

Dear Blythe Chapter, Rotary International

The Palo Verde High School livestock lab was in bad need of repair. Many of the 4" x 4" posts holding up the barns roof structures were rotting off because of termite damage. We found that the lab was infested with subterranean termites that have been eating away the posts from the inside out. This damage caused roof posts to decay and let the roofs drop down onto the pens, making it unsafe for both students and livestock. This also led to a malfunction in the electrical component that feeds power to the heat lamps that are used to keep the ambient temperature of the barns warm at night time and the livestock medication system.

Through the collaboration of advisors, volunteers, students, parents, and the PVUSD maintenance department we were able to remove the bad posts, jack up the roofs, reinstall posts and concrete to make the lab safe for the 2018-2019 school year. We repaired the electrical issues, which allowed us to use our heat lamps and we replaced the medication pump and medication systems.

Because of your generous grant we were able to use the livestock lab for PVHS FFA members, to house 60 market swine, 9 market lambs and 10 market goats. Students were able to experience the opportunity of raising livestock to compete in the 2019 Colorado River Fair. When students raise a livestock project they must pay for the livestock, feed and any medications, vet bills and other added expense. They were responsible for the complete care of their livestock project (feeding, watering, exercising, nutrition, training, health, and daily care). Students don't only learn about the livestock they are raising but also lifelong skills such as; time management, responsibility, financial accounting, budgeting, sportsmanship, and ethics which will carry with them through life.

Funds saved from labor costs by donated time were used to purchase new much needed equipment for the sheep and goat show teams in the FFA program. 10 new blocking and fitting tables and two show equipment tack boxes. This addition of new tables and show boxes has allowed us to expand our Supervised Agricultural Experience in the area of market goat and lamb, giving more students the opportunity to try this area of livestock production, as well as taking pride in their equipment.

Thank you for all you do for our youth of the community of Blythe.

Respectively,

Mark Mullion and Mary Ann Maxfield

Palo Verde High School/Blythe FFA

6678 North Lovekin

Blythe, CA 92225