



# Cream of the Crop

A harvest of ideas for educators

December 2018



California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom

## Fantastic Ag Fact:

One orange contains 100 percent of a person's recommended daily intake of vitamin C.



## In this issue...

- [Seed Survivor Mobile](#)
- [Teacher Feature](#)
- [Featured Resource](#)
- [Grant Feature](#)
- [More Ways to LearnAboutAg®](#)
- [Community Events for Educators and Students](#)
- [Support LearnAboutAg®](#)



It was an honor to recognize our 2018 Outstanding Educator, Christopher Lavagnino, at the California Farm Bureau's 100th Annual Meeting.



## Seed Survivor is in California!

California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom is hosting Seed Survivor Mobiles, plant nutrient classrooms on wheels, now through March 2019! During this time, two mobile classrooms will be traveling throughout California to help teach plant nutrient units to students in grades 3-6.



This educational display will be visiting **Central California** schools on the following dates:

January 7 - January 11: Kings County  
January 14 - January 18: Tulare County  
January 21 - January 25: Fresno County  
January 28 - February 1: Madera County  
February 4 - February 8: Merced County  
February 11 - February 15: Stanislaus County

The registration form is available on the Seed Survivor website. **[Register online now](#)** for when the display is in an area near you!

Please email [caseedsurvivor@gmail.com](mailto:caseedsurvivor@gmail.com) with any questions.

*We are also looking for staff to help teach these units. If you have a passion for teaching and agriculture contact us today to learn more about this paid position!*

## Teacher Feature

### **Len Fingerman**

Fourth Grade Teacher  
Pioneer Elementary School  
Yolo County

#### **How long have you been teaching students about agriculture?**

I have been teaching fourth grade for the last 15+ years. Agriculture and water usage have been an important part of the fourth grade social studies focus on California. I am lucky to be living and teaching in Davis, a city that was built on a university that was founded in agricultural studies. Agriculture plays such an important role in many of my students lives, directly and indirectly.



#### **What is your favorite AITC program/resource/event and why?**

The *What's Growin' On?* newspaper is a wonderful resource, full of up-to-date facts and information. It offers such interesting presentations and a wide variety of learning options covering all aspects of the agricultural industry in California.

#### **Describe any agriculture-based projects you have been involved in lately.**

Each year we teach units on the bounty of crops that are produced in California. We learn about produce and livestock and work in cooperative groups to create board games to use as study pieces and learning tools. We incorporate fruits and vegetables into perspective and vanishing point lessons as the kids create "Crate Label" artwork that is amazing. We

also examine the importance of agriculture to the Native Californian experience and highlight the different regions and the effect of geographic features and climate on the agricultural success of these first Californians. Throughout the year our class also has numerous culinary experiences that enable kids to cook and sample the wide variety of produce that we grow right here in their home state.

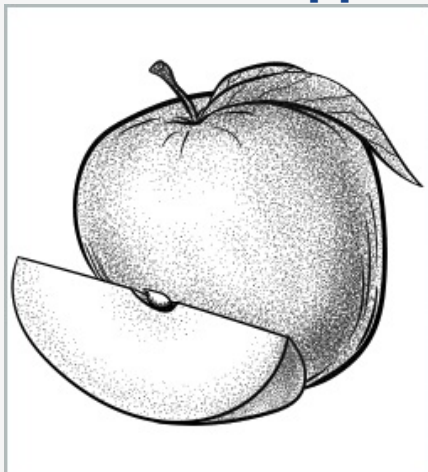
### **Do you have any advice for other teachers on implementing agriculture into the classroom?**

Take advantage of all that our home state has to offer in the agricultural sense. If cooking in your class is not a realistic option, find a sampling/tasting lesson. Nowadays, there are so many easy lessons that follow food from farm to fork that will amaze your kids. Using the wide variety of data, graphs, and information from the agriculture world is an easy way to incorporate science and mathematics skills/practice in your classroom.



## Featured Resource

### **NEW: Apple Fact and Activity Sheet**



Learn all about apples! We have created this new Agricultural Fact and Activity Sheet to teach all you need to know about apples. [Download now](#) and start learning how they get from farm to you!



## Featured Resource

### **Commodity Note Cards**

Looking for a fun last minute gift or a stocking stuffer? Check out our commodity note cards! Each set includes 8 different cards, a fun fact and mailing envelopes. (Strawberry, Pistachios, Pears, Grapes, Oranges, Pomegranates, Blueberries, and Bees). Price: \$3.00





**Order today!**



## Grant Feature

### **What grants will you apply for in 2019?**

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!



**Explore Online!**



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

### **Call for Curriculum Writer Applications**

The American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture (AFBFA) is seeking writers to develop two integrated science curriculum units based on phenomena and driving questions found in beef cattle production. Found out more [here](#) if you are interested in applying!

### **Seed Survivor Mobile**

Seed Survivor is back in California! We are currently looking for presenters to help us present to schools in Central and Northern California. If you are interested in being a presenter (paid position), please email [Liz Baskins](#).

### **Want to go to Arkansas next summer?**

Mark your calendars for June 18-21, 2019. Attend the 2019 National

Agriculture in the Classroom Conference in Little Rock, Arkansas. 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><u>SMUD Workshops</u></b>            Make STEAM education come alive for your students with free, professional workshops that include hands-on activities and materials. K-12 teachers and students will be inspired and motivated to learn from a variety of resources including workshops, games and activities, printed materials and virtual field trips.</p>	Sacramento, CA	Year-Round (including summer)
<p><b><u>Powerhouse Science Center</u></b>            For over 65 years, Powerhouse Science Center has been dedicated to partnering with educators across Northern California. Visit the center to try the hands-on labs, workshops and programs that are aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards and focus on providing opportunities for mastering disciplinary core ideas (DCIs) and Science and Engineering Practices (SEPs).</p>	Sacramento, CA	Year-Round (including summer)

### For Youth

Event Name and Description	Event Location	Event Date
<p><b><u>Tulare County Farm Bureau Calendar Art Contest</u></b>            In recognition of National Ag Week, March 18-22, 2019, Tulare County Farm Bureau and the Tulare County Office of Education will hold a calendar art contest for Tulare County students in grades K-12. A total of 14 winners will be selected for the 12-page, full color calendar from the following grade categories: K-3, 4-6, 7-8, 9-12. A special prize will be awarded for the best overall entry. This year's theme: "Tulare County Agriculture: Full S.T.E.A.M. Ahead"</p>	Tulare County	Due by February 15, 2019
<p><b><u>General Patton Memorial Museum</u></b>            The General Patton Memorial Museum offers schools an experience more than what's in the text books. Students learn about General Patton, the Desert Training Center, Military History from WWI to Desert Storm. The Museum's tour teaches about Military tactics and Patton's Principals that still live today. The General Patton Memorial Museum will enlighten and educate your students. Book your school group today! Cost is \$2 per student.</p>	Chiriaco Summit, CA	Year-Round
<p><b><u>Hilmar Cheese Company School and Youth Tours</u></b>            Join us for the most fun and educational field trip in the Central Valley! Free for all public, private and home schools associated with a school district. Organized and led by trained tour guides, safe and fully accessible. All students receive free cheese samples, a hairnet, Daisy's Dairy "ABCs" and a</p>	Hilmar, CA	Year-Round

souvenir pencil.

**[AgVentures! Learning Center](#)**

Tours of the Learning Center are available year-round for elementary school students. Cost is \$3 per student.

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 [donation](#) today!

Stay Connected! @LearnAboutAg



Forward to a Friend