



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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Students in our Taste and Teach program tasting cherry tomatoes. Yum!



## Teacher Feature

### **Katy Montecino**

**Teaches:** Sixth - Eighth

**School:** Rio del Valle Middle School

**County:** Ventura

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

I love so many of the programs. I really enjoy the Ag in the Classroom

Conference. Having the opportunity to connect with others who have been using their garden as part of their curriculum was very inspiring. I was fortunate

enough to be chosen as a stop on this year's Seed Survivor Tour. Both the kids and I enjoyed all the interactive activities and lessons both in and out of the trailer. All these experiences helped me see that agriculture in the classroom could be expanded to be so much more.

Previously, I had only been using our school garden as a reward for students, or an extra curricular break from daily lessons. After conference, and being so inspired, I am now beginning to tie it into the subject matters that I teach, math

and science. Providing the students with opportunities to learn about nutrition and cooking is a great new addition and joy to my classroom.



**Describe any agriculture-based projects you have been involved in lately.**

This past fall our pineapple guava trees went crazy. The students completed a research program on what we could do with them... so we made jam! I had them research some recipes, I brought in my blender and instant pot and taught them the process of preserving foods. We tried three different recipes and gifted them to people around campus. At the time we didn't have enough jars so we froze the rest and are now preparing to open shop again to provide Valentine's Day gifts for students' families.

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

Jump in with both feet and just do it. There are so many things that can get in the way or excuses we make as to why we shouldn't start yet. We need irrigation, we need money, we need, need, need... Reality is you only need a pack of seeds. The kids love learning how to grow their own food and there is so much to be taught and learned throughout the growing process. I am so lucky that I am able to learn from my students about their established gardening knowledge and their personal endeavors of becoming future agriculturists. I look forward to continuing this adventure with my students as we all learn about ag!



**Seed Survivor is in California!**

California Foundation for Agriculture in the

Classroom is hosting Seed Survivor Mobiles, two **FREE** plant nutrient classrooms on wheels, now 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.



This educational display will be visiting **Central and Northern California** schools on the following dates:

February 4 - February 8: Merced County  
February 11 - February 15: Stanislaus County  
February 18 - February 22: San Joaquin County  
February 25 - March 1: Sacramento County  
March 4 - March 8: Sacramento/Yolo County  
March 11 - March 15: Placer/Misc. County  
March 18 - March 22: Sacramento County  
March 25 - March 29: Contra Costa/Alameda County

The registration form is available on the Seed Survivor website. **[Register online now](#)** for when the display is in an area near you!

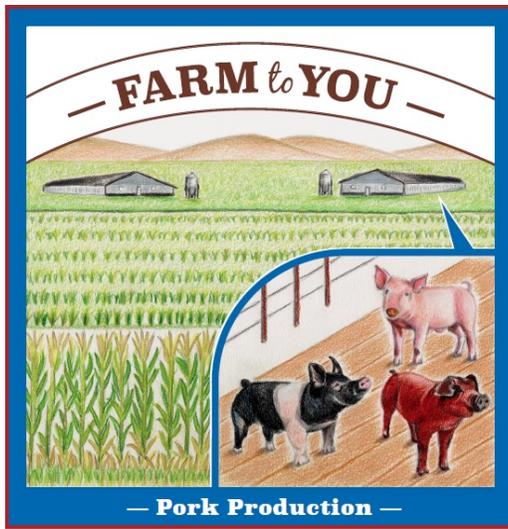
Please email **[caseedsurvivor@gmail.com](mailto:caseedsurvivor@gmail.com)** with any questions.

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

## Featured Resource

### **NEW: Farm to You: Pork Production**

We are squealing with excitement over this new resource! Follow the journey pork takes from the farm to the meal on your table. Request your **[free copy today!](#)**



**A**griculture surrounds us in California and it all starts with where water flows. Water conservation is environmentally responsible and important for the sustainability of pork production. Water contributes to every aspect of raising pork. Its helps provide the optimal environment for swine to grow. Swine producers ensure their animals receive fresh drinking water, high quality feed, and good animal care. There is much more to the story, but the water is where it all begins on the journey from Farm to you!



## Grant Feature

### CHS Foundation Grant



CHS Foundation provides scholarships to K-12 teachers to attend the 2019 National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference "AgVenture in the Natural State" set for June 19-21 in Little Rock, AR. The scholarship covers a \$435 early conference registration for teachers selected. To submit one, please visit [2019 CHS Foundation Scholarship Application](#).

**Deadline: March 1, 2019**



## 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!](#)

### 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!](#)



## Community Events

### For Educators

Event Name and Description	Event Location	Event Date
<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>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 mastering disciplinary core ideas (DCIs) and Science and Engineering Practices (SEPs).</p>	Sacramento, CA	Year-Round (including summer)

### For Youth

Event Name and Description	Event Location	Event Date
<p><b><u>Tulare County Farm Bureau Calendar Art Contest</u></b>            In recognition of National Ag Week, March 18-22, 2019, Tulare County Farm Bureau and the Tulare County Office of Education will hold a calendar art contest for Tulare County students in grades K-12. A total of 14 winners will be selected for the 12-page, full color calendar from the following grade categories: K-3, 4-6, 7-8, 9-12. A special prize will be awarded for the best overall entry. This year's theme: "Tulare County Agriculture: Full S.T.E.A.M. Ahead"</p>	Tulare County	Due by February 15, 2019
<p><b><u>Napa County Ag Day</u></b>            This FREE ag education field trip for Napa County 2nd-3rd grade students and families is brought to you by the Napa County Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom program and the Napa County Ag Commissioner.</p>	Napa Valley Expo	March 8, 2019
<p><b><u>Lake County Ag &amp; Natural Resource Day</u></b>            Students will have the opportunity to see farm animals, participate in activities and learn more about the source of their food and fiber. They will talk to farmers and learned about what it takes to raise plants and animals.</p>	Lake County Fairgrounds	March 28, 2019
<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</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 [donation](#) today!

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