



# Cream of the Crop

A harvest of ideas for educators

August 2018



California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom

## Fantastic Ag Fact:

Carrots come in many colors including orange, white, yellow, and purple.



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Behind the scenes at G&S Farms in Brentwood filming green beans for an upcoming project!



LearnAboutAg®

## Registration open!

## California Ag in the Classroom Conference



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

**[LearnAboutAg.org/Conference](http://LearnAboutAg.org/Conference)**

General registration: \$265  
(includes all meals, resources and farm tours)

Make your **[room reservation](#)** before it sells out!

Sign up to attend, present a Make 'n' Take\*, host a Taste of CA Dinner table or be an exhibitor!

*\*\$50 stipend available for all Make 'n' Take presenters*



**GREAT NEWS: We are expanding our Taste and Teach to include Northern and Southern CA!**

California Classrooms just got tastier! We are super excited to announce that Stater Bros. is joining Raley's (for their third year) to sponsor teachers to receive \$100 gift cards to purchase CA Grown commodities! If your classroom has access to either grocery store, make sure to submit your application to give your students the opportunity to taste a different fruit, vegetable or nut every month. A binder full of resources and will be sent to those selected to participate, to assist with classroom Taste and Teach monthly activities!

**[Applications open August 15 and close August 24](#)**

**Teacher Feature**

**Elizabeth Bundschu-Mooney**

K - 6th grade Special Education  
Washington Elementary  
Contra Costa County

### **How and when did you first learn of Ag in the Classroom?**

I have been ordering materials for my classroom from Ag in the Classroom for a number of years, but it wasn't until I received an email for a garden grant opportunity that I realized how many more resources Ag in the Classroom offers. The resources are seemingly endless and provide much needed



materials for lessons and student engagement. I was also pleased to find additional funding sources for the classroom. Be sure to check out the Literacy for Life grant, California Agriculture in the Classroom Conference Scholarship, and Look at Agriculture . . . Organically grant! I have attended the Ag in the Classroom conference for the last two years and received the Look at Agriculture...Organically grant. I would encourage anyone interested in teaching nutrition, garden education, or agriculture to utilize this amazing non-profit foundation that supports teachers in so many ways.

### **How long have you been teaching students about agriculture?**

This year marks my 17th year of teaching. Prior to teaching I owned and operated a Garden and Gift Shop on the north shore of Kauai. Farming has been in my family for generations, so it only made sense that teaching nutrition and agriculture be at the top of my list. I began a garden at my first school in Richmond, CA through a State of California garden grant and with the "Look at Agriculture...Organically" grant I was able to create school gardens at two additional schools. There is nothing more rewarding than watching students pull carrots out of the ground for the first time.

### **What is your favorite AITC program/resource/event and why?**

There is no question that the California Ag in the Classroom Conference is my favorite program because it offers so much. First, you get to visit amazing agriculture spaces and places that embrace agriculture. I have been to Sacramento, Visalia, and this year I look forward to going to Palm Springs. The conference offers so many resources, such as Make 'n' Takes, breakout sessions with hands-on activities and materials to take back and begin teaching the next day. The highlight of the conference includes touring working farms or wineries and an amazing dinner hosted by companies offering a "Taste of California."

### **Do you have any advice for other teachers on implementing agriculture into the classroom?**

My advice is to get out there. Get your hands dirty and allow students to get their hands dirty. Feeling the dirt in your hands is therapeutic and healthy for your heart, especially if you eat the vegetables, fruits and berries you grow. When planting outside, I try to time it when the rains begin so watering is not such a challenge if you have limited time. Winter crops, such as mesclun lettuce, keeps coming back when you harvest and no need to replant. It makes for an easy salad. Look for grants that are easy to write to get needed materials to get you started. All you really need is a pot with organic soil, a few seeds and a little water to bring the goodness the garden offers to your table. Ordering materials from the Ag in the Classroom website offers class sets of materials at no charge. What could be easier? Whatever you do, make sure the students experience curriculum through visual, tactile and kinesthetic modalities

and this will provide much needed differentiation. Get out there, plant, water, and watch it grow...



## Grant Feature

### Literacy for Life Grants!



Want to take your class on an ag field trip, purchase a class set of ag books, or host an ag education day? Here is your chance! Grant possibilities are limitless; be creative and innovative! Literacy for Life \$500 grants are designed to initiate new projects or expand existing ones that promote agricultural literacy. Teachers K-12 are eligible.

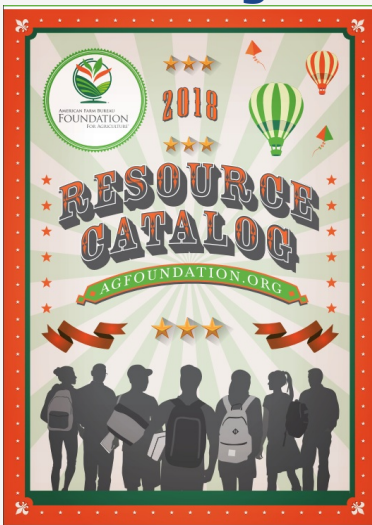
**Deadline: October 1, 2018**  
**[Apply Online!](#)**

**[See other grant opportunities!](#)**



## Featured Resource

### 2018 American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture Resource Catalog



[Download the 2018 Resource Catalog](#) to learn about all of the great resources American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture has to offer!



## Community Events

### For Educators

Event Name and Description	Event Location	Event Date
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<p><b><u>SMUD Workshops</u></b>          Make STEAM education come alive for your students with free, professional workshops that include hands-on activities and materials. K-12 teachers and students will be inspired and motivated to learn from a variety of resources including workshops, games and activities, printed materials and virtual field trips.</p>	Sacramento, CA	Year-Round (including summer)
<p><b><u>Farm to Table 20 Mile Taste</u></b>          Join El Dorado County Ag in the Classroom in August for 20 Mile Taste! This spectacular event has sold out since its inception and is a celebration of El Dorado County's bounty showcasing local produce prepared by local chefs and paired with local vintner's wines. In addition to the locally sourced tastes, the event will feature a raffle, live auction, and adult farm day fun.</p>	Placerville, CA	August 11, 2018
<p><b><u>Teacher Almond Day</u></b>          This is an exciting opportunity for teachers to learn about Yolo County's almond industry! Join the Yolo County Farm Bureau, Woodland Community College, and California Foundation for Ag in the Classroom for an overview of the production of almonds, tours and FREE resources for your classroom!</p>	Teacher Almond Day	September 8, 2018
<p><b><u>CA Ag in the Classroom Conference</u></b>          Join us in beautiful Palm Springs for the 2018 Agriculture in the Classroom Conference! Open to educators (formal and informal) who want to LearnAboutAg! Come find new and exciting ways to bring food, fiber, forests, flowers, and fuel into your learning environment. Registration is now open!</p>	Palm Springs, CA	September 27-29, 2018

## For Youth

Event Name and Description	Event Location	Event Date
<p><b><u>Life Lab Summer Camp</u></b>          Life Lab is pleased to offer summer day camp programs for children ages 4-14, at the Life Lab Garden Classroom on the UCSC Organic Farm.</p>	Santa Cruz, CA	End of July - August
<p><b><u>Tahoe 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>	South Lake Tahoe, CA	September 11, 2018
<p><b><u>Hilmar Cheese Company School and Youth Tours</u></b>          Join us for the most fun and educational field trip in the Central Valley! Free for all public, private and home schools associated with a school district. Organized and led by trained tour guides, safe and fully accessible. All students receive free cheese samples, a hairnet, Daisy's Dairy "ABCs" and a souvenir pencil.</p>	Hilmar, CA	Year-Round
<p><b><u>AgVentures! Learning Center</u></b>          Tours of the Learning Center are available year-</p>	Tulare, CA	Year-Round

round for elementary school students. Cost is \$3 per student.



## Mobile Dairy Classroom

Bring agriculture to your school with the Mobile Dairy Classroom! Dairy Council of California's assemblies teach how milk and dairy foods are produced and how they contribute to healthy eating. When you combine the Mobile Dairy Classroom with Dairy Council's Common Core - aligned nutrition lesson plans, your students learn the full story of healthy foods - from the farm to the table - and how they can make healthy choices for themselves. Find out more [here!](#)



## 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



Forward to a Friend