



# Cream of the Crop

A harvest of ideas for educators

November 2018



California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom

## Fantastic Ag Fact:

California farmers produce around 98% of the kiwifruit grown in the US.



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Mrs. Schwall from Orchard Elementary School using our Tops or Bottoms Ag-Bite to teach her students about agriculture. Stay tuned for a video of how to use it in your classroom!



## 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, 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 [caseed survivor@gmail.com](mailto:caseed survivor@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

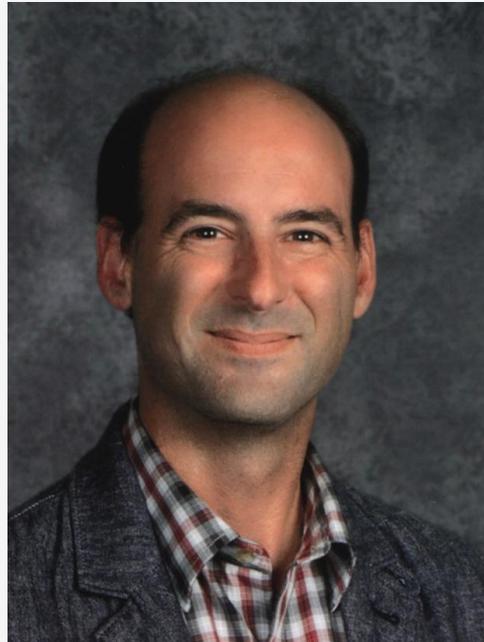
### **Chris Lavagnino**

Fourth Grade Teacher  
Ronald Reagan Elementary  
Madera County

**Chris Lavagnino was selected as California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom's 2018 Educator of the Year.**

*"I feel it is important for young Californians to realize the legacy of our state's agricultural heritage. My goal is to teach and inform them of the great bounty of crops in the Central Valley and help them to appreciate what is available to them within easy reach."*

- Chris Lavagnino



#### **What inspires you to teach about agriculture?**

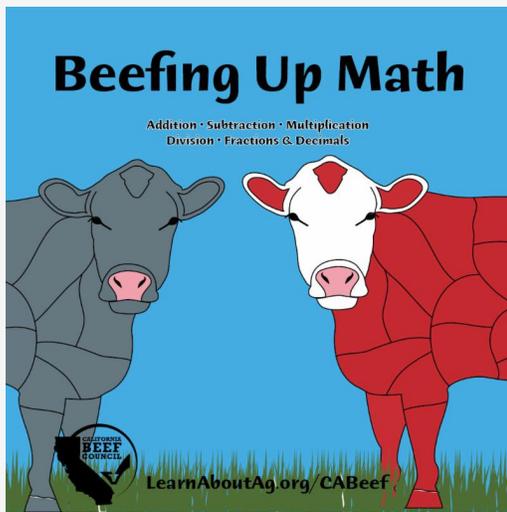
The fact that there is SO MUCH around us that ties into agriculture, yet most students know SO LITTLE about it astounds me. When a student makes that discovery and connection in my classroom, I feel so proud that we have all reached a better understanding of how our food grows.

#### **Tell us about your recent teaching adventures.**

We are lucky to have our own greenhouse on site where we can conduct experiments and grow plants. A few years ago, my students transplanted and grew a variety of succulents, which we entered into the Chowchilla Fair. All students won a first place ribbon! This year, I'd like to establish three raised garden boxes on our campus. These boxes will be used to generate interest in a school garden from students, staff, and the community. The boxes will be used for general classroom lessons, as well as for the after-school intervention program that focuses on English Language Learners.

## Featured Resource

## Beef Up Math



The "Beefing Up Math" Project was sponsored by the California Beef Council and includes five new math worksheets for students in grades 1 to 6. Students will solve math problems for addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, fractions and decimals. Once students complete the math problems, they color the beef mural according to the key. The back side of the worksheet includes word problems related to cattle ranching, and measurement problems that require the "Beef Up Your Math" ruler.

**[Order your worksheets and rulers today!](#)**



### **Want to go to Arkansas next summer?**

Mark your calendars for June 18-21, 2019. Attend the 2019 National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference in Little Rock, Arkansas. Surround yourself with educators passionate about agriculture. Find out more [here!](#)

### **More ways to bring ag into YOUR classroom!**

Are you interested in piloting or evaluating new agriculturally based curriculum now or in the future? CFAITC is often in need of educators input from all grade levels while developing curriculum. If you are interested, please contact Hayley Lawson, Curriculum Coordinator, [hayley@learnaboutag.org](mailto:hayley@learnaboutag.org) with the following: Full name, school name, current grade level taught, and best contact information.

## Community Events

### **For Educators**

Event Name and Description	Event Location	Event Date
<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.	Sacramento, CA	Year-Round (including summer)
<b><u>Powerhouse Science Center</u></b> For over 65 years, Powerhouse Science Center has been dedicated to partnering with educators across Northern California. Visit the center to try the hands-on labs, workshops and programs that are aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards and focus on providing opportunities for	Sacramento, CA	Year-Round (including summer)

mastering disciplinary core ideas (DCIs) and Science and Engineering Practices (SEPs).

## For Youth

Event Name and Description	Event Location	Event Date
<b><u>General Patton Memorial Museum</u></b> 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.	Chiriaco Summit, CA	Year-Round
<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.	Hilmar, CA	Year-Round
<b><u>AgVentures! Learning Center</u></b> 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](#).

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