



California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom

## Fantastic Ag Fact:

Artichoke plants usually remain in production for 5 to 10 years. [Learn more!](#)



## In this issue...

- [Teacher Feature: Lisa Liss](#)
- [2017 California Ag in the Classroom Conference](#)
- [Featured Resources: Track Your Nutrition Ag-Bite](#)
- [More Ways to LearnAboutAg®](#)
- [Grant Feature: Lowe's Toolbox for Education Grant Program](#)
- [Community Events for Educators and Students](#)
- [Support LearnAboutAg®](#)



Photo of the Month: Flournoy Elementary School had four Regional Winners in the *Imagine this...* Story Writing Contest. Farm Bureau President Paul Wenger presented the awards at Tehama County Farm Bureau's 99th annual meeting.



## Teacher Feature

### Lisa Liss

**Teaches:** Fifth Grade/School Garden Coordinator

**School:** Woodlake Elementary School in Sacramento, California

Lisa Liss is the 2016 Outstanding Educator of the year. She spoke to attendees at the California Farm Bureau Federation's Annual Meeting, explaining how she has seen agriculture's positive influence on her students. Lisa has received a Literacy for Life grant and Look at Agriculture... Organically! grant for her hands-on gardening and cooking projects.



### What inspires you to teach about agriculture?

Teaching agriculture in the classroom just makes sense! Throughout my 29 years of teaching, I have learned that being outside and working in the soil helps more than our plants; it helps our souls.

### How do you integrate agriculture into English Language Arts?

I continue to combine literature with garden projects as much as I can. No subject should be taught in isolation. Combining subjects while getting kids outside in nature work hand-in-hand and result in success. My proudest example is how my class learns about tolerance, history and agriculture by reading *Diary of a Young Girl*. While reading the story, my students learned that Anne Frank and her family received 24 full trays of strawberries from their host while in an annex hiding from the Nazis. Her family had owned a pectin shop, so they knew how to make jam, which became the staple for her family at breakfast, lunch and dinner. This gave my class and me the idea to make our own jam from the strawberries in our garden. Making strawberry jam was a highlight for my students - chopping, stirring and processing the jam, while creating memories together.

#### **Tell us about your latest project, *Jammin' in Our Jammies*.**

*Jammin' in our Jammies* is our newest project. My class makes jam and jellies, bakes bread, and also hosts a pajama day with our second-grade buddies as we read books together.



LearnAboutAg®

## SAVE THE DATE!

### 2017 Agriculture in the Classroom Conference

July 14-15, 2017

Visalia, CA!



Do you love teaching ag? We are seeking enthusiastic presenters who would like to share their expertise, experience, and educational resources with our conference attendees.

Proposals are now being accepted to present a Workshops or Make 'n' Take, Exhibit at the conference or host a "A Taste of CA" dinner table.

[Submit your proposal today!](#)



Featured Resource

### New Ag-Bite: Track Your Nutrition!



ON YOUR MARKS, GET SET, GO! Join the track meet! Learn fun facts about the food groups and how your body uses the foods you eat. Get ready to get active! This Ag-Bite is geared for grades 9-12. [Download your free copy today!](#)

## Carton 2 Garden Contest

Enter the [Carton 2 Garden Contest](#)! Re-purpose milk and juice cartons to build or enhance your school garden. Schools who best use cartons will win one of 14 prizes. The grand prize is valued at \$5,000. Entries are due April 12, 2017. All US schools are eligible to apply. This contest is offered by Evergreen Packaging and KidsGardening.org.

## Purple Plow Challenge

Through the [Purple Plow Challenge](#), students in grades 6-8 research scenarios related to food, hunger and sustainability and build their own prototypes to solve problems. Participating teachers receive resources aligned to national standards and reviewed by industry experts. The project is provided by the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture.

## 2017 Water Spots Video Contest

The [2017 Water Spots Video Contest](#) is open to middle and high school students in Sacramento, Placer, and El Dorado counties and the City of West Sacramento. Students make creative and entertaining videos, using the water efficiency theme. The contest is provided by The Sacramento Bee's News in Education (NIE) program and Regional Water Authority.

## Best STEM Books 2017

This is the inaugural year for the ["Best STEM Books"](#) list! After nearly one year of study, the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) and three other groups have collaborated to create a list of the best STEM literature for young readers.

 Grant Feature

## Lowe's Toolbox for Education Grant Program



Lowe's offers grants for enhancing school landscaping (both indoor and outdoor). Project ideas include reading gardens and vegetable gardens. Any public K-12 school or non-profit parent group associated with that public K-12 school can apply. Annual Deadline: February 9, 2017. [Apply online.](#)

See [other grant opportunities](#) at LearnAboutAg.org.

 Community Events

## For Educators

### [National Science Teachers Association Conference](#)

Discover the latest content, teaching strategies and

Los Angeles, CA

March 27-29,  
2017

research at this event organized by the National Science Teachers Association. Registration is \$275. Explore <a href="#">7 ways to get funding</a> to attend.		
<b><a href="#">NGSS and Common Core in the Garden Workshops</a></b> Engage students in standards through your school garden. The event is offered by Life Lab. Graduate credit is available. Fees vary with location.	Santa Cruz, CA or Your School Garden Location	March 2017
<b><a href="#">Forestry Institute for Teachers (FIT)</a></b> A multi-day residence workshop providing K-12 teachers with knowledge, skills and tools to effectively teach their students about forest ecology and forest resource management practices.	Meadow Valley, Sonora, Shingletown or Arcata	Summer 2017
<b><a href="#">2017 First Peas to the Table Contest!</a></b> The American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture is inviting your classroom to participate in a national pea growing contest. This contest is for grades K-5.	Nationwide	Contest ends May 15, 2017

## For Youth

<b><a href="#">World Ag Expo School Tours</a></b> Tours are available for <b>junior high, high school, and college</b> students. Admission is \$5 per student.	Tulare, CA	February 16, 2017
<b><a href="#">2017 National Agriculture Day Poster Contest</a></b> The contest is open to students in <b>grades K-6</b> in Santa Cruz County.	Santa Cruz County	February 22, 2017 (Deadline)
<b><a href="#">2017 National Agriculture Day Poetry Contest</a></b> The contest is open to students in <b>grades 7-12</b> in Santa Cruz County.	Santa Cruz County	February 22, 2017 (Deadline)
<b><a href="#">San Joaquin County's Ag Venture in Lodi</a></b> Ag Venture is a program for San Joaquin County <b>3rd grade</b> students.	Lodi, CA	February 28, 2017
<b><a href="#">2017 Ag Career Expo</a></b> <b>Junior high and high school</b> students will have the opportunity to meet ag industry professionals.	Tulare, CA	March 15, 2017
<b><a href="#">Kern County's Farm Day in the City</a></b> The program is open to students in <b>grades 2-4</b> .	Bakersfield, CA	March 21-22, 2017
<b><a href="#">LA County 2nd Annual Kid's Ag Day (Antelope Valley)</a></b> The program is open to students in <b>grades 3-4</b> in the Antelope Valley area.	Lancaster, CA	April 12, 2017
<b><a href="#">Yolo County Farm Connection Day</a></b> The annual farm day is offered to students in <b>grades K-6</b> to learn all about agriculture.	Woodland, CA	May 5, 2017
<b><a href="#">El Dorado County's Farm Day</a></b> The program is open to <b>3rd grade</b> students. El Dorado Ag in the Classroom also offers Discover Field Trips for <b>preschool and kindergarten</b> students.	Placerville, CA	May 9, 2017
<b><a href="#">2017 Ag Day LA</a></b> The program is open to students in <b>grades 3-4</b> across Los Angeles County.	Pomona, CA	May 17-18, 2017
<b><a href="#">AgVentures! Learning Center</a></b> Tours of the Learning Center are available year-round for <b>elementary</b> school students. Cost is \$3	Tulare, CA	(Year-Round)

per student.

**Winter Field Trips of the UC Santa Cruz Farm**

The program is offered for students in **grades 3-5**.  
Cost is \$125 per class.

Santa Cruz, CA

January - March,  
2017



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### Show Your Support for Agricultural Literacy

Help us continue providing programs and materials that create an awareness and understanding of agriculture among California's educators and students. Make a one-time or recurring [donation](#).

Stay Connected! @LearnAboutAg

