



Cream of the Crop

A harvest of ideas for educators

June 2017



California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom

Fantastic Ag Fact:

A corn stalk can grow 7 to 12 feet tall!

Share the Crop



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Photo of the Month: Students prep soil for seedlings at the California State Fair Farm during a field trip.



LearnAboutAg®

Summer Kick-off Survey Complete the survey for a chance to win Ag in the Classroom SWAG!

We know you've worked hard this school year, and you deserve a break! That's why we are continuing to create and distribute resources for you to use next year. We would love your input as we plan ahead. Complete our short 5-7 minute survey to help us learn what you want!

Enter to win one of the following:

- Ag in the Classroom Mug
- Ag in the Classroom Journal
- Ag in the Classroom Set of Pencils
- Nutrition or Gardening Books

[Take the survey!](#)



Teacher Feature

Amy Hurlimann

Teaches:

7th and 8th Grade English

School:

Scott Valley Junior High in Fort Jones, California

Why do you incorporate "Imagine this... Story Writing Contest" into your class ?

I use the "Imagine this... Story Writing Contest" in my classroom every year to educate all my students about the importance that agriculture plays in all our lives. Many of them do not live on a farm or ranch (even though that is the primary industry in our small community) and therefore do not understand where their food comes from and how widespread the agriculture industry is in their everyday

lives. As the wife of a cattle and hay farmer and living on the family ranch for the past 25 years, I feel my role as an English educator can also be extended to include knowledge of the agriculture industry that surrounds them. Writing narratives is part of the Common Cores standards and the "Imagine this... Story Writing Contest" is a fun, creative, AND educational way to incorporate this writing type in my classroom.



What inspired you to start teaching agriculture in your classroom?

I have been teaching agriculture in my classroom since I resumed my teaching career in 2012 and learned that, as a junior high teacher, I was able to incorporate agriculture as part of my curriculum. Prior to resuming my teaching career, I was a member of Siskiyou County Cattlewomen's Ag in the Classroom group that traveled to various elementary schools in our county to educate about the importance of agriculture.

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

My favorite success story would be having not one but two winners this year at the state level of the "Imagine this... Story Writing Contest". Both my students were proud of their accomplishments and honored by the recognition their stories received.



LearnAboutAg®

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, Exhibit](#), or host a [Taste of California](#) table today!

[Scholarships](#) available based on availability and need.

[Registration now open!!](#)



Featured Resource

Updated Fact Sheets with Standards NOW AVAILABLE

California produces more than 400 different agricultural commodities, providing an abundance of fruits, vegetables, nuts, milk, nursery plants, flowers, fiber, and livestock. Each sheet in this set introduces an agricultural commodity, plant nutrient, or agricultural topic. Additionally, the sheets provide ideas for using this information in a lesson or activity. Newly updated with current standards and statistical information!

**[California Teachers:
Order your free set today!](#)**

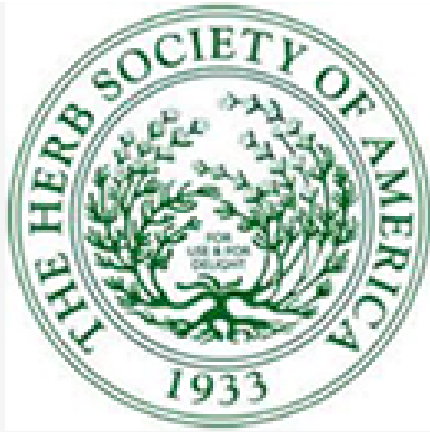


Grant Feature

The Herb Society of America Herb Garden Grant

Two grants are made available to public and/or private 3rd through 6th grade teachers, with classes of a minimum of 15 students. Grant supports indoor or outdoor herb gardens.

Deadline: October 1, 2017
[Apply Online!](#)



See [other grant opportunities](#) at LearnAboutAg.org.

More Ways to LearnAboutAg®

Ag-Knowledge Quiz

Developed by the National Agriculture in the Classroom organization, gauge your students current understanding of agriculture. Use samples to create your own quiz or utilize one of the pre-made quizzes! Find more [here](#)!

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!

My American Farm

The American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture provides 24 different games for students in grades Pre-K through 6. Discover what different machinery is used in agriculture, solve tangram puzzles to learn about stewardship, and learn about the science that goes into farming. Visit [My American Farm](#) to play and learn!

Community Events

For Educators

<p>Sacramento Floodplain Ecology Institute Experience field trips to regional floodplains with biologists and engineers, receive curriculum resources for teaching standards in the context of current water issues, and more!</p>	Sacramento, CA	June 27-29, 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>Teachers' Ag Seminar Bring agriculture into your classroom! Your opportunity to learn from hands-on experiences with local farmers and ranchers. Registration deadline: June 1, 2017</p>	Bakersfield, CA	July 17-19, 2017

<p><u>Forestry Institute for Teachers (FIT)</u> 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
<p><u>Life Lab Workshops</u> 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	Summer & Fall 2017
<p><u>Growing Edible Education Symposium</u> Join us as we implement, promote, and support farm-to-school activities in our community. Gain the knowledge, skills, connections, and confidence to say, "YES WE CAN". Graduate university credit available. Registration coming soon.</p>	San Luis Obispo, CA	October 5-6, 2017

For Youth

<p><u>Summer Steam Maker Festival</u> 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><u>California Range & Natural Resources Camp</u> 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><u>SMUD Scholarship</u> Sacramento Municipal Utilities District will award up to \$60,000 in college scholarships to local students. Applicants must be a SMUD customer, living in SMUD's service area, or have a SMUD customer as a legal guardian. Apply by: June 23, 2017</p>	Sacramento Area, CA	June 23, 2017
<p><u>Farm Girls Summer Camp</u> This camp for girls and women of all ages will teach about permaculture farming techniques. Registration cost \$150.</p>	San Luis Obsipo, CA	July 11-14, 2017
<p><u>Farm Camp</u> 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><u>AgVentures! Learning Center</u> Tours of the Learning Center are available year-round for elementary school students. Cost is \$3 per student.</p>	Tulare, CA	(Year-Round)



Support LearnAboutAg®

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](#).



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