



Cream of the Crop

A harvest of ideas for educators

February 2018



California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom

Fantastic Ag Fact:

Americans consume an average of 30 pounds of lettuce per person each year!

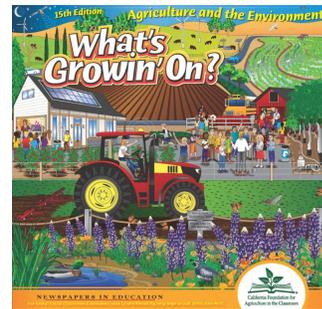


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We are excited to offer large quantities of our *What's Growin' On? 15th Edition!* Email info@LearnAboutAg.org for more information!



LearnAboutAg®

SAVE THE DATE

Join us in beautiful Palm Springs for the 2018 Agriculture in the Classroom Conference!



September 27-29, 2018
Renaissance Hotel - Marriott
Palm Springs, CA

We are seeking enthusiastic presenters who would like to share their expertise, experience, and educational resources with our conference attendees. Proposals are now being accepted for:

Workshops
Make 'n' Takes

Exhibits

"A Taste of California"

Click the links above or contact Liz Baskins at
916-561-5625 or Liz@LearnAboutAg.org!

Information regarding general registration coming soon!

Teacher Feature

Kit McConnell

English Teacher
R.L. Stevenson Middle School
Los Angeles, CA

California Foundation for Agriculture in
the Classroom Grant Recipient

Tell us a little bit about your project.

We are using our grant funds to create and maintain our school's learning garden, a space for many different teachers and classes to gather and engage in a variety of activities within the natural setting. There are plans to integrate all subjects in the garden. For example, we will plant herbs and spices from ancient civilizations and distant cultures, grow crops with a variety of variables in Earth Science, as well as teaching about sensory details and descriptive writing in our language arts courses.



In what ways have you used Ag in the Classroom resources to improve your learning environment?

The resources we are utilizing include lessons from the California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom and they are being used in conjunction with our current science standards. We are also using the grant resources to build up a community space which supports ecologically responsible child development, encourages kids to get in touch with nature, and helps students and families know more about their food's point of origin so that they understand what goes into the food they consume. We are definitely learning about how much work and time it takes to feed ourselves!

What are you looking forward to most this year?

Our school is looking forward to taking root with our garden and feeling like we have a place where we can engage in multiple kinds of thinking and activity. We will learn to care for the plants which in turn take care of our bodies and health. That feeling of recognition that you are a part of an interconnected system and having a heightened awareness of your place in the food cycle is such a thrill to see in young people. It gets me excited to think of how these early garden learning experiences will influence their futures.

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

Any teacher looking for ways to provide innovative instruction should be willing to take risks and learn from their experiences. Also, trust the kids to find ways to explore and discover on their own and be willing to step back to

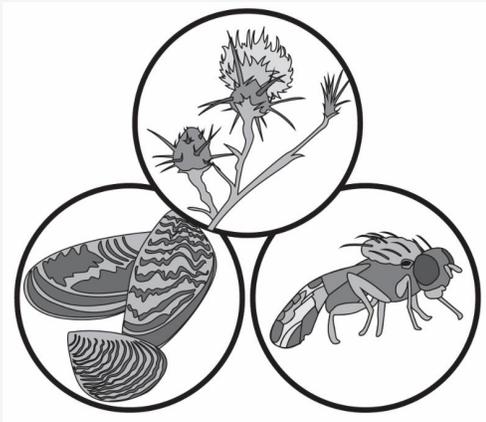
see how they figure things out. As such, we should continue to value teaching that stems from a natural point of view, like our learning garden seeks to do, because the world is changing so rapidly, we must support our students in gaining respect and protecting our planet for everyone's sake.

Anything else you'd like to share with our educators?

There is a joy and inquisitiveness that manifests in the garden that I have rarely witnessed in a classroom.

 **Featured Resource**

Invasive Species Fact Sheet Set



Get the facts to help prevent the damage caused by invasive species to California's Specialty Crops! Order your FREE set of 6 invasive species fact sheets. With lesson plan ideas aligned to standards, these are sure to be a hit in your classroom!

[Order them online!](#)

 **Grant Feature**

Lowe's Toolbox for Education Grants



Lowe's offers grants for enhancing school landscaping (both indoor and outdoor). Project ideas include reading gardens and vegetable gardens. Any public K-12 school or non-profit parent group associated with that public K-12 school can apply. Deadline: February 9, 2018

[Apply Online!](#)

 **More Ways to LearnAboutAg[®]**

Careers in Agriculture Resources

Firefighter, ballerina, astronaut - hmmm.... How about farmer, large animal vet, welder? Students might not know about all the options available for careers! Help them explore agricultural careers with American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture's newest resources! Find out more [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
<u>Growing Edible Education Symposium</u> 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.	San Luis Obispo, CA	March 2, 2018
<u>National Farm to Cafeteria Conference</u> 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.	Cincinnati, OH	April 25-27, 2018
<u>Professional Development Workshops for Educators</u> Sacramento Municipal Utilities District (SMUD) is offering FREE workshops to teachers. Learn how to bring energy education into your classroom. Materials and meals provided!	Sacramento, CA	Spring 2018
<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 spring!	Santa Cruz, CA	Spring 2018
<u>EAT Foundation Classes</u> The EAT Foundation offers a variety of Continuing Education (CE) Classes which combine hands-on Workshops, Seminars, and Tours in the field of Agriculture. Courses are offered in 1, 2 & 3 day Sessions and take place at various locations and times of the year.	Hanford, CA	Summer 2018

For Youth

Event Name and Description	Event Location	Event Date
<u>Cal Water H₂O Challenge</u> 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.	Statewide	February 28, 2018

<p><u>Solano Youth Ag Day</u> 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><u>Farm Connection Day</u> Farm Connection Day is a wonderful opportunity for local school children to: *Learn and interact with farm animals *View creative arts and sciences projects *See project demonstrations of archery, dog obedience, and SO MUCH MORE!</p>	Woodland, CA	May 4, 2018
<p><u>El Dorado County-Placerville Farm Day</u> 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><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



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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