



Cream of the Crop

A harvest of ideas for educators

September 2018



California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom

Fantastic Ag Fact:

California leads the nation in processing tomato production.



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A picture of the 17th edition *What's Growin' On?* writing team at Del Rio Botanical Farms.



LearnAboutAg®

Less than one month until the California Ag in the Classroom Conference



September 27-29, 2018
Renaissance Hotel - Marriott

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*

Teacher Feature

Jenny Kaslin

High School 9-12
Gridley High School
Butte County

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

I first learned about Ag in the Classroom while I was in High School attending Ponderosa High School in El Dorado County. Our local Fair in Placerville put on an Ag in the Classroom learning day hosted by local 4H and our FFA group to teach younger students about Agriculture. Also, during this time my High School teacher showed me the resource pages for Ag in the Classroom online and we did some of the curriculum in our Introduction to Ag Science Courses. After becoming a High School Agriculture Teacher and throughout college we have been exposed to Ag in the Classroom across the board from Elementary school to High School levels.



How long have you been teaching students about agriculture?

This is my 4th year teaching High School Agriculture at Gridley High School. Prior to this I was student teaching at Hamilton High School in Glenn County. Throughout college I often volunteered for local Ag Education days and any opportunities to get in front of students and populations of people to educate them about agriculture.

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

My favorite are the hands on exploratory events that are hosted at local fairgrounds or school campuses for student educational days. Seeing a child's expression when they meet livestock animals for the first time or manipulate agricultural products with their hands is truly special. I also love the online resources for teachers from lesson plans to fact sheets. It has so many wonderful resources available for teachers at the click of a

button. The layout of the website is understandable and easy to find the information needed. At the High School level this helps me send our elementary school teachers to this website to help them begin to teach agriculture at the younger levels when they do their garden projects or we host our annual Ag Day at the elementary schools in the Spring. Many teachers like to introduce their students to agriculture before Ag Day and this is a perfect way to do so and a perfect resource for that.

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

My best piece of advice for other teachers implementing agriculture into the classroom is to beg, borrow and steal! Get as many resources as you can from other teachers. There is so much information available to teachers and many of us have files and drives we are willing to share with anyone who would like to use them. This way, teachers can focus on creating good lessons rather than spending hours creating their own powerpoint presentations or searching for supplementary videos or lab exercises. So much of this information has already been developed and many of us in the agriculture community are more than willing to share because we all value the importance of agriculture education.

Additionally, get yourself and students as hands on as possible when teaching about agriculture. Let students see, smell, touch and manipulate agricultural products. This is truly the spark that gets so many students to fall in love with ag.

Grant Feature

Start your school year off with some extra funds! Apply for a Literacy for Life Grant!



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!](#)

Grant Feature

CHS Foundation

Classroom Grants

The CHS Foundation is once again offering classroom grants for K-12 teachers with projects

such as school gardens, embryology initiatives and other plant and animal projects that use agricultural concepts to teach reading, writing, math, science, social studies and other subjects. The **deadline for the \$500 grants is Sept. 15.**

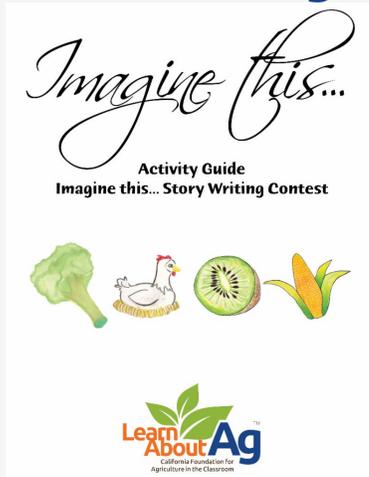


[Learn more and apply for a CHS Foundation Classroom Grant today!](#)



Featured Resource

Imagine this... Writing Guide



The following guide was developed to assist teachers in implementing the *Imagine this...* Story writing Contest into their classrooms. The activities, aligned to California Education Standards, are designed to engage students in the importance of reading and writing and the importance of the agricultural industry. [Download the guide today](#) to start stories with your class!



More Ways to LearnAboutAg®

Imagine this... Story Writing Contest

California students in grades 3-8 creatively explore where their food and fiber comes from by writing narrative stories. The winning stories from each grade are illustrated by high school art students and published in our annual story book, "*Imagine this... Stories Inspired by Agriculture*". Annual deadline: November 1. Find out more [here!](#)

Budding Artist Photography Contest

The California Farm Bureau Federation Photo Contest is open to any amateur photographer who is a county Farm Bureau Member's child. Applicants under 13 years old are invited to submit entries. Budding Artist entrants will receive a copy of "*Imagine this... Stories Inspired By Agriculture*" book developed by California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom. Find more information [here!](#)

Seed Survivor Mobile

Seed Survivor is coming back to California this November - March 2019 and we are looking for volunteers to help us present to schools in Southern, Central and Northern California. If you are interested in being a presenter*, please email [Liz Baskins](#). Sign ups are not available at this time, but will open mid-September. *This is a paid position

For Educators

Event Name and Description	Event Location	Event Date
<p><u>SMUD Workshops</u> 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><u>Farm City Day</u> This is a FREE educational field trip for all of Shasta Counties fourth grade students. The event is organized by the Shasta County Farm Bureau and sponsored by PG & E who provides funds for support materials which go to each attending class.</p>	Shasta District Fair Grounds, CA	September 26, 2018
<p><u>Amador County Farm Day</u> Students spent the day learning about farms, ranches, and how food gets to the table. They also learned about the biodiversity of Amador's regions, from timber forests to croplands.</p>	Amador, CA	September 26, 2018
<p><u>CA Ag in the Classroom Conference</u> 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
<p><u>Yuba-Sutter Farm Day</u> This is an annual event put on by the Yuba Sutter Farm Bureau where 2,000 local third-grade students, plus teachers and parents, visit the Yuba-Sutter Fairgrounds for a fun-filled day of learning all about agriculture.</p>	Yuba-Sutter Fair Grounds, CA	September 28, 2018

For Youth

Event Name and Description	Event Location	Event Date
<p><u>Tahoe 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>	South Lake Tahoe, CA	September 11, 2018
<p><u>Hilmar Cheese Company School and Youth Tours</u> 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</p>	Hilmar, CA	Year-Round

fully accessible. All students receive free cheese samples, a hairnet, Daisy's Dairy "ABCs" and a souvenir pencil.

AgVentures! Learning Center

Tours of the Learning Center are available year-round for elementary school students. Cost is \$3 per student.

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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