



Cream of the Crop

A harvest of ideas for educators

May 2017



California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom

Fantastic Ag Fact:

California produces over 95% of the nations apricots!

 Share the Crop



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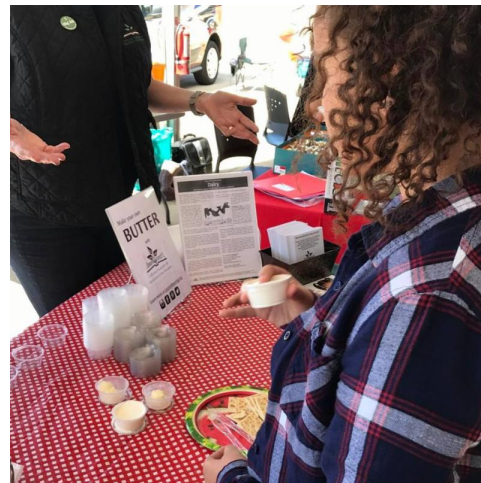


Photo of the Month: Staff members taught students how to make butter from heavy whipping cream at the SMUD Bring Your Child to Work Day!



Teacher Feature

Jennifer Stone

Teaches:

Transitional Kindergarten

School: Isabelle Jackson Elementary,
Elk Grove Unified School District

What is your favorite memory from an Ag in the Classroom Conference?

That is hard to choose! The 2015 conference in Long Beach aboard the Queen Mary was an amazing experience. Visiting such a historic vessel was quite special. Additionally, the field trip we took to the Centennial Farm on the Orange County Fairgrounds was incredible. The farm is such a great model of how students can learn about

crops, animals, and agricultural products. While there, we observed a preschool class holding baby chicks, we saw the leather workshop for high school students, and the garden that the after-school program works on and eats from!



How long have you been teaching agriculture in your classroom?

I have been teaching for twelve years. While I always taught nutrition and planting as a part of my curriculum, I have focused on incorporating additional agricultural education more recently, starting with my first Ag in the Classroom Conference in 2012. I have also used Ag in the Classroom resources with 3rd-6th grade students in our after-school honors program. We studied careers in agriculture, cow and pig digestive systems, food safety, and honeybees and colony collapse disorder.

The students learned about the Haagen Dazs honey bee haven at UC Davis and how honeybees are vital to all food we eat, even ice cream! They made ice cream in a bag, and experimented with adding different flavors to the ice cream they made.

What inspired you to start teaching agriculture in your classroom?

I want students to know where their food comes from, how to make informed decisions about what foods they eat, and how agriculture truly is involved in every moment of our lives, from the clothes we wear, the water we use, the paper we write on, and how we conserve our resources. Recycling, upcycling, water conservation, and soon composting are all integral parts of my curriculum. I look forward to growing a pizza ingredient garden with my students next year, utilizing compost that they have helped develop.

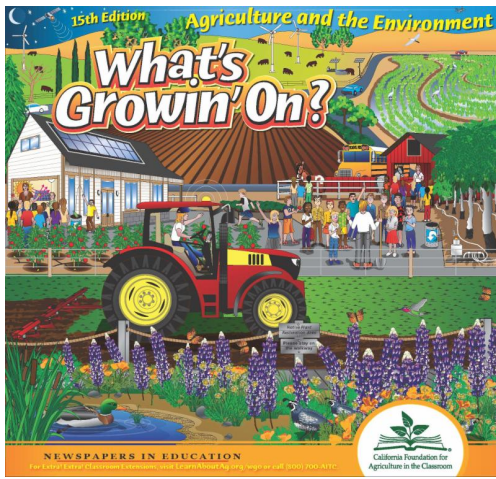
What is your favorite success story from teaching agriculture in your classroom?

One of my favorite lessons stems from a poster I saw at my first Ag In the Classroom Conference. "There is a chance your students think chocolate milk comes from a brown cow." It inspired me to really investigate what my students knew about where their food comes from. When studying cows and learning about milk, the students also learned about products that milk is used for, yogurt, ice cream, and butter. Each student had the chance to make butter in a small cup. Watching the looks on my students' faces as they observed the cream separating into the butter and buttermilk was fantastic! The kids also learned how much effort is required to make butter, and helped them develop an appreciation for our natural resources.



Featured Resource

**What's Growin' On?
Agriculture and the Environment**



The annual edition of the *What's Growin' On?* student newspaper shows the close connection between how food is grown, how farms are sustainable, and the role all of us have in taking care of the environment. Featured this year are citizen science and service learning projects for students to extend their learning beyond the classroom.

California Teachers:
Order your free
classroom set today!



2017 Agriculture in the Classroom Conference
July 14-15, 2017
Visalia, CA!



Join us in the heart of California Agriculture as we Grow Our Future! Learn about the importance of educating our youth about food and fiber through all subject areas. Agriculture is everywhere and in everything we do!

Sign up to present a Make 'n' Take today!

[Find more information here!](#)

Registration now open!!



Look at Agriculture... Organically!
Grant Application CLOSING SOON!
Deadline: May 15, 2017

The *Look at Agriculture... Organically!* grants are designed to creatively enhance the understanding of organic agriculture for kindergarten through eighth grade students. Grants of up to \$1,000 will be



provided to K-8 educators nationwide.

[Apply online!](#)

More Ways to LearnAboutAg[®]

National Science Teachers Association

Reading science trade books is the perfect way for students to build literacy skills while learning science content. The National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) has assembled a list of these books in cooperation with the Children's Book Council (CBC).

Learn more on the [NSTA website](#).

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 on a local and global scale. Visit [Journey 2050](#) for more information!

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.

Grant Feature

Green Thumb Challenge Grant



The Green Education Foundation and Gardener's Supply Company have teamed up on an exciting funding opportunity for established youth garden projects nationwide! The organizations are calling on schools and youth groups to submit chronicles of their garden projects in a race to win a \$250 prize.

Deadline: September 30, 2017

[Apply Online!](#)



Community Events

For Educators

| | | |
|---|--|---------------------------|
| <p>2017 First Peas to the Table Contest! 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.</p> | Nationwide | Contest ends May 15, 2017 |
| <p>Project Learning Tree Restoration Institute Use curriculum to create and use wildlife habitat at your school! Enjoy three days of hands-on lessons to help teach common core and NGSS. Registration deadline: June 9, 2017</p> | Carmichael, CA | June 27-29, 2017 |
| <p>Forestry Institute for Teachers (FIT) 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.</p> | Meadow Valley, Sonora, Shingletown or Arcata | Summer 2017 |

For Youth

| | | |
|--|-------------------|------------------|
| <p>El Dorado County's Farm Day The program is open to 3rd grade students. El Dorado Ag in the Classroom also offers Discover Field Trips for preschool and kindergarten students.</p> | Placerville, CA | May 9, 2017 |
| <p>2017 Ag Day LA The program is open to students in grades 3-4 across Los Angeles County.</p> | Pomona, CA | May 17-18, 2017 |
| <p>Summer Steam Maker Festival Take a free field trip to the San Diego Fair! Demonstrations, hands-on activities, and challenges. Registration deadline: Friday, May 12, 2017</p> | Del Mar, CA | June 14, 2017 |
| <p>California Range & Natural Resources Camp Applications are now open! Range Camp is an environmental science & management camp for high school students from across California. Application deadline: April 28, 2017</p> | Half Moon Bay, CA | June 18-23, 2017 |
| <p>Farm Camp This summer day-camp is an opportunity for students to see a real organic vegetable row crop and fruit orchard farm.</p> | Watsonville, CA | Summer 2017 |
| <p>AgVentures! Learning Center Tours of the Learning Center are available year-round for elementary school students. Cost is \$3 per student.</p> | Tulare, CA | (Year-Round) |



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



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