

Student Corner: Agriculture Question

On a warm morning in early August, a small group of Hidden Valley High School (HVHS) students gathered in the school's barn to help the new agriculture program teacher, Trinity Shodin, get ready for school. They agreed to sit down with the *Applegater* and share their thoughts about farming and ranching in the Applegate Valley and what changes or challenges they thought farmers and ranchers might face in the future.

Kendra Caldwell-Ziglar, junior. The growing population is a big challenge already. The need for more housing is taking up farmland and also driving up the cost of land. There are fewer and fewer small family farms.

Kendall Larsen, senior. Fires are obviously going to continue to be a challenge for farmers and ranchers. They will have to be proactive to protect their land and animals and prevent crop loss or damage—for example, by creating wet lines around fields that will be firebreaks when needed during fire season.

Guy Meade, sophomore. Right now not enough younger people are going into farming and that's a big problem. The average age of an American farmer is 60, and the next generation isn't choosing to farm. It's becoming just big business corporations. It's hard for small-scale farmers.

Christopher Woods, sophomore. Marijuana and hemp corporations are buying up the land and putting pressure on family farms. The future looks like all marijuana and hemp and grapes. It's not good to have too much of one thing. A wide variety of crops is better. Also wolves

being reintroduced and recovering is going to be a challenge in the future. Livestock has already been lost in Oregon.

Trinity Shodin, teacher. The cost of land is a barrier to young people getting into farming. Unless you inherit the family farm, getting land to start farming is out of reach for most. In the future, maybe small farms will have local niche markets.

Bonus! Meet the teacher. Trinity Shodin comes to HVHS from Oregon State University, where she earned a BS in agricultural science and an MS in agricultural education. She grew up in Sherwood in the northern Willamette Valley. This is her first teaching assignment.

Trinity and all four students want to encourage community support for the HVHS agricultural programs and Future Farmers of America (FFA). HVHS students with an interest in agriculture who join FFA will develop leadership skills, gain confidence, and learn about farming—big and small. Community supporters can connect through the Alumni and Friends support group for the HVHS-FFA chapter. Contact Trinity by email at trinity.shodin@threerivers.k12.or.us.

Also, plan ahead for three fundraisers in 2020: (1) a dinner and auction on March 7, (2) a plant sale in May around Mother's Day, and (3) the concession booth at the old-time tractor show in Pottsville in June. The HVHS chapter of the Future Farmers of America is the only FFA chapter still active in Josephine County. Let's help them keep growing.

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Kendra Caldwell-Ziglar, HVHS junior



Kendall Larsen, HVHS senior



Guy Meade, HVHS sophomore



Christopher Woods, HVHS sophomore

Student photos by Lisa E. Baldwin

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Enchanted Vine Run supports Applegate School enrichment programs

On Saturday, September 28, come out to Wooldridge Creek Winery and enjoy the kids' run and 5K and 10K races through the vineyards, along with a glass of wine at the end (or sparkling cider for those under 21). There will be live music and food for sale through the winery.

The top three female and male finishers from each race will receive a bottle of Wooldridge Creek wine. All finishers will receive a wine glass and a coupon for wine or beer to fill the glass.

All net proceeds of this race are donated to Applegate School enrichment programs. For more information, visit facebook.com/thewinerun.

SATURDAY, SEPT 28TH



Enchanted

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