

# Cream of the Crop

a harvest of  
ideas for educators

CALIFORNIA FOUNDATION FOR AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM

## October is National Farm to School Month! #F2SMonth In this issue...

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California Foundation for  
Agriculture in the Classroom

### DID YOU KNOW?!

Basil is an annual herb, which grows, flowers and produces seed in one season.  
[Source: California Bountiful](#)



## 1. Teacher Feature - Jami Beck

**Teaches:** Second Grade

**School:** Three Rivers Elementary in Three Rivers, California

Jami Beck has been teaching for 12 years (7 years teaching fifth grade and 5 years teaching second). Jami attended her first California Agriculture in the Classroom Conference this past month. Using materials she gathered at the conference, she created an "I'm AgCited" bulletin board!

### **How was your experience at the California Agriculture in the Classroom Conference?**

This was one of the best conferences I have ever been to. I was always intimidated when it came to ag because I thought you needed to have a strong background in science. The conference gave me the confidence and resources I needed. My students have already tasted pistachios, almonds and honeydew melons. They love #TryItTuesdays and they can't wait to count the honeydew melon seeds. I'm also hoping to plan a field trip to a local orchard or dairy.

### **How did your students like the new bulletin board display?**

You should have seen my young students' faces when they saw the bulletin board Monday morning. They can't wait to learn about agriculture!

### **Why do you think it is important to teach students about agriculture?**

I think it is important for students to LearnAboutAg® because we need to know where our food and clothing come from. Ag is bigger than the school garden. I found this out by attending the California Agriculture in the Classroom Conference.

## 2. DIG-IT in Your School Garden!

Attention K-5 teachers interested in gardens! Can you 'DIG-IT'? We're partnering with Tractor Supply Company to offer \$500 gift cards to support school gardens! See if your school is eligible to [apply](#). **The deadline is October 15, 2016.** \*Schools must be [within 35 miles of a Tractor Supply Company store](#).



### 3. *Imagine this...* Story Writing Contest



It's time to write! The *Imagine this...* Story Writing Contest is open to all **California third through eighth-grade students**. Students write creative narratives about California agriculture, for a chance to be published. The annual deadline is **November 1**. All students who write stories will receive a FREE packet of seeds! [Explore prompt ideas, past-winning stories, author interviews and more!](#) Contact [Jennifer@LearnAboutAg.org](mailto:Jennifer@LearnAboutAg.org) with questions. Download the [promotional flyer/entry form](#).

### 4. California Local Produce CRUNCH - October 24, 2016

In celebration of [National Farm to School Month](#), the California Farm to School Network is encouraging teachers to take part in a California Local Produce CRUNCH activity. Eat a crunchy fruit or vegetable with your students on **October 24**. [Register online](#) to show you are a part of this statewide celebration! #F2SMonth



## 5. Thank you, conference attendees and sponsors!

The 2016 California Agriculture in the Classroom Conference was a great success thanks to our enthusiastic attendees, amazing presenters and generous sponsors. Check out the photo [archive](#) on our website. See more photos on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#). Thanks to all who shared posts with **#CATEachAg16**! We encourage you to keep the conversation going. If you attended the conference but have not yet completed the online survey, [click here!](#)



## 6. Featured Resource - Farm to You: Beef Cattle

Starting with the sun, there is quite a journey to bring our food from *Farm to You*. This new teaching resource includes a colorful illustration, real-life photos, and hands-on lesson plans and activities to help students understand the people and processes involved from *Farm to You*. This first edition focuses on beef cattle. [Download or request a print copy.](#)



### **Santa Cruz School Food and Garden Tour (K-8 educators)**

- **October 13, 2016**
- 1-Day tour of school sites, cost \$150/\$180.
- The tour is hosted by Life Lab and is open to anyone interested in school food or school gardens.
- Learn about garden design, best practices and how to bring academic learning to life in your garden.
- [Sign up online.](#)

### **2nd Annual Tri-County Growing Edible Education Symposium (K-12 educators and community members)**

- **October 14-15, 2016**
- 2-Day Symposium in Santa Paula, cost \$30- \$100.
- Visit garden, food service and farm education programs.
- Share best practices for teaching food and nutrition at this event hosted by the Ventura County Farm to School Collaborative.
- [Register online.](#)

### **Explorer Days - Sustainable Bioenergy: From Plants to Biofuels**

- **October 27, 2016**
- This free event includes a presentation and tour of the Joint BioEnergy Institute laboratories.
- The event takes place from 3-5 p.m. in Emeryville.
- Visitors 14 years old and up are invited.
- [RSVP online.](#)
- This event is part of the [Bay Area Science Festival.](#)

### **Winter Field Trips at the UC Santa Cruz Farm**

- **January through March, Tuesdays and Thursdays**
- Plan a field trip for students in grades 3-5.
- Participating teachers receive a packet of pre- and post-visit lessons to extend the learning into the classroom.
- Life Lab offers a variety of student field trip and educator workshops year-round.
- [Make a reservation.](#)



## **10. County Ag Activities**

October 15, 2016 - **San Diego County's [Master Gardener Workshop](#)** - San Diego Ag in the Classroom is partnering in this educational workshop for teachers. Learn to tie classroom learning to your school garden program.

October 15, 2016 - **Lake County's [Heroes of Health & Safety Fair](#)** - The [Lake County Farm Bureau](#) will take part in this community event, which includes fun and educational activities.

November 5, 2016 - **Ventura County's [Farm Day](#)** - Enjoy a family-friendly Saturday of tours, farm-fresh food, live music and fun activities. Experience Southern California agriculture through the eyes of farmers and farm workers.

## 11. More Ways to Learn About Ag

**Journey 2050** - [Journey 2050](#) takes students on a virtual simulation that explores world food sustainability. Using an inquiry-based approach the program encourages students to make decisions and adjust them as they see their impact on society, the environment and the economy at a local and global scale. [Learn more now.](#)

**Ag Careers** - Did you know 1 in 3 people worldwide work in agriculture? Virtual Field Trips are coming soon to [AgExplorer.com](#)! This new website was created by National FFA and Discovery Education to help students discover the broad range of career opportunities agriculture offers. Look for the first Virtual Field Trip coming in November.

**Sacramento, Placer and El Dorado counties and the City of West Sacramento** - The 2017 Water Spots Video Contest is open to all middle and high school students in the area. Judging will be based on creativity, entertainment value, accuracy, originality and incorporation of the water efficiency topic. [Learn more and register online.](#)



### 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.](#)

### Stay Connected

