

Sponsor Feature:
California Farm Bureau Federation



California Farm Bureau Federation (CFBF) is proud to be a 30-year sponsor and original founder of the California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom (CFAITC). CFBF has provided annual donations to Ag in the Classroom since before it was first formed as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in 1986. The idea behind CFAITC started with a request to CFBF in 1980, when the San Francisco Unified School District asked for assistance with a farm field trip. Six years later, teachers and administrators still sought assistance in educating urban students about agriculture, and farmers and ranchers recognized the importance of providing that support. It was then that CFBF established CFAITC.

"Agricultural education to urban and suburban students and teachers is even more critical today, than it was when AITC was first established. With less than half of one percent of California's 39 million residents directly involved in agricultural production, it is imperative that those of us involved in production agriculture continue to support agricultural awareness in our State's classrooms," says Paul Wenger, president of the California Farm Bureau Federation.

The relationship is mutually beneficial as CFAITC recognizes the value in CFBF's partnership. "CFBF provides more than financial support," says Judy Culbertson, executive director of CFAITC. "We are lucky to partner with Farm Bureau and share its agricultural expertise with teachers, students and classrooms across the state. Leasing space in the Farm Bureau building helps us stay up-to-date on agricultural issues, take advantage of the organization's expertise, and stay connected with a

grassroots partner, who helps us reach and engage students and teachers throughout the state.

"We are grateful for the many members of California's county Farm Bureaus who have become long-time donors, active volunteers and devoted advocates," says Culbertson. "Their support makes a big difference in our ability to provide teachers with quality educational programs, resources and activities."

Rich Matteis, Administrator for CFBF commented, "Every year we have a new crop of students, who need to know where their food comes from. Just like growing a crop or raising livestock, we can only expect a successful harvest if we have done our due diligence by investing our time and financial resources. If we are successful at teaching students about the importance of agriculture, it will go a long way to bridging that gap of understanding from a farmer's field to their dinner plate at home or school."



[Featured January 2016]