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### Teacher Feature - Donna Wice

4-H Coordinator- K-12  
Mariposa County 4-H  
Mariposa

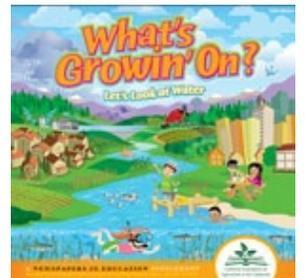
### Why did you choose to become an educator?

I homeschooled my children and we did gardening together, then became a 4-H project gardening leader for 5 years. I enjoy teaching youth about various ag related projects such as sheep and Marine Biology.

### How long have you been teaching or working with students?

I have been the Mariposa County 4-H Coordinator for 16 years. I was a Resource Specialist Program teacher's aid before that working with students with learning

### Resource of the Month



What's Growin' On?  
Let's Look at Water

DID YOU KNOW?!

The first water delivery system established for California agriculture was at Mission San Diego Acala!



California Foundation for  
Agriculture in the Classroom

Specialist Program teacher's aid before that working with students with learning disabilities.

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

My former boss, Wain Johnson, who was our Farm Advisor, County Director in Mariposa pushed me to attend the Farm Bureau meeting to ask for funding from Ag in the Classroom. So in 2001 I finally did and they helped with the financing of the first 3 projects; butterflies, embryology, and Root-View Gardens. It has grown to include other curriculum such as ladybugs, meal worms, Trees to Table, Farm to Fork and more.

**Tell us about a golden teaching moment.**

My co-workers, County Director, UC Master Gardeners, and Nutritionists have held Ag Days at four different elementary schools in the past few years. We have shared information with students about how to plant seeds, how to compost, we have provided information on honey bees, conducted a hands-on activity called pumpkin pie in a bag, shared how American Indians used pumpkins, and how to eat more fiber in ones diet. Even Resource Conservation District representatives had an activity about water sheds. The teachers and students enjoyed all of these activities.

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

I like all of the Ag in the Classroom materials, What's Growin' On? and especially the annual conference. I have attended at least 10 conferences from which I bring home more information to share with teachers.

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

'Ag in the Classroom', a 4-H School Enrichment Program, is a program coordinated with school personnel with use of selected 4-H learning materials as well as some California Ag in the Classroom resources as part of the school curriculum during school hours. They involve one or more sessions with activities led by 4-H Youth Development Program staff, volunteers, and teachers.

In 2013-14, over 1,114 students at six schools, two preschools and one Headstart program were able to have a hands-on learning experience with the following projects: Honey Bee, Embryology, Butterfly Pavilions, Root-View Gardens, Ladybug Land, Praying Mantis, Composting, and more.

It has been so successful that the County Board of Supervisors and Mariposa County Farm Bureau financially support this program.

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

## **society?**

Without agriculture our world would have no food, fewer clothing selections, and no trees to make our homes. Agriculture is the foundation of civilizations. Many people think that food sources just come from the grocery store and have no idea where it is actually grown, prepared, or shipped. Our youth need to know where our food is grown or where it comes from and also know how to grow it, prepare it, and to learn how much to eat of the various foods.

## **1. 2015 California Agriculture in the Classroom Conference - Save the Date!**

**Oct. 22-24, 2015, The Queen Mary, Long Beach, CA**

Join us for the 20th Ag in the Classroom Conference as we go Full STEAM Ahead in exploring agriculture's journey from farm to you. Come aboard The Queen Mary October 22- 24 where you will hear from speakers, participate in workshops, experience fieldtrips and learn how you can incorporate agriculture in your classroom. Registration: \$280. Limited scholarships available. Registration opens online June 1. Please call 916-561-5625 or email [info@learnaboutag.org](mailto:info@learnaboutag.org) with any questions.

### **Call for Proposals**

**Deadline: May 29, 2015**

We are seeking enthusiastic presenters who would like to share their expertise, experience, and educational resources with our conference attendees. Proposals are being accepted to present a workshop or Make 'n' Take, exhibit at the conference, or host "A Taste of California" Dinner table! Call 916-561-5625 or email

[info@learnaboutag.org](mailto:info@learnaboutag.org) for proposal forms.

## **2. CapCUE Mini Grant Application Open!**

**Applications are due by May 8, 2015**

CapCUE supports the Northern California region by providing collegial conversations and professional learning opportunities for educators regarding the use of technology in the classroom. Apply for the Mini Grant Program for up to \$500 in technology hardware or software. Awardees will also receive a free CUE membership and registration for the Fall CUE Conference at American Canyon High School in Napa Valley. For more information visit,

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/11qHxLXg3rb9o8r97QQHeykWsQs21efSURRg8Up-Wt6g/viewform?c=0&w=1> .

## **3. 2015 Schools' Agriculture and Nutrition Fair**

**May 12-16, 2015 at Fairplex, Pomona, Building 10**

Thousands of student and teacher exhibits from more than 60 elementary, middle and high schools in the Los Angeles County and local areas will compete for ribbons and premiums at the annual Schools' Agriculture and Nutrition Fair sponsored by the 48th District Agricultural Association. This year's theme is Know Soil, Know Life. Admission to the Fair is free and school field trips can be arranged with reservations by calling 909-274-2433.

For more information, visit <http://agfair.org/>.

## **4. Look at Agriculture...Organically Educator Grants**

## **Applications are due by May 22, 2015**

\$1000 grants are available to 20 K-8 educators from throughout the nation to creatively enhance their students' understanding of organic agriculture. APPLY TODAY! Some grant ideas: have students set up and operate a compost system for the class, grow an organic pizza garden, create a worm bin and raise worms with the students, compare the look, taste, and smell of organic and conventionally grown fruits and vegetables and through taste tests, and/or set up field trips to visit farms that grow organically and conventionally. For specific grant details and to apply online, visit [www.LearnAboutAg.org/organicgrants](http://www.LearnAboutAg.org/organicgrants).

## **5. Next Generation Science in the Garden Workshops**

**May 30, 2015**

UC Davis Children's Garden

Using activities from the award-winning Life Lab Science curriculum, participants in this workshop learn to use a garden as a meaningful context in which their students can engage in Next Generation Science and Engineering Practices to examine Disciplinary Core Ideas and Cross-Cutting Concepts. See more at: [www.lifelab.org/for-educators/professional-development/gcworkshops/ngss/#sthash.3szJP98a.dpuf](http://www.lifelab.org/for-educators/professional-development/gcworkshops/ngss/#sthash.3szJP98a.dpuf).

## **6. 2015 California Invasive Species Action Week and Youth Art Contest**

**June 6-14, 2015**

California Invasive Species Action Week is a statewide event that aims to increase public awareness of invasive species issues and promote public participation in the fight against California's invasive species and their impact on our natural resources. Events include invasive species removal efforts, native habitat restoration projects, youth educational activities, citizen science monitoring efforts and the 2nd annual California Department of Fish and Wildlife youth art contest which is themed "Don't be a vector! Be a protector!" Contest deadline is May 27. For more information, visit the Action Week webpage at [www.wildlife.ca.gov/CISAW](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/CISAW).

## **7. School Garden Teacher Training**

**June 8 - 12, 2015 or June 29 - July 3, 2015**

Our flagship training empowers educators to weave ecological literacy into your living learnscapes, whether you are just starting to plan your school garden or are years into the process. Join us for hands-on experience & curricular inspiration. Visit [www.oaec.org](http://www.oaec.org) to apply online.

## **8. TASTES 2015 Seminar**

**June 8-11, 2015**

The National Ag Science Center's TASTES (Teacher Agricultural Science Technology Education Seminars) provides teachers of all grade levels with an opportunity to make an agricultural connection in their science classroom. These four-day seminars pair science topics and expert guest speakers with field trips to agricultural operations to see practical applications of each topic. For more information, visit [www.agsciencecenter.org](http://www.agsciencecenter.org).

## 9. California Fertilizer Foundation Grants

### Applications are due by June 15, 2015

Formed in 1999, The California Fertilizer Foundation's mission is to enhance awareness and understanding of plant nutrients and agriculture in California. CFF provides 24 grants of \$1,200 each to California schools each year (12 awarded twice a year). Don't miss your opportunity to apply for the June 15, 2015 cycle by visiting [www.calfertilizer.org](http://www.calfertilizer.org) today!



### Chef mentors students in farm-to-table cooking

Mar./Apr. 2015 California Bountiful magazine

Larry Forgione was one of a handful of chefs who led the nation's farm-to-table movement in the late 1970s and early '80s. Now, the widely hailed "Godfather of American Cuisine" mentors a new generation of chefs hoping to carry on the tradition.

[read more...](#)



### Lesson Plan: Hungry Pests Invade Middle School with New Curriculum

A national standards-based middle school curriculum that brings students on an exciting educational journey into the world of invasive species. Four lessons are designed for easy implementation in middle school classrooms to deepen student knowledge of invasive species through close reading of relevant texts, team research projects, interactive mapping activities, and classroom reflection.

[www.hungrypests.com/resources/HP\\_InvadeMS\\_Curriculum.pdf](http://www.hungrypests.com/resources/HP_InvadeMS_Curriculum.pdf)

### Resource: The Heidrick Ag History Center

The museum is dedicated to enhancing people's understanding and appreciation of California's rich cultural heritage through the presentation of its collection and rotating exhibits.

[www.aghhistory.org](http://www.aghhistory.org)

### Book: *Bugs! Bugs! Bugs!* By Bob Barner

The simple text with vibrant colors provides young readers a positive spin to the bugs they see around their garden and home.

ISBN 978-0-8118-2238-1

### Website: Nutrients for Life Foundation

The Nutrients for Life Foundation aims to educate students about the importance of responsible fertilizer use in growing healthy crops, increasing food production and feeding a growing population. On the website find information for teachers, students, and the

general public.

[www.nutrientsforlife.org](http://www.nutrientsforlife.org)



### County - Local Events

**May 12, 2015-** El Dorado County Farm Day

[www.agintheclass-edc.org](http://www.agintheclass-edc.org)

**May 15, 2015-** Napa County Meadow Muffin Golf Tournament

[www.napafarmbureau.org](http://www.napafarmbureau.org)

**May 19, 2015-** Napa County AITC Spring Meeting

[www.napafarmbureau.org](http://www.napafarmbureau.org)

**May 29, 2015-** Merced County Farm Bureau 4th Annual Teacher Appreciation Wine & Cheese Night

[www.mercedfarmbureau.org](http://www.mercedfarmbureau.org)

**June 8-11, 2015-** San Joaquin Ag Seminar

[www.sjfb.org](http://www.sjfb.org)

**July 21-23, 2015-** Kern County Teacher's Ag Seminar

[www.kerncfb.com](http://www.kerncfb.com)



### 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.**



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