



California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom

Fantastic Ag Fact:

Twenty-five percent of an apple's volume is air, which makes it naturally buoyant.



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A picture from General Session at the 2018 AITC Conference in beautiful Palm Springs!

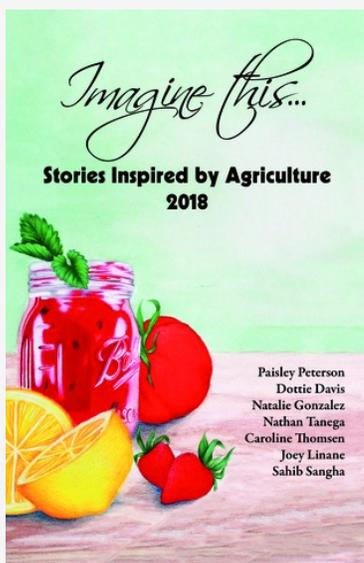


LearnAboutAg®

Thank you everyone who attended the 2018 Conference and thank you to the AITC sponsors who helped make it possible!



This year we had more than 260 educators and supporters who attended the conference, with 157 being first time participants! Educators went on agricultural tours to a date garden, citrus processing plant, water treatment facility and fields of bell peppers. The event also consisted of dynamic speakers including Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture, Karen Ross, workshops, a farmer panel, exhibits, and many networking opportunities.



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!](#)



**Seed Survivor
is Coming to
California!**

Seed Survivor is coming to California! California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom is hosting Seed Survivor Mobiles, plant nutrient classrooms on wheels, this November through March 2019! During this time, two mobile classrooms will be traveling throughout California to help teach plant nutrient units to students in **grades 3-6**. **Sign up today** if you are interested in having Seed Survivor at your school! Email caseedsurvivor@gmail.com with questions.



We are also looking for staff to help teach these units. If you have a passion for teaching and agriculture **contact us today to learn more about this paid position!**

Teacher Feature

Cesar R. Lopez Barreras

High School 9-12
Indio High School
Riverside County

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

I first learned of Ag in the Classroom when I was completing my teacher preparation program at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. The conference was being held in the county of San Luis Obispo and I was able to attend the conference on a scholarship from CTA. We learned about wine grapes, the cattle industry as well as how best to bring our experiences back to the classroom to share with our students.



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

My favorite AITC resource is the Commodity Fact and Activity Sheets. Each of the commodity sheets personalizes one of the over 400 products grown by our California farmers and ranchers. I like to use these sheets to introduce a commodity in class and provide students the opportunity to try each product. Every year I am surprised by how many of my students have not ever tried artichokes, cherry tomatoes or even walnuts. The Fact Sheets serve to reinforce the core content and

literacy standards in our collective goal as teachers to shape not only literacy, but literacy specifically to agriculture.

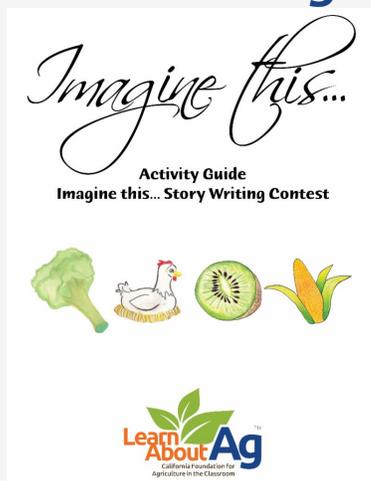
Do you have any advice for other teachers on implementing agriculture into the classroom?

Reach out to experts in your community. As a teacher we create amazing lessons, but having people from industry can help reinforce what you teach your students. For example, I know I taught an amazing lesson on plant propagation, but then when my students and I went on a field trip to our local zoo and garden, we met the plant propagator and my lesson came to life! The plant propagator explained plant propagation to my student and all of a sudden students were able to understand the concepts much better. Not because we do not do a great job teaching, but because they are hearing it from a different person, they tend to pay attention a little more and it validates what you teach in your class. It also adds credibility to you as a teacher, that an expert is echoing what you teach your students. Some connections I've established are with Master Gardeners, Farmers, Ranchers, Scientists, our local Ag Commissioner and many experts in my community! Don't be afraid to ask for help!



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 value 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®

Mobile Dairy Classroom

Bring agriculture to your school with the Mobile Dairy Classroom! Our assembly teaches how milk and dairy foods are produced and how they contribute to healthy eating. When you combine the Mobile Dairy Classroom with our 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!**](#)

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)

For Youth

Event Name and Description	Event Location	Event Date
<p><u>General Patton Memorial Museum</u> The General Patton Memorial Museum offers schools an experience more than what's in the text books. Students learn about General Patton, the Desert Training Center, Military History from WWI to Desert Storm. The Museum's tour teaches about Military tactics and Patton's Principals that still live today. The General Patton Memorial Museum will enlighten and educate your students. Book your school group today! Cost is \$2 per student.</p>	Chiriaco Summit, CA	Year-Round
<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 fully accessible. All students receive free cheese samples, a hairnet, Daisy's Dairy "ABCs" and a souvenir pencil.</p>	Hilmar, CA	Year-Round
<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](#).

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