



California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom

Fantastic Ag Fact:

White asparagus is green asparagus that has not been exposed to the sun.



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Students playing games inside Seed Survivor Mobile while learning what plants need to grow. Sign up for Seed Survivor while it's still here in CA!



Teacher Feature

Jennifer Dobbie

Teaches: Sixth

School: Isbell Middle School

County: Ventura

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

When my Ag Club partner and I were researching resources for our club, we ran across Ag in the Classroom. We immediately applied to go to the Ag in the Classroom Conference.

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

I *LOVED* going to the Ag in the Classroom Conference this past September. I received a lot of great information to share with my students. I was also inspired by all the amazing, enthusiastic educators around me!



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

With our Ag Club we are currently starting our spring planting which is preparing for our teacher community supported agriculture (CSA) that we will start in the late spring and continue when school begins in the fall. This program will be similar to the CSA model where our teachers will sign up for a subscription for a season and pay a fee and then we will provide them with a box of produce weekly or biweekly. The students are also interested in having a flower CSA where teachers will sign up for weekly fresh wild flowers for their desks. Students will use the money they have earned to put back into the garden. This is how we are teaching the students about the business end of agriculture. This is our current project that we are very excited about it. Part of the planting will also include lessons on eating seasonally and which vegetables, fruits and herbs grow best together and which cannot be in the same bed.

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

Patience, lots and lots of patience. Things will happen that you have no control over and you just have to laugh. Last year we had just planted our garden and then our community was hit with one of those devastating fires and did not have school or access to our garden for six weeks. We simply had to start over. The kids were very understanding. They felt empowered with the challenges and worked harder than ever before. This year we have been hit with rain, TONS of rain. More than we ever have had to deal with. We have learned a lot, such as don't leave trash cans with rotten oranges and weeds and have it fill up with water... the smell is unbearable! But, we laugh about it now and turn our trash cans upside down! Additional advice, do not be afraid to try something new. We once planted seeds and decided to put them in our new greenhouse to see what would happen, assuming they would sprout faster. Well, it was too hot and they all fried. Lesson learned. Finally, please note that there is nothing more powerful than kids getting their hands dirty. It changes their perspective and ultimately their soul. Kids and ag are a natural fit... no, they are a necessity. Time in the soil starts deep conversations, great inquiry and builds positive relationships. Every teacher should give ag a try!

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 **Northern California** schools on the following dates:

March 4 - March 8: Sacramento/Alameda County

March 11 - March 15: Placer/Stanislaus County

March 18 - March 22: Sacramento County

March 25 - March 29: Shasta 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** 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!

Celebrating Agriculture and Education



[Silt Wine Company](#)
April 5, 2019 - 5:30 p.m.

This year, we are excited to host our Northern California special event at Silt Wine Company in Clarksburg. Mingle with your friends and get to know new ones while enjoying live music, heavy hors d'oeuvres and hosted wine and beer. The menu will be inspired by our new student resource - *Cultural Contributions to California Cuisine* which educates students about the many California grown commodities that can be used to create recipes derived from cultures around the world.

[Register online now!](#)

Featured Resource



Ag-Bites
Bite-sized activities for bringing agriculture into your classroom. These one-page sheets explain how to perform hands-on learning activities with students in various grade levels (K-12).

 Desktop Gardens (2-5)	 Cowboy Brands (3-4)	 Ice Cream in a Bag (1-5)	 Water Cycle in a Cup (5-8)	 Making Recycled Paper (K-3)
 Apples and Earth (3-5)	 Link 'Em (6-8)	 Tops or Bottoms (K-3)	 Tasty Tasting (9-12)	 A Journey Through a Rice Mill (9-12)
 Asparagus (4-6)	 Got Guts? (3-5)	 Roll of the Genes (3-5)	 Soy Cheese (9-12)	 Drive Through Nutrition (3-6)
 Track Your Nutrition (9-12)	 Garden in a Glove (3-8)	 Ag TransPORtation (5-8)	 Learn About Ag California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom	

Ag-Bites...

Ag-Bites are bite-sized ways to bring agriculture into your classroom. These one-page sheets explain how to perform hands-on learning activities with students in various grade levels (K-12).

[Download Entire Set](#)

Grant Feature

President's Environmental Youth Award and Presidential Innovation Award for Environmental Educators



Applications are now being accepted for the President's Environmental Youth Award (PEYA) and The Presidential Innovation Award for

Environmental Educators Award (PIAEE). EPA is seeking PEYA and PIAEE awards applications that highlight environmental stewardship in a variety of areas, including the following: environmental sustainability; a healthy school environment including projects that reduce food waste in school cafeterias; environmentally friendly agricultural practices; reducing human contributions to ocean litter and how to prevent it; school gardens; recycling; or using STEM to teach environmental education.

[Youth Application](#)
[Educator Application](#)

Deadline: March 8, 2019



Education and Agriculture Together (EAT) Foundation

The EAT Foundation offers a variety of Continuing Education (CE) classes which combine hands-on workshops, seminars, and tours in the field of agriculture. Our courses are offered in 1, 2 & 3 day sessions and take place at various locations and times of the year. Find out more [here!](#)

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!](#)



For Educators

Event Name and Description	Event Location	Event Date
<p><u>Life Lab Workshops</u> Life Lab has trained tens of thousands of educators across the nation! Sign up today for one of their many workshops, spring through summer!</p>	Santa Cruz, CA	Spring - Summer 2019
<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>Powerhouse Science Center</u> 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</p>	Sacramento, CA	Year-Round (including summer)

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).

For Youth

Event Name and Description	Event Location	Event Date
<p><u>Napa County Ag Day</u> 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><u>Solano Youth Ag Day</u> This fun and educational event is free to all third grade classes in Solano County and features a wide variety of rotational learning stations and displays. Activities are designed to give children the opportunity to learn about food and fiber production from new perspectives, with a particular emphasis on the agricultural wealth of Solano County.</p>	Solano County Fair Grounds	March 19, 2019
<p><u>Lake County Ag & Natural Resource Day</u> 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 learn about what it takes to raise plants and animals.</p>	Lake County Fairgrounds	March 28, 2019
<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 [donation](#) today!

Stay Connected! @LearnAboutAg



