



THE GOLDEN SLATE

The official newsletter of the California
Agricultural Teachers' Association

Key Actions from the CATA Annual Meeting

By Matt Patton, CATA Executive Director

The following are actions taken by the California Agricultural Teachers' Association during the CATA Summer Conference in June 2025.

Adoption of New CATA By-laws

A motion to repeal the existing bylaws and adopt new bylaws was presented to the membership. The motion was approved by 99% of members via a digital voting system.

Newly Elected CATA Statewide Leadership

Thank you and congratulations to the following members of CATA for taking on new leadership roles:

- Travis Cardoso, CATA State Treasurer
- Amber O'Connor, Secondary Division Secretary
- Tanya Love, Operations Division Secretary
- Chris McKenna, Post-Secondary Vice Chair

Adoption of New Career Development Events (CDEs)

The membership approved three new Career Development Events: Equipment Technician, Rabbit and Cavy Evaluation & Knowledge, and Agricultural Education. The State FFA Advisor is finalizing locations for these newly approved events.

Softball: Fair Play and Friendly Competition

CATA softball rules and regulations were improved and implemented seamlessly, resulting in a competitive and drama-free tournament.

Budget and Audit

The CATA budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year is balanced and landed in the black. The proposed CATA budget for 2025-2026 has been approved. It was recommended that the governing board explore the implications of lifetime dues for the CATA organization.

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Curricular Code Updates

Updates and changes have been made to the CATA Curricular Code in the following contests. To track specific changes, please use the following link: [CATA Curricular Code](#).

- General Rules
- Agricultural Communications
- Agricultural Mechanics
- Agricultural Mechanics Fair
- Agricultural Pest Control
- Agricultural Welding
- Agriscience Fair
- Agronomy
- Best Informed Greenhand
- Extemporaneous Public Speaking
- Farm Power and Machinery
- Job Interview
- Light Horse Judging
- Livestock Judging
- Market Plan
- Poultry Judging
- Prepared Public Speaking

Outstanding Program Award Amendment

The CATA membership voted to change the categories for the Outstanding Program Awards. The new categories are as follows:

- Middle School Program (stand-alone programs of any size)
- 1 Person Secondary Program
- 2 Person Secondary Program
- 3 Person Secondary Program
- 4 Person Secondary Program
- 7+ Person Secondary Program
- 1-3 Person Post-Secondary Program
- 4+ Person Post-Secondary Program

CATA Awards Ceremony

The CATA Governing Board reviewed plans for the annual awards ceremony, commonly known as 'the banquet.' Each region held polls during its meetings and submitted membership recommendations to the board.

Next, the operating procedures related to the awards ceremony were reviewed. Key points from that review included:

- The host region must work closely with the CATA Governing Board when planning and conducting the awards ceremony.
- The awards ceremony shall be planned to achieve a break-even financial outcome.
- CATA awards will be presented at the awards ceremony.



The responsibility for hosting the awards ceremony shall rotate between regions, as outlined below:

- 2026: San Joaquin Region
- 2027: South Coast Region
- 2028: Central Region
- 2029: Southern Region
- 2030: North Coast Region
- 2025: Superior Region

The CATA Governing Board has decided that the format and structure of the awards ceremony will be determined by the host region. This allows for flexibility in changing both the format and location of the event, at the discretion of the host region. The San Joaquin and South Coast regions have committed to a banquet-style awards ceremony at the 2026 and 2027 CATA Summer Conferences.

