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### 1. Teacher Feature - Jeff Miedema

**Teaches:** Fifth Grade

**School:** Fred Ekstrand School in San Dimas, California



California Foundation for  
Agriculture in the Classroom

#### DID YOU KNOW?!

There is a [black raspberry](#)! It looks like a blackberry, but it has a hollow center, like a raspberry.

Jeff Miedema has been submitting his students' work to the *Imagine this...* Story Writing Contest since 1995. That's only two years after the contest was created. For the past 20 years, Jeff has used the contest to introduce his Los Angeles County students to agriculture. This past year, his student, Chloe Um won the state award for her story, *Healing Kiwifruit*.

**Why do you believe it is important to teach agriculture?**

My students learn about the history of farming in our local community and the rich heritage we owe to the farming industry in our region and the state. Our city, San Dimas, was founded by farmers and ranchers. Although farming has moved out of our region over the years, it is important to know our past. We also need to know that California, as a state, produces an abundance of agricultural products, which provide a healthy economy and elevated standard of living.

**What is your favorite memory from participating in the *Imagine this...* Story Writing Contest?**

My favorite memory is how special everyone in Agriculture in the Classroom made my student feel by setting up a book signing event and on-camera interview. To see my student smiling with happiness from her success as she met so many wonderful people, toured the Capitol, and received her awards was truly an unforgettable experience

**2. Look at Agriculture... Organically!  
Now Accepting Grant Applications.**

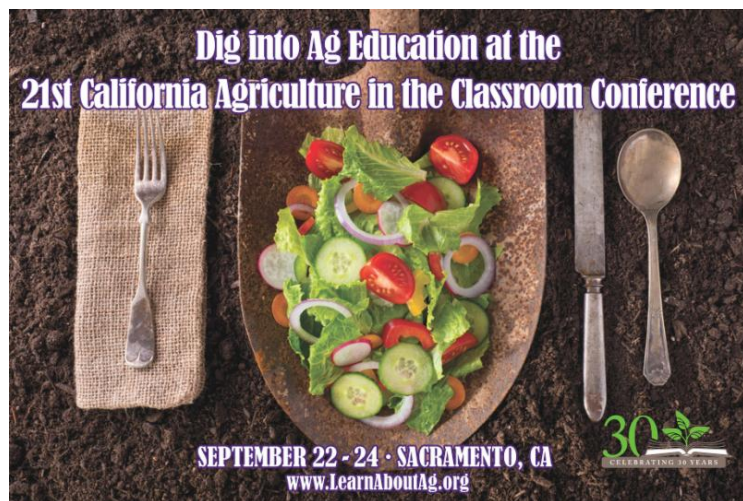
The *Look at Agriculture... Organically!* grants are designed to creatively enhance the understanding of organic agriculture. Grants of up to \$1,000 will be provided to certified K-8 educators nationwide. **The application deadline is Sunday, May 15, 2016. [Apply online.](#)**



**3. Register Now!: California Agriculture  
in the Classroom Conference -  
Sacramento, September 22-24, 2016**

Registration is now open for the 2016 Agriculture in the Classroom Conference! [Explore the list of tours and workshops, and register today.](#) We are still accepting applications to present Make 'n' Takes sessions, exhibit at the conference, or

host a *Taste of California* dinner table!



#### 4. Celebrate 30 Years of Agricultural Education at Poppy Hills Golf Course

In honor of our 30th anniversary, we will be hosting special events throughout the year. Thank you to all who helped make our first event at High-Hand Nursery a great success!

For our next event, we will bring together long-time supporters and new friends for a [Golf Tournament at Poppy Hills](#) golf course in Pebble Beach. Tee off with us on Thursday, July 28, as we swing to link agriculture and education. You can make your payment online or contact Lyn Hyatt to reserve your space at (800) 700-2482 or [Lyn@LearnAboutAg.org](mailto:Lyn@LearnAboutAg.org).

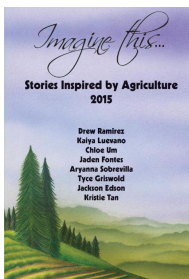


#### 5. Imagine this... Get Ready for Next Year's Contest!

It's time to gear up for incorporating the *Imagine this...* Story Writing Contest into your classroom. Third through eighth-grade students write creative stories based on real facts about California agriculture. The annual deadline is **November 1**. The contest meets Common Core State Standards for **narrative writing**. Tie the [contest](#) into your curriculum: nutrition, California history, geography and climate, ancient civilizations, and more. Have your class brainstorm how agriculture fits into these subjects, and let their imaginations run wild, creating interesting story plots!

Books of past winning stories can be purchased by

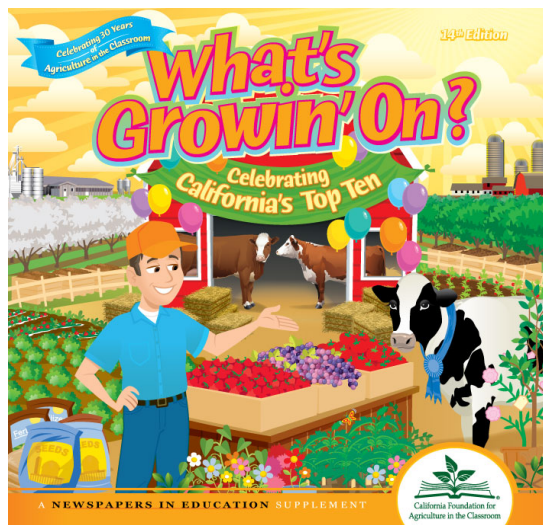




## 6. NEW - *What's Growin' On?*:

### **Celebrating California's Top Ten**

The latest edition of our 16-page student newspaper, *What's Growin' On?* is here! It showcases California agriculture by celebrating the state's ten most valuable commodities, providing information and activities related to milk, almonds, grapes, cattle, strawberries, walnuts, lettuce, hay, tomatoes, and nursery plants. Each page includes a STEM activity, highlighting how science, technology, engineering and math play a role in the journey from farm to fork. A career spotlight helps students discover the many opportunities agriculture provides. [Order your free classroom set!](#)



## 7. Statewide/Nationwide Events, Competitions, & More!

### **Sacramento Floodplain Ecology Institute (6-12)**

- **June 20-22, 2016**
- Free 3-day educator workshop in applied science, research, STEM careers and environmental science

curriculum

- Located at the Yolo County Office of Education and field sites in Yolo and Sacramento counties
- Geared towards grades 6-12 teachers, but open to any grade. [See event details](#) and register

### **Project Learning Tree in Schoolyard Habitats (K-12)**

- **June 21-22, 2016**
- 2-day educator workshop, \$20 cost
- Learn to create schoolyard habitat for project-based learning at Soil Born Farms in Rancho Cordova
- Includes farm-fresh lunch, snacks, curriculum, and more. [See event details](#) and apply

### **Tuolumne River Institute (9-12)**

- **July 12-14, 2016**
- 3-day educator workshop, \$50 cost
- Explore the river and associated habitats and rock formations with UC Davis scientists
- [See event details](#) and apply

### **Diggin' In Teacher Garden Training**

- **July 11-15, 2016**
- Week-long, hands-on training, \$200 cost
- Learn the basics of gardening with children at Soil Born Farms in Rancho Cordova
- Sign up as a 3-person team for reduced fee
- [See event details](#) and register

### **LifeLab NGSS in the Garden Workshop**

- **June, 2016**
- 2-day hands-on educator workshop, \$300-360 cost
- Located at your school or at UC Santa Cruz
- [See details](#) and register

### **LifeLab Summer Youth Camps, UC Santa Cruz**

- **June, July and August, 2016**
- [Register for camps](#) for ages 4-18

### **Camps for Teenagers**

- [Range and Natural Resources Camp](#), Half Moon Bay
- [Farm-to-Fork Summer Academy](#), Sac State
- [Ecology of Water Summer Academy](#), Sac State



## 8. County Ag Days

May 6, 2016 - **Merced County's** [Teacher Appreciation Night](#)

May 10, 2016 - **Solano County Fair's** [Youth Ag Day](#)

May 10, 2016 - **El Dorado County's** [Farm Day](#)

May 13, 2016 - **Tulare County's** [AgVentures](#)

June 6-9, 2016 - **San Joaquin County's** [Ag in the Classroom 4-Day Course](#)

## 9. More Ways to Learn About Ag

**Los Angeles County** - A series of free Smart Gardening beginner and advanced workshops are being offered from **now until the end of May** by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works. See the [full schedule](#).

**Napa County Farm Bureau** - The Annual Meadow Muffin Ag Education Golf Classic takes place on Friday, **May 13, 2016**. [Register online](#) with the Napa County Farm Bureau.

### **Plumas, Tuolumne, Shasta and Humboldt County**

- The Forestry Institute for K-12 teachers will be held in four counties throughout **June and July**. [See event details](#).

### **King's County - Education & Agriculture Together (EAT) Foundation's Summer Workshop Dates:**

- Session 1: **June 13-16, 2016**
- Session 2: **July 11-14, 2016**

**Amador, El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo and Yuba County** - The Sacramento Valley Chapter of the California Women for Agriculture is offering two scholarships for high school seniors and undergraduate students from the area. The deadline is June 30, 2016. [See details](#) and apply.

**Merced County** - Hilmar Cheese Company offers free [educational tours](#).



## 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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