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Teacher Feature -

Martha Deichler

Superintendent of the Borrego Springs Unified School District

San Diego County

CFAITC board member

Resource of the Month



DID YOU KNOW?!

California produces 60 percent of the roses that are sold in the U.S. every year!

Why did you choose to become an educator?

While obtaining my degree in anthropology at San Diego State University, I took a part-time job as a teacher's assistant in an elementary school. My master teacher convinced me that I had the talent and the courage to be an excellent teacher. Glad I listened to her!

How do you integrate agriculture into the curriculum or activities you teach?

While a teacher, an elementary school principal and now a superintendent, I use our school gardens as outdoor classrooms to make our lessons come alive. These include lessons of agriculture, science, nutrition, social studies, music, art, and even creative writing. There's a school in every garden!

Describe any innovative agriculture-based projects you have been involved in developing.

I work with the San Diego Agriculture in the Classroom group to put together a yearly Teacher Fair where we invite teachers and farmers to come together to share resources and lesson plans. Many wonderful partnerships are built here that help both the farmer and the teacher grow together and our students benefit.

Give an example of how you use agriculture to teach in your classroom or in your program.

With our After School Garden Club, we grow, cook and serve fresh produce from the garden to our students during lunch. Recently, we all enjoyed a salad made from four different types of lettuces grown in California.

Tell us about one person who has most influenced your own education and educational career.

For many years I attend 6th Grade Outdoor School with my class. I learned so much from observing one of the counselors, Big Ernie, on hikes with the students. He had incredible control without ever raising his voice or being punitive. He did this with humor, inquiry and patience and, in turn, he taught them to respect each other, the Earth, the animals and the plants in our world. I use these same techniques while gardening with students.

Tell us about a golden teaching moment.

We are so excited about an upcoming project for our after-school 4-H club. They will be working with high school partners to install garden boxes in many of our rural and isolated trailer park homes. These families live far from a grocery store and now they will have access to fresh food. Our students will serve as "garden ambassadors" and will provide materials and training for the residents.

What is your favorite AITC program/resource/event and why?

I love the California AITC Conference each year! What a dynamic event for reconnecting, gathering new resources, making friends, sharing ideas and learning.

Why is it important for our students to be agriculturally literate and aware in today's society?

I just returned from a trip to a developing country in Eastern Europe. The scenery was gorgeous, but I was shocked by the lack of variety of fresh fruits and vegetables. When I returned and visited a grocery store here in the U.S., it made me realize how much we all take our abundant food supply for granted. Our students must be taught this same appreciation for the work of the farmer or our situation might be drastically different.

1. National Agriculture Week Events

Save the dates! CFAITC is celebrating National Agriculture Week:

- Thursday, March 19: Join us for an exclusive sneak preview of Sacramento's future arena at the Sacramento Kings Experience Center in downtown Sacramento. Enjoy gourmet wine and hors d'oeuvres featuring renowned Chef Tuohy.
- Thursday, April 2: Join us on the Queen Mary in Long Beach for a Glory Days Historical Tour followed by a special luncheon in Royal Salon/King's View Room.

For more information, visit www.learnaboutag.org/agweek/.

2. World Ag Expo Guided School Tour

February 12, 2015

Volunteer tour guides are needed at the 2015 World Ag Expo! For the first time ever, guided school tours will be available to highschool students in the 9th-12th grades. If you are passionate about agriculture and would like to see the World Ag Expo, please consider being a tour guide. There will be a volunteer orientation prior to the World Ag Expo to review the school tour and walk through the grounds to meet the exhibitors that have signed up to be on the tour.

For more information, visit www.internationalagricenter.com.

3. San Diego Children and Nature Collaborative Conference

February 28, 2015

Experience a day of nature-based learning, or choose a mix of nature and other science presentations and exhibits! Meet local nature educators and teachers who are bringing students into nature and learn about local opportunities for field trips and lessons in your schoolyard. All this at the Saturday, February 28 conference of San Diego Science Educators!

For more information, visit www.sdsea.org.

4. A Garden in Every School Symposium

March 14 - 15, 2015

Network with like-minded teachers, parents, garden designers, community leaders, school garden coordinators, and others involved with helping kids make the connection between food, health, and the environment. By encouraging and supporting a garden in every school, Soil Born Farms creates opportunities for children to discover fresh food, to make healthier food choices, and to become better nourished. The event will include; workshops, success stories, best practices, panel discussions, information booths, and delicious food.

For more information, visit www.soilborn.org.

5. California Agriculture Day

March 18, 2015

California Agriculture: Breaking New Ground! The state

capitol will be bustling with excitement as California agriculture comes together to educate legislators and the general public about the various crops grown in the state. The event goes takes place 10:30 am to 11:30 am for elected officials and staff and will be open to the public from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. A stage program will begin at noon.

For more information, visit www.cdfa.ca.gov/agday.

6. Hilmar Cheese Company - School Tours

Guided school tour includes an animated, edutaining movie on how cheese is made, viewing area of employees packaging the "big cheese" (640 lb. crates of cheese) and six hands-on learning areas. Three types of tours are offered: 1) 45-minute free tour with cheese samples. 2) For K-3, tour and ice cream making activity for a total of 90 minutes. 3) For 4th-high school tour and cheese making activity for a total time of 90 minutes. Reservations are required.

Tours are offered at 9:30 am, 11 am and afternoon times as desired.

For more information, visit <http://www.hilmarcheese.com/>.

7. Smarter Lunchrooms Movement Principles & Practices Workshops

It's not nutrition until students eat or drink it! A smartly run lunchroom nudges students toward making better choices on their own by changing the way the food choices are presented. Discover low or no cost ways to promote the consumption of healthy school lunch options and reduce plate waste, using the evidence-based principles and practices of the Smarter Lunchrooms Movement.

Don't miss this FREE opportunity to become a part of the Smarter Lunchrooms Movement in California!

For more information, visit www.cnips.ca.gov/ccgCnpTraining/.

8. Education & Agriculture Together (EAT) Foundation Summer Workshops

Ever walk through the grocery store and wonder where all the food we eat and the clothes we wear come from?

Ever wonder how to teach your students about agriculture when there is so much to learn yourself? Experience a two-unit hands-on workshop you will never forget! Lots of resources and lesson plans for you and your classroom as well as for your garden. Tours, learn by doing experiences, and speakers make this a fun workshop for you and your colleagues! For more information, visit www.eatfdn.org.

9. Garden Classroom Day Camps

Life Lab has an exciting season of Garden Classroom Day Camps! Located on the UC Santa Cruz Organic Farm, Life Lab is pleased to offer day camp programs for children ages 4-14.

Camps include:

- Wildlands and Watering Cans Summer Day Camp- 7-10 years old
- Garden Sprouts Summer Day Camp- 4-6 years old
- Farm and Wilderness Exploration Day Camp-11-14 years old
- Camp Youth Volunteers

For more information, visit www.lifelab.org/camp.



Looking through the lens

Jan./Feb. 2015 California Bountiful magazine

Story by Joyce Mansfield and Christine Souza

From a hay field at sunset, to a harvest's yield, to a moment between child and animal, each picture tells a story.

At the California Farm Bureau we are fortunate to experience such stories and many moments of "spectacular" in images from farms, ranches and country living, particularly through our annual photo contest.

Participants in the 2014 contest competed in five categories: Rural Scenic, Fresh and Local, Kids and Critters on the Farm, All in a Day's Work on the Farm,

and, for children, Budding Artists. Thank you to all who entered and congratulations to the winning photographers.

To see the entire article

visit <http://californiabountiful.com>



Lesson Plan: Bon Ñ la Beef

California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom partnered with California Beef Council to create four professional video clips featuring elementary through high school students preparing recipes to educate students, teachers, and the public about beef, its nutritional value, and its proper handling and preparation. The student-developed recipes use easy techniques and readily available ingredients. Each of the four cooking video clips are paired with educational lesson plans that are aligned to Content Standards for California Public Schools for students in grades 3-5, 6-8, or 9-12.

www.LearnAboutAg.org/bonalabeef/

Book: Morgan McAllister Super Scientist and the Garden Mystery

In this story young Morgan is on a mission to find out what is eating the plants in her garden. This book includes science lessons as well as information on gardening.

ISBN 978-1478724223

Resource: California Farm to School Network

The California Farm to School Network is a statewide initiative that is generously funded by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and Network for a Healthy California to support California specialty crop growers. Students gain access to healthy, local foods as well as education opportunities such as school gardens, cooking lessons and farm field trips. Farm to school empowers children and their families to make informed food choices while

strengthening the local economy and contributing to vibrant communities.

Visit their website to learn about Farm to School in your area and the 2015 Farm to School Conference.

www.cafarmtoschool.org/

Website: AgForKids.com

Ag For Kids is a website that features eight student-based games about plants! Developed by Class 44 of the California Agricultural Leadership Foundation, with support from the California Foundation for Agriculture (CFAITC), in the Classroom the website is a learning tool for California students in grades 2 and 3. The website complements a CFAITC curriculum unit entitled, *Edible Plant Parts*. After playing the games students will have a better understanding of the relationship between plants and people, with a focus on the importance of plants as food, the need for plants in healthy diets, and the long term effect of improving our diets.

www.agforkids.com/



Local Events

Feb. 11, 2015 Discover El Dorado County's Agriculture Teacher Workshop
[El Dorado County Ag in the Classroom](#)

Feb. 13, 2015 Deadline Annual Tulare County Farm Bureau Calendar Art Contest
[Tulare County Farm Bureau](#)

Feb. 25, 2015 Deadline Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Poster and Poetry Contest
[Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau](#)

Mar. 3, 2015 AgVenture San Joaquin County- Lodi
[San Joaquin County Farm Bureau](#)

Mar. 6, 2015 Napa County Farm Bureau Ag Day
[Napa County Farm Bureau](#)

Mar. 10-11, 2015 Kern County Farm Bureau's 30th
annual Farm Day in the City
[Kern County Farm Bureau](#)

Mar. 17-18, 2015 Sonoma County Ag Day
[Sonoma County Farm Bureau](#)

Mar. 17, 2015 San Benito County Ag Day
[San Benito County Farm Bureau](#)

Mar. 25, 2015 Explore El Dorado County's Unique
Agriculture
[El Dorado County Ag in the Classroom](#)

Apr. 25, 2015 San Benito EATs Workshop
[San Benito County Farm Bureau](#)

May 12, 2015 El Dorado County Farm Day
[El Dorado County Ag in the Classroom](#)

May 15, 2015 Napa County Meadow Muffin Golf
Tournament
[Napa County Farm Bureau](#)



Show Your Support for Agricultural Literacy

Help us continue to provide programs and materials to
create an awareness and understanding of agriculture
among California's educators and students.

Make a one-time or recurring donation.

