



Cream of the Crop

a harvest of
ideas for educators

CALIFORNIA FOUNDATION FOR AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM



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Teacher Feature - Natalie Stevano

Grades Taught: High School

9th - 12th

Gregori High School

Modesto, CA

How and when did you first learn of Ag in the Classroom?

When I was completing my student teaching for Fresno State at Selma High School. My master teacher and I signed up for a three-day class in order to receive



DID YOU KNOW?!

**Ground beef is the
most popular form of
beef served.**



California Foundation for
Agriculture in the Classroom

college credits. Little did I know it would open the door to so many great resources that I still utilize today!

How long have you taught students and why did you choose to become an educator?

I have just completed my 15th year of agriculture teaching. I became an agriculture teacher because I had an outstanding agriculture teacher at Kern Valley High School - Gerald Wendstrand.

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

I love using the California Ag Commodity Fact Sheets. Each year I begin the first two weeks in all my classes with California agriculture. They are a great source and an easy way to incorporate reading into a lesson as well.

Has agriculture continued to impact the way you educate students?

Any chance I get to incorporate agriculture into a lesson, I do. Agriculture is so advanced now in the technology it uses. The more I can expose my students to it the more doors it opens for them.

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

My mother, she was an elementary teacher for 37 years. She drove me to excel in my educational pursuits from elementary to my master's degree. I learned from her to care for students and spend that extra time doing things to make them feel special/appreciated.

Tell us about a golden teaching moment.

Taking that student who was just put into my class, and opening a whole world of opportunity to them through agriculture education and the FFA.

Do you have any advice for other teachers on implementing agriculture into the classroom?

Utilize the resources from Agriculture in the Classroom. They fit all education levels, and students love all the resources.

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

Agriculture is the heart of our society, without it we would not exist. I like to teach my students that agriculture is involved in all we do, and try to instill an appreciation in them for the industry.

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 California 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 to learn from speakers, participate in workshops, experience field trips and learn how you can incorporate agriculture in your classroom. Registration: \$280. Please call (800)700-2482 or email info@learnaboutag.org with questions.

Call for Proposals

We are seeking enthusiastic presenters who would like to share their expertise, experience, and educational resources with 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!

2. Scholarship Opportunities for 2015 AITC Conference

**CALIFORNIA FOUNDATION FOR AGRICULTURE
IN THE CLASSROOM**

AITC is pleased to offer a limited number of scholarships for California teachers to attend the 2015 California Agriculture in the Classroom Conference, October 22-24. The scholarships will cover a minimum full registration fee of \$280. Depending on sponsorships received, some scholarships may

cover hotel and travel.

CHARLES SPINETTA FAMILY SCHOLARSHIPS

The Charles Spinetta Family is pleased to offer scholarship opportunities for teachers in Amador County to attend the 2015 California Agriculture in the Classroom Conference, October 22-24.

Apply for a [scholarship](#) now!

3. 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, and citizen science monitoring efforts. For more information, visit the Action Week web page at www.wildlife.ca.gov/CISAW.

4. School Garden Teacher Training

June 29 - July 3, 2015 - Occidental, CA

OAEC's flagship training empowers educators to weave ecological literacy into living learnscapes, whether you are just starting to plan your school garden or are years into the process. Join OAEC for hands-on experience and curricular inspiration. Visit www.oaec.org to apply online.

5. TASTES 2015 Seminar

June 8-11, 2015 - Oakdale, CA

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.

6. California Fertilizer Foundation Grant Application

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 today!



Lesson Plan: California Walnuts

Through these lessons students will learn about California walnuts. Through reading and vocabulary lessons they will learn the changes that take place in a walnut orchard through the different seasons (grades 2-3), they will understand the science and economic importance of grafting walnut trees (grades 4-5), and they will interpret and compare nutrition labels to make healthy food choices (grades 6-8). Lessons are aligned to Common Core standards.

Available to download at LearnAboutAg.org/lessonplans

Resource: California Walnut Board

This website will help students have a better understanding of walnuts, better appreciate the history behind California walnuts, and learn the health benefits of eating walnuts.

<http://www.walnuts.org>



County - Local Events

June 8-11, 2015: San Joaquin Ag Seminar
www.sjfb.org

Come meet the authors of the 2014
Imagine This... Story Writing Contest at the
2015 California Exposition and State Fair for a
book signing. Please call (800)700-2482 or
email info@learnaboutag.org with questions.

July 21-23, 2015: Kern County Teachers' Ag
Seminar www.kerncfb.com



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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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