



*Austin La Salle*

## Named regional FFA president

The Firebaugh FFA chapter is excited to announce that one of our members, Austin La Salle, has made it to the regional level and is this year's regional president.

Although at first Austin wasn't so sure about running for office and even though there was a lot of people supporting him and encouraging him to run for the position, he didn't seem to want to run. One night he realized that it would be his senior year in high school, and would have only one more year in the FFA.

Once he realized this, he told himself that he would absolutely not let this opportunity slip through his fingers. From now on he would take every opportunity given to him and would like to allow other members to have the same opportunities he had.

In the San Joaquin Region, there are about 20,000 FFA members. He states, "There are a lot of eyes on me. I will have to be a sort of role model for the 20,000 people that I was elected to serve." He will represent at any and all FFA activities for California's largest regions. But before getting into all the action, Austin attended their regional officer retreat.

At the retreat the regional officers focused on team bonding and planning events for the year. As president, Austin ran a couple of sessions and guided the planning for the officers. At the retreat, they established three goals for the year. They are to promote engagement beyond the FFA through community service, recognize FFA supporters by establishing new ties with county farm bureaus, and promote personal growth among members by creating new activities and workshops.

Austin's highlight from the retreat was learning how to play the game "Mafia". "I learned how to find my team's poker faces, and I found out that I am pretty good at it," he says. The regional leadership this year planned something exciting for it's chapter officer members. "The most exciting part is the chapter officer boot camp. I think it will be a good challenge for their skills and help them bond with their chapter officer team."

*By Paola Gonzalez*