



Santa Maria Joint Union
HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
NEWS * NEWS * NEWS
PRESS RELEASE

Friday,
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2025

Santa Maria High School's FFA has been recognized as the Number 1 FFA Chapter in the State of California for 2024.

Each year, over 360 California FFA Chapters are ranked based on their members' achievements. Key areas include the number of American and State FFA Degrees earned, state-winning proficiency awards, state champions in Career Development Events, and FFA Executive Team.

Last school year, Santa Maria High School FFA students earned 11 American FFA Degrees, 41 State Degrees, 1 State Champion Land Evaluation team, 6 Regional Proficiency qualifiers, 3 State Proficiency qualifier, 1 State Winning Proficiency, 1 National Proficiency qualifier and an Executive Team Member.

These achievements are reflection of the hard work and dedication of the Santa Maria FFA members and the nine agriculture teachers, who have invested significant amounts of time and effort into all areas of agriculture education. This includes supervised agricultural experiences, leadership development, Career Development Events and community service, according to Saint Ag Teacher Shannon Powell.

Emma Rodriguez (Senior) states, "I feel extremely grateful to know I am a part of the number one ranked chapter in California, especially knowing I contributed to this achievement by applying for an equine proficiency, being on a CDE team, doing community service and being a part of the leadership team. I'm thankful to all the advisors who have helped cultivate this amazing program."

Senior Gregorio Martinez-Garcia stated, "Before coming into this program, I did not have much to look forward to, but through FFA I realized that it is not just about attending meetings or being involved, it is more about what you give back to the community who you become as a person."

Department Chair Mark Powell added, "The strength of Santa Maria FFA lies in the dedication of its members, teachers, and the support of our community. This recognition is not just a reflection of our success, but a celebration of the hard work, passion, and growth that defines our chapter."

Santa Maria FFA was established in 1931, currently has 9 Agriculture Teachers and 1,050 FFA members.

SMJUHSD Media Contact: Public Information Officer Kenny Klein
[805-709-1454](tel:805-709-1454) or kklein@smjuhsd.org

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