform. However, the pending mid-term election may create challenges for the resolution for this issue (Altman, 2014). Regardless, immigration reform deserves a solution that will serve the best interest of the American people.

S.744 IMMIGRATION REFORM

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S.744 IMMIGRATION REFORM

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Organization	Date of Presentation	Location	Number Present
Nor Cal Labor Contractors	2/11/14	Vacaville, CA	33
World Agriculture Exposition, PG&E Booth	2/19/14	Tulare, CA	73
Ecological Farming Association	3/12/14	Soquel, CA	19
Full Belly Farm	3/15/14	Guinda, CA	18
California Human Development, Farmworker Services	3/21/14	Galt, CA	22
Sacramento County Farm Bureau	4/1/14	Elk Grove, CA	30
Congressman Ami Bera's Office	4/16/14	Sacramento, CA	11
U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Citizenship and Immigration Services	4/16/14	Sacramento, CA	10
California Department of Food and Agriculture, Undersecretary's Office	4/16/14	Sacramento, CA	19
California Farm Bureau Federation	4/16/14	Sacramento, CA	12

S.744 IMMIGRATION REFORM

DOCUMENTED FORUMS

Our forum journey began with presentations at Nor Cal Labor Contractors, a farm labor company. They were able to orient us in a stronger direction for our presentation, offering feedback for revisions and several valuable arguments. At the World Agriculture Exposition, we presented to a crowd of significant size and were able to visit with non-agricultural business leaders who seek an economically sound remedy to this issue as well.

NOR CAL LABOR CONTRACTORS

To Whom it May Concern

Nor Cal Labor Contractors is a small family-owned labor contractor service used by agricultural producers in the greater Solano, Napa, Sonoma, Sacramento and Yolo county production region.

The issue of immigration is of the utmost importance to the prosperity of our business and we appreciate the efforts of government agencies to create a solution to the immigration challenges our country is facing. Our business relies on a streamlined visa procedure and H-2A program to maintain a viable food production system for northern California agriculture. Recently the members of GALT FFA presented their agriculture issue "S.744, Immigration's Fix-All" to our staff and several of our contractors. In total, there were 33 people in attendance who have a stake in this issue.

The students did an outstanding job. Their presentation was strong and informative, representing many views of the issues and fairly and presenting all of the key points in this debate. Following their presentation, the students received positive feedback from the people in attendance and were complimented on their willingness to discuss a sensitive, current, and relevant topic. We were all very impressed by their knowledge and ability to deliver content eloquently and accurately. We wish them the best of luck in future competitions.

Sincerely,

Marlene Rodriguez-Wilson
707.616.8751



February 19, 2014

Subject: Galt High School Ag Issues Team - Immigration Reform

To whom it may concern:

Pacific Gas and Electric Company, incorporated in California in 1905, is one of the largest combination natural gas and electric utilities in the United States. Based in San Francisco, the company is a subsidiary of PG&E Corporation.

There are approximately 20,000 employees who carry out Pacific Gas and Electric Company's primary business—the transmission and delivery of energy. The company provides natural gas and electric service to approximately 15 million people throughout a 70,000-square-mile service area in northern and central California.

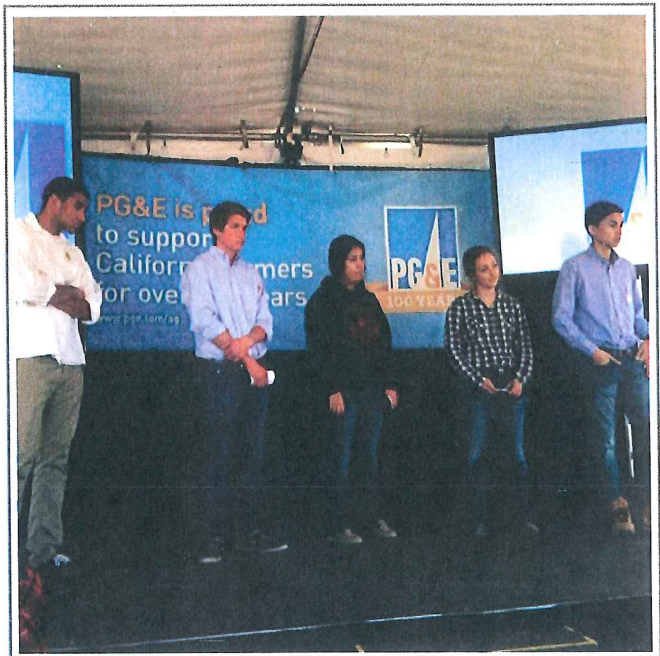
During the World Ag Expo, PG&E's Agricultural Task Force maintains a presence at the PG&E pavilion where they offer assistance, answer questions, and provide informative presentations to Expo attendees. This year, the Galt High School FFA Chapter Ag Issues team delivered their Immigration Reform presentation at the PG&E theatre on Thursday, February 13, 2014 at 3:30 p.m. There were 73 people in attendance consisting of presenters, teachers, the public, and PG&E staff.

The students did an excellent job. Their presentation was strong and informative, representing all sides of the issues fairly and presenting all of the key points in this debate. Following their presentation, the students received positive feedback from the audience on their willingness to discuss a sensitive, current, and relevant topic.

We were all very impressed by their knowledge and poise. We congratulate these young people for their involvement in FFA and being a part of the Ag Issues team. We wish them the best of luck in future competitions.

Sincerely,

Dean Kunesh | Pacific Gas and Electric Company
Sr Business Segment Manager
Agriculture & Business Marketing



S.744 IMMIGRATION REFORM



Ecological Farming Association

2901 Park Ave, Suite D-2, Soquel, CA 95063 (831) 763-2111
www.eco-farm.org info@eco-farm.org

March 12, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

It was an absolute pleasure for the Ecological Farming Association to receive a presentation from the Galt FFA Chapter's Agriculture Issues Team on the topic of immigration reform needs. Our organization, one of California's longest standing nonprofits focused on sustainable and organic agriculture, was thoroughly impressed with the research and positions presented by the talented students from Galt High School.

The presentation was conducted at our organization's headquarters in Soquel. In attendance were board members, the executive director, staff members, including program director and communications director, and farmers. In total, 19 people were present.

The Ecological Farming Association nurtures healthy and just farms, food systems, communities and environment by bringing people together for education, alliance building and advocacy. Immigration reform is important to our organization because it is an important issue to the communities we serve. Though we are not directly involved the dairy industry, many of the farm and farmers who rely on our organization for education and information are passionate about this issue, making it a priority for the Ecological Farming Association.

The presentation completed by the Galt High School students was thoughtfully crafted and developed. Our board members were impressed with the research and time these students had devoted to immigration reform. The students were able to answer our questions completely and were the picture of professionalism.

The Ecological Farming Association was thoroughly impressed with the students from Galt High School's FFA Chapter and we look forward to watching them succeed in the future.

Sincerely,

Hallie Muller
Board of Directors, Secretary
Ecological Farming Association
530-723-3988



FULL BELLY FARM

Fresh, delicious veggies fruits and nuts
CCOF Certified Organic since 1985
P.O. Box 251 • Guinda CA 95637
belly@fullbellyfarm.com • www.fullbellyfarm.com

March 15, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

Full Belly Farm was honored to participate in an agriculture issues forum with Galt FFA Chapter's Ag Issues presentation team on the immigration reform. The students from Galt High School were both knowledgeable and professional, and incredibly receptive to feedback.

The presentation was held at Full Belly Farm on Saturday March 15. Our farm is an organic, diversified farm. We grow fruits, vegetables, and have a myriad of animals, including dairy cows. Though we do use a large number of immigrants, we cannot find enough employees. The farm partners, educational directors, and marketing managers were all present during the discussion and all 18 people in the room were very impressed with the level of thought and preparation that had clearly gone into the development of this agriculture issues presentation.

The staff and owners of Full Belly Farm were excited to see high school students taking a balanced look at the issue of reform. The facts presented were not biased in any one direction and the discussion that followed clearly demonstrated the deep knowledge these students have on the subject of immigration.

We would be so happy to provide any additional needed information regarding the presentation if needed.

Thank you,

Dru Rivers
Farm Partner, Full Belly Farm
530-796-2214

The Ecological Farming Association and the visit to Full Belly Farm helped our team see this issue in action. We were able to interview immigrants, producers and business leaders who have a significant financial stake in the resolution of this issue.

S.744 IMMIGRATION REFORM

Both the Sacramento County Farm Bureau and the California Human Development Farmworker Services provided valuable feedback on the amnesty and ethical elements of S.744 and other immigration laws.



SACRAMENTO COUNTY FARM BUREAU

8970 Elk Grove Boulevard • Elk Grove, California 95624-1946
(916) 685-4958 • Fax (916) 685-7125

April 1, 2014

Galt High School Agriculture
Dane White
145 N. Lincoln Way
Galt, CA 95632

RE: Galt High School Ag Issues Forum - Immigration Reform

The Galt High School Ag Issues team presented to the Sacramento County Farm Bureau Board of Directors and guests on March 25, 2014 at the Farm Bureau office (8970 Elk Grove Blvd, Elk Grove). The Sacramento County Farm Bureau is a non-profit, grassroots, general agricultural organization that protects and promotes agriculture in Sacramento County. It is part of the California Farm Bureau Federation and is the largest agricultural organization in the state.

In attendance were 30 people; including Farm Bureau Board of Directors, two U.S. congressional candidates and their staff, County Ag Commissioner, a representative from the California Farm Bureau Federation and a representative of the State Compensation Insurance Fund. The Board of Directors represented a diverse range of farming and ranching operations in Sacramento County.

The Ag Issues team presented on immigration reform, a topic that Farm Bureau and its members have a thorough understanding.

Farm Bureau appreciates the commitment of these young people to an important and relevant topic in agriculture. We felt the team did an outstanding job in presenting all sides of the issue. The audience had a few areas in which students needed to verify the information they provided. In addition, the audience engaged the team in a discussion on undocumented immigrants, previous programs and reform priorities.

We wish the continued success of the issues team as they compete this year.

Sincerely,

Charlotte Mitchell
Executive Director

To Represent and Promote Agriculture in Sacramento County



California
Human Development

Creating Opportunities Through Citizenship and Immigration Pathways

Farmworker Services
Galt Office
150 Camellia Way
Galt, CA 95632

March 21, 2014

Subject: Galt High School Ag Issues Team - Immigration Reform

To whom it may concern:

The California Human Development Agency, Farmworker Services Branch seeks to create livable situations and stable employment opportunities for American immigrants, legal or undocumented.

The issue of immigration reform is of significant importance to our non-profit organization and we collectively advocate for useful immigration reform that seeks to prioritize human dignity and stable family environments.

Recently the members of GALT FFA presented their agriculture issue "S.744: Immigration's Fix-All" to our staff. In total, there were 22 people in attendance who have a stake in this issue and have either been immigrants themselves or who work closely with immigrants in their daily work.

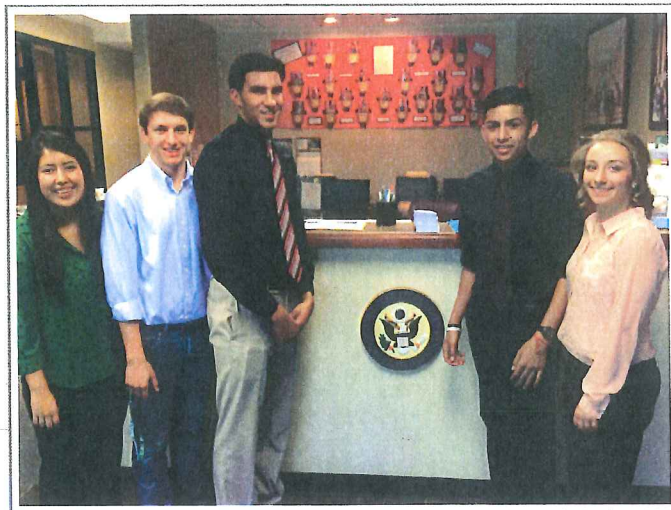
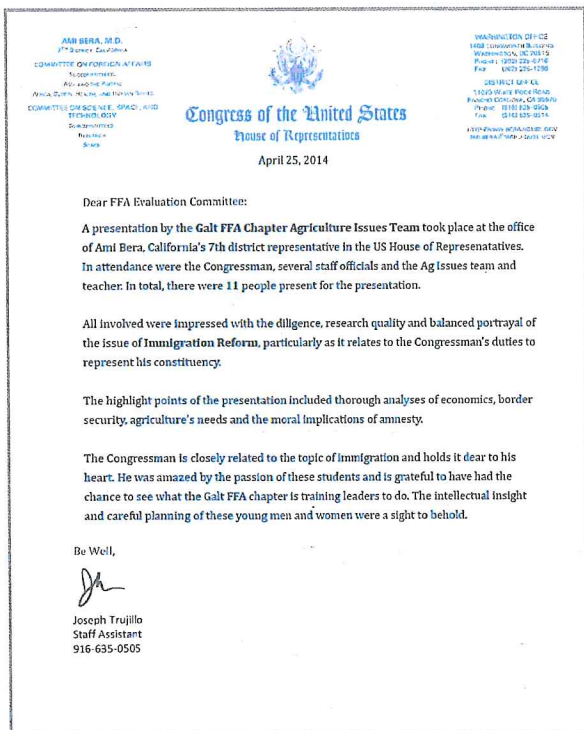
The presentation given by these 5 outstanding students was exceptionally well-rounded and skillful. Their presentation was balanced on all major key points of the immigration argument and gave significant historical context on this issue. Following their presentation, the students received feedback on methods for improvement and were encouraged to visit with many immigrants who have been affected by this issue. We wish them the best of luck in future competitions.

All the best,

Volanda Chavez
916.216.4375



S.744 IMMIGRATION REFORM



The visits conducted at Congressman Bera's office as well as at the Department of Homeland Security provided valuable insight into the perspectives of policy makers and government agencies.



April 23, 2014

Galt High School Agriculture
145 N. Lincoln Way
Galt, CA 95632

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is one of three immigration agencies that is a part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The other two agencies, Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs Border Protection (CBP) are the immigration law enforcement agencies. USCIS is the benefit issuing agency for lawful immigration status in the United States (e.g. green cards, U.S. citizenship, etc.). Our goals include promoting flexible and sound immigration policies and programs and supporting immigrants' integration and participation in American civic culture.

On April 16, 2014, the Galt High School Agriculture Program conducted a presentation on immigration reform at our district office. During the presentation, the following USCIS employees were present: Mari-Carmen Jordan, District Director, Ramon Castillo, Chief of Staff, and Vilaysay "Sai" Chang, Community Relations Officer. A total of 6 presenters and a teacher were also present. The goal of the presentation was to provide two equal points of views on immigration reform so that the audience leaves the presentation thinking about both sides equally. We all felt they did a really good job of covering all the important facts to support their side. Some of the comments included: be more animated while presenting and not just stand still (include more facial and hand gestures), include more personal stories/examples because the information provided was very factual and statistics heavy, speak slower and use more voice inflections at the right moments to stress an important fact/information, and smile more to better connect with audience members.

We very much enjoyed the presentation and were happy to support the students in preparing for their upcoming competition.

Sincerely,

Vilaysay "Sai" Chang
Vilaysay "Sai" Chang
Community Relations Officer
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
916-492-7313

www.uscis.gov

S.744 IMMIGRATION REFORM



Subject: Galt High School Agriculture Program Issue Presentation

To whom it may concern:

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) was created by the California Legislature in 1919 to protect and promote agriculture. The California Department of Food and Agriculture protects and promotes California's agriculture. California's farmers and ranchers produce a safe, secure supply of food, fiber, and shelter. These commodities are marketed fairly for all Californians and produced with responsible environmental stewardship.

The Future Farmers of America from the Galt chapter presented their topic of S.744 Immigration Reform to the staff on April 16, 2014. Present were Sandra Schubert, Undersecretary of Agriculture; Melonie Diaz, General Counsel; Rick Jensen, Director of Policy Affairs and several other staff members. In total, 19 individuals were present for the presentation. Secretary of Agriculture Karen Ross was unable to attend, though she did express her regrets. The event took approximately one hour, with the group receiving feedback after their presentation.

The students did an excellent job. Their presentation was strong and informative, representing all sides of the issues fairly and presenting all of the key points in this debate. Following their presentation, the students confidently fielded tough questions from the state's top experts on the issue and never stepped out of character. They truly did look and sound their parts, both visually and in the manner in which they presented information and spoke dispassionately or passionately as was appropriate for the presentation.

We were all very impressed by their knowledge and poise. We congratulate these young people for their involvement with the agriculture program and the issues team and look forward to working with them in their future agricultural careers. We wish them the best of luck.

Sincerely,

Sandra Schubert
Undersecretary

CDFA Executive Office • 1220 N Street, Suite 400 • Sacramento, California 95814
Telephone: 916.651.0433 • Fax: 916.651.0403 • www.cdfa.ca.gov

State of California
Edmund G. Brown Jr., Governor



Our visits concluded at the California Department of Food and Agriculture as well as at the California Farm Bureau Federation. Both of these visits enhanced our knowledge of the issue as it pertains to the agriculture industry.



CALIFORNIA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

2300 RIVER PLAZA DRIVE SACRAMENTO, CA 95833-3293 • PHONE (916) 561-5500 • FAX (916) 561-4507

April 16, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

It is our pleasure to write a recommendation letter on behalf of the Galt FFA Agricultural Issues team. This group of dedicated students visited our office on April 16th and presented their issues forum on immigration reform to our federal policy and executive staff.

The California Farm Bureau Federation works to protect family farms and ranches on behalf of nearly 78,000 members statewide and as part of a nationwide network of more than 6.2 million Farm Bureau members. The presentation was conducted at the California Farm Bureau office in Sacramento.

This organization works extensive with various policy issues facing California agriculture including immigration reform. California Farm Bureau Federation is a member of the American Farm Bureau Federation who is an active participant in the Agriculture Workforce Coalition which aims at uniting the agriculture community for a comprehensive national voice on immigration reform. Those in attendance were: Paul Wenger - California Farm Bureau President, Rich Matteis - California Farm Bureau Administrator, Rayne Pogg - Federal Policy Division Manager, Josh Rolph - Federal Policy Analyst, Lindsey Liebig - Young Farmer & Rancher Program Coordinator and Kate Tscharnier - Marketing Manager, along with the entire Galt FFA Agricultural Issues team and advisors.

This presentation was very informative and well presented. The group adequately addressed each facet of this issue in an organized and thoughtful manner. Most importantly, they did not make any sweeping claims nor offer content and data that misrepresented agricultural interests in any capacity. Their content, data and proposals were well researched and throughout their questioning portion, they were well educated and comprehensive in their responses.

It was our pleasure to work with this group and encouraging to see such a bright group of young people in our industry. Please feel free to contact me with any questions regarding this presentation or our organization.

Sincerely,

Lindsey Liebig
Young Farmers & Ranchers, Program Coordinator
Marketing and Member Relations Division