



Explore a bountiful harvest of resources this November! In this issue...

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1. Teacher Feature: Chris Lavagnino

Teaches: Fourth Grade

School: Ronald Reagan Elementary in Chowchilla, California

Chris Lavagnino has been teaching for 15 years. For the past 3 years, Chris has slowly started to teach about farming and agriculture. He started with a taste test grant and has since added more activities and projects to his "science toolbox." He attended his first California Agriculture in the Classroom Conference in September.

What inspires you to teach about agriculture?

The fact that there is SO MUCH around us that ties into agriculture, yet most students know SO LITTLE about it. When a student makes that discovery and connection in my classroom, I feel so proud that we have all reached better understanding of how the



California Foundation for
Agriculture in the Classroom

DID YOU KNOW?!

Most California-grown olives are cured to become black ripe olives.

[Source: California Ripe Olives](#)

world is interconnected.

How was your experience at the California Agriculture in the Classroom Conference?

The conference was a great new doorway that's been opened and is leading me down a lush green path to the wonders of hands-on science!

Tell us about your recent teaching adventures.

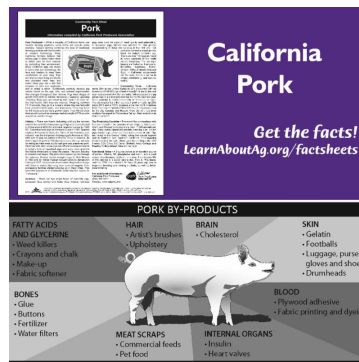
We are lucky to have our own greenhouse on site where we can conduct experiments and grow plants. Last year, my students transplanted and grew a variety of succulents, which we entered into the Chowchilla Fair. All students won a first place ribbon! This year, I am planning to begin this activity sooner, so the students can plot and track the growth of their plant. And there WILL be more new things happening... but, it's a surprise!



2. New Resources - Poultry and Pork Fact and Activity Sheets

Did you know... our Thanksgiving turkeys weigh 3.5 times as much as the turkeys the Pilgrims ate?! And pork is the world's most widely-eaten meat!

Learn all about poultry and pork! We have created two new Agricultural Fact and Activity Sheets. [Request free print copies or download them now.](#)



3. Get Your Hands On Plant Science: Free Tote Bags!

Receive a free tote bag when you request your free print copy of a Plant Science lesson plan unit. The units are geared for grades K-3, 2-4, 5-8 and 8-12. [Request yours today!](#)



4. Order a Class Set of Invasive Species Masks- While Supplies Last!

Make learning memorable with a classroom set of invasive

species masks. Invasive species are currently threatening California agriculture, and we have the resources to teach students how they can help stop the invasion! [Request your free set while supplies last.](#)



5. Grant Feature: California Fertilizer Foundation



The **California Fertilizer Foundation** provides garden grants of up to \$1,200 to 24 California schools each year (12 awarded twice a year). At the end of the year, winning schools can reapply for a progress grant of \$1,500 and a free agricultural field trip. [The next deadline is January 15, 2017.](#)

See [other grants](#) and upcoming deadlines on our website.

6. Statewide/Nationwide Events, Competitions, & More!

Ag Careers - Virtual Field Trip to Ford Motor Company

- **November 29, 2016**
- Go behind-the-scenes to learn how the needs of agriculture customers impact the design, engineering and testing of Ford F-Series trucks.
- Meet employees who use advanced technologies to solve the challenges faced daily in agricultural settings.
- The field trip is made possible by AgCareers.com, in partnership with the National FFA Organization and Discovery Education.
- [Register now and tune in live on November 29.](#)

On the Farm STEM Event

- **March 27-29, 2017**
- **Los Angeles, CA**
- This event is designed for formal and informal educators who train or coach STEM teachers or who design STEM learning experiences.
- Discover science brought to life by American beef cattle ranchers, researchers, nutritionists and veterinarians.
- Selected participants will attend at no cost.
- The event is funded by the Beef Checkoff and coordinated by the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture.
- [Learn more and apply now.](#)

NGSS and Common Core in the Garden Workshops

- **March 2017**
- **Santa Cruz, CA**
- Learn to use a garden to engage students in NGSS and

- Common Core standards.
- Registration fees vary.
- Graduate education credit is available.
- Events are offered by Life Lab Science Program.
- [Learn more and register online.](#)

Winter Field Trips at the UC Santa Cruz Farm - Life Lab

- **January through March, Tuesdays and Thursdays**
- **Santa Cruz, CA**
- Plan a field trip for students in grades 3-5.
- Participating teachers receive a packet of pre- and post-visit lessons to extend the learning into the classroom.
- Events are offered by Life Lab Science Program.
- [Make a reservation.](#)



7. County Ag Activities

November 5, 2016 - **Ventura County's Farm Day** - Enjoy a family-friendly Saturday of tours, farm-fresh food, live music and fun activities. Experience Southern California agriculture through the eyes of farmers and farm workers.

8. More Ways to Learn About Ag

Sacramento, Placer and El Dorado counties and the City of West Sacramento -

The 2017 Water Spots Video Contest is open to all middle and high school students in the area. Judging will be based on creativity, entertainment value, accuracy, originality and incorporation of the water efficiency topic. [Learn more and register.](#)

National Agricultural Literacy Curriculum Matrix -

The National Agricultural Literacy Curriculum Matrix is an online, searchable, and standards-based curriculum map for K-12 teachers. November Featured Resources include Thanksgiving Maps and Posters, a Three Sisters Garden lesson plan and more! [Explore the matrix.](#)

Gamified Science Learning: Campus Ties -

Designed for college-bound students, the mobile platform allows learners to "work with bite-sized lessons, created by trusted experts, connect with others, and discover new opportunities." Learners earn certificates upon completing the gamified, online courses. [Browse the free online courses.](#)

Global Hero Mobile App Game -

Compete in 17 mini-games to achieve the United Nations Sustainability Development Goals. The free mobile app promotes critical thinking about agriculture's role in global sustainability. [Learn more and download the app.](#)



Show Your Support for Agricultural Literacy

Help us continue to provide programs and materials to create an awareness and understanding of agriculture among California's educators and students.

[Make a one-time or recurring donation.](#)

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