



## “RAISE THE BAR”

When most people think about agricultural education classrooms, they probably think about FFA emblems, pictures of animals and maybe even pieces of metal strewn about the classroom. In some cases, you might be right but if you enter the classroom of Mrs. Allyson Lammiman, you're expectations will not be fulfilled. You will be greeted by the sounds of a churning, fully-functioning aquaculture system as well as sights of a floral shop and snakes in cages. This is not your typical agriculture education classroom and because of this, there are a variety of students within the Douglas County Agricultural Education courses.

Mrs. Lammiman and Agricultural Mechanics teacher, Mr. Hyatt, have worked together to serve the needs of their community, as well as their more than 200 students, in very unique and interesting ways. Mr. Hyatt says that because most of his students stay in the area, he works closely with the welding and fabrication industries in the Carson Valley to make sure the students will be prepared for the most specific of tasks. This has led to increased community support which has also translated into the Agricultural Science courses taught by Mrs. Lammiman.

Mrs. Lammiman teaches a wide variety of classes such as Introduction to Agriculture, Equine Science, Plant Science, Veterinary Medicine, and Natural Resources. She says that one of the greatest indications that her program involves the community is the amount of support

she received a few years ago when the Carson Valley FFA Chapter adopted an orphan colt named Flash. A ranch neighboring the school, fed and housed Flash for the time he was with the chapter while a local veterinary office provided a free cryptorchid surgery that would have cost thousands of dollars. To Mrs. Lammiman, this is one of her favorite memories and something she is very proud of.

The Carson Valley FFA Chapter was chartered on October 25, 1929 and obviously embraces some of that traditionalism within agriculture. It also embraces the progression of agriculture and seeks to expose students to the benefits these technologies offer agriculture.

Both Mr. Hyatt and Mrs. Lammiman incorporate new ideas, strategies, and technologies into their classroom. Mr. Hyatt has recently purchased a plasma cutter which he says has helped his students in finding jobs. Some of the new software and materials needed for use of the plasma cutter are used to teach students many aspects of fabrication and metal work but also math skills such as determining proportions.

Mrs. Lammiman also incorporates a great deal of creativity in her classroom. Students are exposed to and learn how an aquaculture system works as well as are able to use modern technology within their greenhouse to produce fresh flowers and vegetables.

Not only are the

classes at Douglas County High School preparing students with the basic background knowledge needed for careers in agriculture, but they are also able to explore other soft skills to obtain those jobs. A junior in the Carson Valley FFA Chapter, Carson, says that she has learned a lot by participating in the FFA and accredits what she has learned through FFA to helping her obtain a job. Carson said that she had been able to practice job interviewing prior to her first job interview and felt very well prepared.

It seems as if the Carson Valley FFA Chapter is serving the needs of its students and community well. However, there is always room for improvement and both Mr. Hyatt and Mrs. Lammiman hope to develop their program into one that is able to contain three teachers and accommodate more and a wider variety of students. When asked for more specific goals, however, Mrs. Lammiman said, “It’s hard to tell. It seems as if we raise the bar higher and higher each year.”

