



# Cream of the Crop

A harvest of ideas for educators

December 2017



California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom

## Fantastic Ag Fact:

California leads the nation in total squash production (20%).

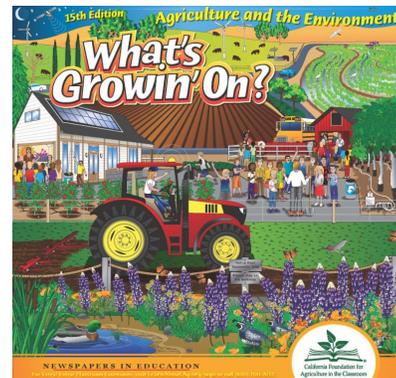


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Thanks to a grant, we are able to provide large quantities of this year's "What's Growin' On?" Student Newspaper! Order this resource for community events in your area!



LearnAboutAg®

## Congratulations to the Regional "Imagine this..." Winners!

California students in grades 3-8 creatively explored where their food comes from by writing narrative stories. The winning stories from each grade are being illustrated by high school art students and published in our annual story book, Imagine this... Stories Inspired by Agriculture.

With more than 1,300 stories written this year, the competition was steep! 48 stories were selected as Regional Winners.

[Find them here!](#)



Teacher Feature

## **Carmel Spaulding**

Agriculture Instructor  
Monache High School  
Porterville, CA

Past California Foundation for  
Agriculture in the Classroom  
Grant Recipient

### **Describe your grant project.**

Our grant project was the Monache Farmer's Market and 5K run. This is a special project because the entire Monache Agriculture Department participated in the activity. Additionally it is a long term project, starting in October, and ending with the actual market, where students showcase the vegetable plot, and Monache school farm. This is an annual activity that is designed to showcase our school farm to the community. This year the Ag in Classroom grant helped us pay for our t-shirts, that were student designed. We were able to not only advocate for agriculture, but we also gave t-shirts to participants in the 5K run. The project really gives students "ownership" in a community activity. The Ag in the Classroom grant also helped fund supplies and vegetable plugs that the students grew and sold at the Farmers Market.



### **How has Ag in the Classroom helped your efforts?**

I am a HUGE advocate for Ag in the Classroom. I am always using their resources to improve my learning environment. I LOVE AG- having grown up on a cattle ranch- FFA member, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo graduate, and being involved in agriculture ALL MY LIFE. I don't know any other opportunity for students to be successful that teaches about success, leadership, and more importantly teaches them about responsibility and character and to become stewards of the land. Agriculture is MY life, and I wouldn't have been successful without it, so I try to "pay it forward" and instill the enthusiasm for the industry to my students.

### **What advice would you give teachers wanting to teach agriculture?**

My biggest advice would be to "STAY POSITIVE", stay away from the negative. Keep focusing on the positives, and little by little you will build a great program. Take a deep breath and focus on your program, and what you want to do to be successful. Little steps-always moving forward.

I strongly believe in advocating for agriculture. Unfortunately we have moved away from an "ag" based society. Too much misinformation, and we haven't been advocates of what we do right. It is vitally important that we continue to tell our story, and get our message across. If just one student goes into the ag industry- we have been successful. If just one student gets the "ag" experience- our jobs as educators is complete. One student at a time- we can move mountains.

Stay positive, and focus on what you love. Take time to invest in yourself- it is worth it! Love what you do.



## Bon à la Beef Lesson Plans!



California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom partnered with California Beef Council to create four video clips featuring elementary through high school students preparing recipes to educate students, teachers, and the public about beef, its nutritional value, and its proper handling and preparation.

Each of the cooking video clips are paired with educational lesson plans that are aligned to Common Core State Standards for students in grades 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12.

[Order your free resources and watch the videos here!](#)



## Grant Feature

### What grants will you apply for in 2018?



There are many funding sources available for school gardens, new classroom resources, and to expand agricultural literacy efforts. You just have to know where to look!

We have developed a list of our favorite grants!

[Explore Online!](#)



## More Ways to LearnAboutAg<sup>®</sup>

### Educators Sought for 'On The Farm' Workshops

The American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture (AFBFA) will hold three 'On The Farm' workshops for educators in 2018. If you're looking for real world connections and hands-on learning, then an 'On The Farm' educator workshop is for you. Discover key educational concepts brought to life by American beef cattle ranchers, researchers, nutritionists and veterinarians. Find out more [here!](#)

### AgForKids.com

We see plants all around us, every day. From trees to flowers to the grass in the park, there's no doubt they look great. But there are so many more cool things about plants. Like the fact that they taste great. And did you know

that we even wear plants as clothes! Let's explore the world of plants, starting right now. [Learn by playing online!](#)

## Want to go to Maine next summer?

Mark your calendars for June 26-29, 2018. Attend the 2018 National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference in Portland, Maine. Surround yourself with educators passionate about agriculture. Find out more [here!](#)

## Community Events

### For Educators

Event Name and Description	Event Location	Event Date
<p><b><a href="#">Youth Ag Day</a></b> A collaborative effort of the Solano County Fair Association and agricultural related businesses, organizations, farmers, ranchers and other individuals to encourage Solano County third-graders to experience agriculture firsthand.</p>	Vallejo, CA	March 20, 2018
<p><b><a href="#">Farm Connection Day</a></b> Farm Connection Day is a wonderful opportunity for local school children to: *Learn and interact with farm animals *View creative arts and sciences projects *See project demonstrations of archery, dog obedience, and SO MUCH MORE!</p>	Woodland, CA	May 4, 2018
<p><b><a href="#">Life Lab Workshops</a></b> Life Lab has trained tens of thousands of educators across the nation! Sign up today for one of their many workshops this summer and fall!</p>	Santa Cruz, CA	Spring 2018
<p><b><a href="#">On the Farm - Educator Workshops</a></b> The American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture (AFBFA) will hold three 'On The Farm' workshops for educators in 2018. Gain real world connections and experience hands-on learning. Discover key educational concepts brought to life by American beef cattle ranchers, researchers, nutritionists and veterinarians. Deadline: January 1, 2018</p>	Various	Summer 2018

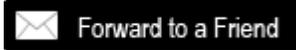
### For Youth

Event Name and Description	Event Location	Event Date
<p><b><a href="#">Coastal Art &amp; Poetry Contest</a></b> California students in kindergarten through 12th grade are invited to submit artwork or poetry with a California coastal or marine theme to the annual Coastal Art &amp; Poetry Contest. Deadline: January 31, 2018</p>	Statewide	January 31, 2018
<p><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 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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