

Thank you for taking the time to consider my application for the CalaverasGROWN scholarship. My name is Olivia Dawe and I have lived in Valley Springs since 2010. My family chose to move to Calaveras County after discovering New Hogan Reservoir and many campgrounds in the Big Trees area as well as the historical town of Murphy's. I moved from Tracy, California with a city population of almost double the population of all of Calaveras County. Moving to Calaveras was a drastic change to my life since I did not know much about agriculture. I was quickly amazed by the friends of mine who raised animals and had their own food growing on their property. Becoming a part of Calaveras has enriched my knowledge of raising animals, growing crops, and the multiple ecosystems right in our backyards.

One thing I love about the community is the ability to live off of your own land. While growing up here I have raised chickens, attended the Calaveras County Fair every year, been involved in growing school gardens, and learned how to ride horses with friends. None of these activities were offered to me while I lived in Tracy due to lack of land and agriculture in my community. Calaveras is an affordable community for young adults to live in and raise their families after high school and returning from college. I love the amazing views and opportunities to learn more about agriculture in my little hometown. Even if you are not interested in raising your own animals or growing your own crops, you have the option to live in a residential community. It is the best of both worlds for many.

As a student in elementary and middle school of the Calaveras Unified School District, I did not have many options towards a future in agriculture since it was not offered to me. Although classes were offered once entering high school, some students had become interested in career paths that they had already explored. I believe that offering elective classes in the lower

curriculum levels could inspire students to go into careers in agriculture at a younger age.

Offering science classes in middle school based around the agriculture of our community could be a benefit to their future as well as Calaveras County's. If we can inspire students to consider agriculture, we can attract more people to stay in Calaveras and return to after majoring in the agriculture field in college.

Living here has shown me the true value of nature and agriculture that nobody in a bigger city will ever understand. Agriculture is something you must experience to completely appreciate. I am so thankful that my family found this community to raise me in and that I have learned so much about the field of agriculture that I would otherwise not know. After graduating college in Nevada, I plan to come back to Calaveras County and teach in the elementary level where I would like to introduce this new agricultural curriculum.