 fantastiC aG fact:
Did you know that May is BEEF month and that 98% of beef cattle is used with less than half eaten as beef?!

In this issue...

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Attendees from our Healthy Students, Healthy Minds Agricultural Nutrition Education Seminar on a tour of Fiery Ginger Farm in West Sacramento.

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 2018-2019 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.

Meat 'n' Greet - LearnAboutAg... Beef Seminar

We are pleased to host a beef education seminar, Meat 'n' Greet, on Thursday, June 13, 2019 in Sacramento for 40 educators from 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. We hope teachers will gain an appreciation for the beef industry, all that it provides our daily lives, and learn how to include beef curriculum aligned to California state standards into everyday lessons and curriculum.
Tentative Agenda:

- Meet Frank Mitloehner, renowned U.C. Davis Professor, Air Quality Extension Specialist, and chairman of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, who will share his thoughts on how he is shaping the way science views the world's livestock production.

- Engage in STEM lessons and hands-on activities to LearnAboutBeef that are easy to incorporate into your classroom.

- Experience a cattle ranch tour where you will have a chance to "experience the west" and visit with real live cowboys!

- Leave with a Starter Kit of beef-focused resources including nutrition, the environment, sustainability, and agriculture literacy.

A $25 deposit is required to secure your reservation and will be returned to you following your participation in the seminar.

Register Today!

Bon à la Beef

California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom partnered with California Beef Council to create four professional video clips featuring elementary through high school students preparing recipes to educate students, teachers, and the public about beef, its nutritional value, and its proper handling and preparation. The student-developed recipes use easy techniques and readily available ingredients. Each of the four cooking video clips are paired with educational lesson plans that are aligned to Standards for students in grades 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12.

Request your free copy!

Look at Agriculture... Organically! Grant
The "Look at Agriculture... Organically!" grants are designed to creatively enhance the understanding of organic agriculture for kindergarten through eighth grade students. Grants of up to $1,000 will be provided to educators nationwide. These grants are made possible by a partnership between California Certified Organic Farmers Foundation and California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom.

**Apply Online Today!**

**Deadline: May 6, 2019**

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**More Ways to LearnAboutAg**

**Farm Academy Live**
Farm Academy Live offers classrooms virtual field trips to farms using interactive video conference technology. Trusted by teachers since 2009, 100,000 students across 33 states and four countries have benefited from this program. This 40-minute virtual tour of a farm teaches plant and animal science in line with national science standards. The experience is enhanced by offering students the opportunity to engage in hands-on activities like ginning cotton by hand and mixing a feed ration for a dairy cow. Find out more [here](#)!

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

**Want to go to Arkansas this 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](#)!

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**For Educators**

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<tr>
<th>Event Name and Description</th>
<th>Event Location</th>
<th>Event Date</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Life Lab Workshops</strong></td>
<td>Santa Cruz, CA</td>
<td>Spring - Summer</td>
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Life Lab has trained tens of thousands of educators across the nation! Sign up today for one of their many workshops, spring through summer!

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<th><strong>Powerhouse Science Center</strong></th>
<th>Sacramento, CA</th>
<th>Year-Round (including summer)</th>
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<td>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).</td>
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<th><strong>For Youth</strong></th>
<th><strong>Event Name and Description</strong></th>
<th><strong>Event Location</strong></th>
<th><strong>Event Date</strong></th>
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<td><strong>El Dorado Farm Day 2019</strong></td>
<td>Third grade classes are invited to a day of fun, hands-on experience, and agricultural lessons. Interactive displays include subjects like nutrition, land stewardship, and more!</td>
<td>El Dorado County Fairgrounds</td>
<td>May 7, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Hilmar Cheese Company School and Youth Tours</strong></td>
<td>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 &quot;ABCs&quot; and a souvenir pencil.</td>
<td>Hilmar, CA</td>
<td>Year-Round</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>AgVentures! Learning Center</strong></td>
<td>Tours of the Learning Center are available year-round for elementary school students. Cost is $3 per student.</td>
<td>Tulare, CA</td>
<td>Year-Round</td>
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**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

[Social media icons]