



California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom

## Fantastic Ag Fact:

Almond trees are in the same plant family as peach trees and rose plants.

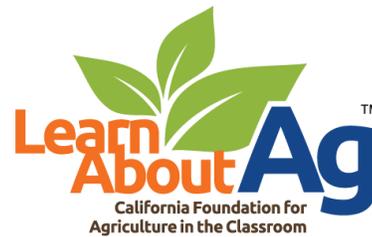


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After 30+ years, we refreshed our look to attract even more teachers and families to our Foundation!



LearnAboutAg

## Congratulations to the "Imagine this..." State 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 for our annual story book, *Imagine this... Stories Inspired by Agriculture*.

With more than 1,300 stories written this year, the competition was steep! 6 winning stories and 1 honorable mention story will be turned into this year's *"Imagine this... Stories Inspired by Agriculture"* book.

[Find the winners here!](#)



Teacher Feature

**Carrie Stohl, PhD**  
Garden Coordinator

Pueblo Vista Magnet School  
Napa, CA

Past California Foundation for  
Agriculture in the Classroom  
Grant Recipient



**Describe your grant project.**

Growing for Market was designed to take an existing learning garden to the next level by developing a produce stand maintained by a number of different student and parent groups. The primary goals of the project are to:

- Increase parent participation in gardening.
- Expose students and parents to new crops.
- Increase production of tasting crops.

In addition, this project will enhance understanding of organic agriculture by demonstrating organic and sustainable methods of food production, including crop rotation, companion planting, and robust soil health; introducing students to a market-based approach to crop selection and timing; and increasing awareness of the scale of food production by showing how much food a 15-foot row can produce.

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

I use all the school garden resources. I love "Taste and Teach." It's a great option for beginning ag educators, so I share it with teachers at my site. I've attended the conference and consulted the lesson plans.

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

Let go a little bit. When we stop trying to control every moment of the school day, we find many valuable teachable moments, especially when you take kids outside.

**Why do you think learning about where our food and fiber comes from is important?**

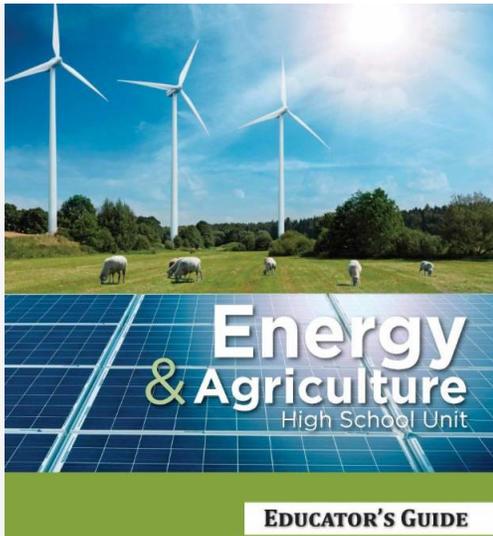
Our system of agriculture has gotten so big that many people are disconnected from it, yet we all rely on agriculture for the most basic needs. The more people learn about food and fiber, the more likely they are to make conscientious choices about consumption and use of these resources.

Learn more about Carrie and her efforts by reading her blog: [The School Garden Doctor](#)



## LearnAboutAg... STEM

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics are essential educational disciplines in the field of agriculture. Each unit features lessons that



promote the development of STEM abilities and critical thinking skills. There are inquiry-based labs and real life challenges for students to better understand animal agriculture (grades 3-5), food science (grades 6-8), and sustainable energy (grades 9-12).

**[Order this free resource and more here!](#)**



Grant Feature

## California Fertilizer Foundation



The purpose of the California Fertilizer Foundation Grant Program is to provide funding for California public and private elementary, middle and high schools for continuation and/or implementation of in - and after - school garden programs. 24 grants of \$1,200 will be awarded in the 2017-2018 school year in the categories of Start Up and Existing Gardens.

Deadline: February 2, 2018

**[Learn more online!](#)**



More Ways to LearnAboutAg<sup>®</sup>

## Stay up to date with National Ag in the Classroom

National Agriculture in the Classroom supports state programs by providing a network that seeks to improve agricultural literacy - awareness, knowledge, and appreciation - among PreK-12 teachers and their students. Stay up to date with their happenings by subscribing to their newsletter.

Subscribe [here](#) and check out the lesson plan matrix [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!](#)

## Attend the National Ag in the Classroom Conference

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><u>Growing Edible Education Symposium</u></b> The GEE Symposium unites diverse stakeholders such as schools, outside agencies, and farm businesses to promote and support farm to school activities. Participants will learn and share how to grow "edible education", while discovering best practices on teaching students about food and nutrition.</p>	San Luis Obispo, CA	March 2, 2018
<p><b><u>National Farm to Cafeteria Conference</u></b> This biennial event will convene more than 1,000 diverse stakeholders working to source local food for institutional cafeterias and foster a culture of food and agricultural literacy across America.</p>	Cincinnati, OH	April 25-27, 2018
<p><b><u>Professional Development Workshops for Educators</u></b> Sacramento Municipal Utilities District (SMUD) is offering FREE workshops to teachers. Learn how to bring energy education into your classroom. Materials and meals provided!</p>	Sacramento, CA	Spring 2018
<p><b><u>Life Lab Workshops</u></b> Life Lab has trained tens of thousands of educators across the nation! Sign up today for one of their many workshops this spring!</p>	Santa Cruz, CA	Spring 2018

#### For Youth

Event Name and Description	Event Location	Event Date
<p><b><u>Coastal Art &amp; Poetry Contest</u></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><u>Cal Water H<sub>2</sub>O Challenge</u></b> An environmentally-focused competition for 4-6 grade classrooms. The Classroom Challenge offers a unique opportunity for upper elementary teachers to facilitate their students' learning of standards-based content.</p>	Statewide	February 28, 2018
<p><b><u>Solano Youth Ag Day</u></b> The annual Youth Ag Day is a collaborative effort of the Solano County Fair 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><u>Farm Connection Day</u></b></p>	Woodland, CA	May 4, 2018

<p>Farm Connection Day is a wonderful opportunity for local school children to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Learn and interact with farm animals</li> <li>*View creative arts and sciences projects</li> <li>*See project demonstrations of archery, dog obedience, and SO MUCH MORE!</li> </ul>		
<p><b><u>El Dorado County-Placerville Farm Day</u></b>  Farm Days are fun, hands-on field trips where lessons of agriculture and its role in our everyday lives, our county, and its economy are taught in the context of local farms, ranches, forests, and watersheds. Registration is available to all 3rd grade classes in El Dorado County.</p>	Placerville, CA	May 8, 2018
<p><b><u>AgVentures! Learning Center</u></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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