



Thursday, September 24, 2026: AMADOR CO. FARM DAY

Thursday, Sept. 24, 2026: BEEF SOLUTIONS BULL SALE
@ Curran Ranch ~ 100 Cook Rd., Lone ~ 12 to 5pm
[\(1\) circle ranch - Search Results | Facebook](#)

Saturday, October 3, 2026: AES Fall Meeting @ Teresa's Place
Please RSVP to Katherine @ 209-419-0808
Awarding of the 2026 AES Cattlewoman of the Year

October 17, 2026: AES Cattlemen's Dinner/Auction @ A.C. Fairgrounds

Friday, November 20, 2026: AESCW Drive-Thru Dinner

December 4-6, 2026 @ CCA/CCW Convention in Atlantis Hotel & Casino, Reno, NV
[110th Annual CCA/CCW Convention – California Cattlemen's Association](#)

Hello Ladies,

The summer season has just flown by in warp speed for everyone. I'm so pleased the Amador County Fair was a resounding success for our unit, our members and our Beef Ambassadors. In typical style, the AES Cattlewomen's Feature booth and Country Gardens earned First Place awards. The gardens that Jennifer Mason, Denise Ding and Toni La Belle tend also earned First Place awards. (not pictured but worth recognizing the efforts put into these gardens every year)

The Spur Building showcased the talents of Nancy Hawkins, Denise Ding, Jill Jess and Camille Waters in impressive fashion.

The beef show ring didn't disappoint; it was exciting to watch the talent, time and effort Garrett Wunschel and Taylor Tollett exhibited with their market steers. Our ladies always show up strong to support the Replacement Heifer Project and sale.

As your President, watching our local fair come together for weeks before the official opening day and the involvement of the AES Cattlewomen everywhere you look reflects the investment we have in our youth as an organization.

As a final note, I want to recognize Pam as the designer of our amazing newsletter; we would not have this without her time and talent. I hope you are enjoying the new features.

Katherine Kussman-Collins



"The Next Generation" segment is **Bexley Grace Gookin**.

Bexley carries a legacy that runs deep — she represents the 7th generation on both sides of her family to work in the cattle industry. With four generations of women before her proudly serving as members of AES CattleWomen, Bexley is already stepping confidently into her place in that tradition.

She may be young, but she's all grit and heart — checking cows daily, learning the ropes chute-side with her mom and dad, and proving that the next generation isn't just coming... they're already here, boots on the ground.

Bexley is the daughter of Gracen (Santinelli) & Zane Gookin.

AT THE 2026 AMADOR COUNTY FAIR
~ Western Horse Show ~

GRACEN GOOKIN won the Ray Fine
All-Around Cowgirl
&

TODD GANSBERG earned the Doug Mondani
All-Around Cowboy



TOSH TAMANTINI did a 1st-place job
decorating the AES Cattlewomen Exhibit in
the Mercantile Building.
Fairgoers were offered a free cowbell!





DENISE DING is so creative with her scrap metal animal designs.

“Elwood the Emu” received Best of Show, Home Crafts

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**“Charlotte the Spider”** was Best of Show Sculpture in Fine Arts





**Garrett Wunschel did another  
awesome job of winning  
FFA Reserve Supreme Champion  
Market Steer...  
& AES Local Bred @  
2026 Amador County Fair  
CONGRATULATIONS!!**





### AES CATTLEWOMEN IN THE SHOWRING

Teresa Mondani:  
Champion Pen of 3 &  
Reserve Champion Single Heifer

Jennifer Mason:  
Champion and Reserve Champion Hereford Heifers

Denise Ding:  
All Other Breed Champion Heifer



Did Teresa Mondani just bid on & purchase  
Miss Perano's Blue Ribbon  
Replacement Heifer?

Thank you to all of the ranchers and  
families that came out to support the  
Replacement Heifer Show & Sale.

Special thanks to Laughton Ranch for the  
delicious Tri-Tip lunch & to CLM for the  
"refreshments".

Also, a big "Thank You" to the  
Amador County Junior Livestock Auction  
for their year-round contributions.



Cooper  
Cheetam &  
Taylor Tollett

STILLWATER, Okla. – **Taylor Tollett of Jackson, California**, a graduated senior from Amador High School, has been selected for Class XVI of the McKnight Scholars Leadership Program at Oklahoma State University. This distinguished program recognizes high-achieving out-of-state students who exemplify leadership, academic excellence and a strong commitment to serving others.

Made possible by the generosity of Ross and Billie McKnight, the McKnight Scholars Leadership Program is one of the nation's premier undergraduate leadership experiences. Each year, students are selected through a highly competitive application process that considers leadership experience, academic strength and service to others.

As a McKnight Scholar, Tollett will receive a leadership and scholarship package valued at \$87,000. The program includes an out-of-state tuition waiver, a \$5,000 cash scholarship per year for four years and a short-term study abroad program. In addition, scholars gain exclusive access to leadership courses, individual mentoring from upper-level McKnight Scholars, leadership aptitude testing and coaching, and membership in a vibrant network of current scholars and alumni.

Via Press Release for Ledger Dispatch,  
06/17/2026



By JILL JESS: "More Cow Bell", Zinnia  
& Calf in Pasture

By CAMMIE WATERS:  
Longhorn Bull in Open Pasture





by Nancy Hawkins  
**BEST OF SHOW**  
*(pencil & pastel)*



## AES CATTLEWOMEN'S VOCATIONAL & ALTERNATIVE TRADE SCHOLARSHIP

### Contribution Information

The **AES Cattlewomen's Vocational & Alternative Trade Scholarship** was established in 2026 to support students and graduates pursuing vocational training, apprenticeships, technical certifications, licensing programs, academies, and other skilled-trade career pathways.

This scholarship was created to recognize that strong agricultural communities, rural economies, and the beef industry depend not only on traditional college pathways, but also on skilled trades and hands-on professions that allow individuals to live, work, and contribute locally. The scholarship is intended for applicants from **Amador, El Dorado, or Sacramento counties** who demonstrate a connection to agriculture, the beef industry, and their rural communities.

The AES Cattlewomen's Association has approved an annual contribution of **up to \$1,000** from the AES Cattlewomen's Heritage Fund to support this scholarship. AES Cattlewomen is honored to accept private contributions in support of the Vocational & Alternative Trade Scholarship Fund. These gifts help expand our ability to invest in local youth pursuing vocational, technical, licensing, and skilled-trade pathways that strengthen our rural and agricultural communities. We are grateful to each donor who chooses to support this scholarship and help encourage the next generation of hardworking students, tradespeople, and agricultural community leaders.

### How to Contribute

Private donations may be made by check. Checks should be made payable to:

**A CALIFORNIA CATTLEWOMEN HERITAGE FOUNDATION, INC.**

Please include the following note in the memo line:

**Vocational & Alternative Trade Scholarship Fund**

Please mail checks along with the ACCHF form to AES Cattlewomen's President.

**AES Cattlewomen  
c/o Katherine Kussman-Collins  
3370 Dry Creek Rd.  
Ione, Ca. 95640**

Donors may include their name, mailing address, phone number, and email address with their contribution so AES Cattlewomen may properly acknowledge the gift. For each tax deductible donation, please complete the Heritage Foundation form [hyperlink or attached].

Thank you for your generous consideration and support of the AES Cattlewomen's Vocational & Alternative Trade Scholarship.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

California CattleWomen  
Scholarship and Beef  
Education Fundraiser  
2025 CCA/CCW Convention  
Reno, Nevada



**POWDER  
RIVER**  
LIVESTOCK HANDLING EQUIPMENT  
\$4,000 in Powder River Products

Donated by:  
POWDER RIVER - CONLIN SUPPLY COMPANY, INC. - EVANS FEED & LIVESTOCK, INC.  
HAWES RANCH & FARM SUPPLY, INC. - HIGBY'S COUNTRY FEED INC.  
Drawing will be held at the 2026 CCA/CCW Convention  
Atlantis Hotel and Casino, Reno, Nevada - December 4, 2026 at the CCW Awards Breakfast  
DONATION: \$50 PER TICKET  
Checks made out to "A California Cattlewomen Heritage Foundation Inc." a nonprofit 501(c)(3)  
Winner will be notified and need not be present to win / Winner is responsible for prize pick up

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Now Available:  
37% of sales that our unit sells comes  
back to us.  
Contact Katherine Kussman-Collins @  
209-419-0808

In Memory:  
**JUDY ALLEN**

**In Memory: Judith Allen | Obituaries | ledger.news**

