



Fantastic Ag Fact:



Ancient Greeks and Romans used carrots for medicinal purposes.

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We began writing the 18th edition of our "What's Growin' On?" student newspaper, *Props to Specialty Crops*, last week. Thank you General Produce for the wonderful tour!





**October 17-19, 2019
DoubleTree by Hilton Sonoma
Rohnert Park, CA**

General Registration: \$275
(includes all meals, resources and farm tours)

We are seeking enthusiastic presenters who would like to share their expertise, experience and educational resources with our attendees.

Proposals are now being accepted for:

Make 'n' Takes*

Exhibits

"A Taste of California"

Register Now!

**We offer a \$50 stipend for all Make 'n' Take presenters.*

 **Teacher Feature**

Mary Riley

Grades taught: 9-12

School: Sonora High School

County: Orange

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

While in college at Fresno State, I worked for the Central Valley Ag Literacy Projects and presented ag literacy materials that came from Ag in the Classroom to many teachers and students. This experience inspired me to conduct projects with my students that spreads the word about ag to the communities our school serves. These students annually conduct farm tours to over 2,500 students using activity stations infused with materials from AITC and builds an interactive Farm to Fork display for our local community fair.



2. How long have you been teaching students about agriculture?

I have been teaching high school agriculture science for thirteen years in

a traditional high school agriculture science program teaching classes in Veterinary Science, Floral Design, Ag Biology, Ag and Soil Chemistry, Environmental Science and Floral Design. Through these diverse curriculum subjects, I have found that it is essential to stress the basic connection we have with agriculture and challenge students to think about how their generation will be responsible for feeding our growing population.

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

I love the fact sheets because I am not an expert in all aspects of agriculture. With California being so diverse and our county having a limited amount of ag production diversity, these sheets developed by industry and educators are great for understanding the vast commodities produced by our state. They are easy to read, so my students can use them and extract lots of information to share for tours or incorporate into class projects or assignments. I love that they combine history, economics, and the science of production agriculture.

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

This past year, our school received a Literacy for Life Grant for our explanation of our "Ag on the Mooove" assembly program. For years, we have had elementary schools visit our school farm. With the field trips becoming more difficult to take and more expensive, we decided to take the farm to their school. By developing hands-on stations, we were able to serve an entire elementary with a memorable learning experience. During the assembly, students experience milking a dairy cow, milling corn and soybeans to feed to pigs, learn about cool and warm season crops to start their own garden in a glove, process cream into butter, and learn about rabbits and their digestive track.

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

Implementing ag in the classroom does not have to be a done by a huge construction project or long term commitment. I have found that the small insertions of ag exposure across the class curriculum sparks just as much of the students' interest. Growing beans in the corner of the classroom sparks as many ag conversations as our huge school garden. The lasting impact is made not by size of the project, but the connections you make to the student's everyday life.



Tee Off for Education - Golf Tournament



Ready for a game of golf? Join us on September 6 at Wildhorse Golf Club in Davis. Your sponsorship or ticket purchase helps support agricultural education!

[Flyer & Registration Form](#)



Taste and Teach - Applications Available August 12

Are you ready to bring new fruits and vegetables into your classroom? Raley's, Stater Bros. and the California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom are offering an



opportunity for you to Taste and Teach. This year, 450 Taste and Teach Grants are available! Selected teachers will receive a \$100 gift card to Raley's, Bel Air and Nob Hill or Stater Bros. grocery stores to purchase featured California-grown commodities (fruits, vegetables and nuts!) each month beginning September 2019.

[Applications will be available August 12!](#)

Featured Resource

Imagine this... Videos



Friend of a Farmer

The 2018-2019 Imagine this... videos are now available for viewing! Make sure to check out the amazing stories that are all inspired by agriculture.

[View all videos here!](#)

Literacy for Life Grants!



Want to take your class on an ag field trip, purchase a class set of ag books, or host an ag education day? Here is your chance! Grant possibilities are limitless; be creative and innovative! Literacy for Life \$500 grants are designed to initiate new projects or expand existing ones that promote agricultural literacy. Teachers K-12 are eligible.

Deadline: October 1, 2019

[Apply Online!](#)



The CHS Foundation is offering classroom grants for K-12 teachers with projects such as school gardens, embryology initiatives and other plant and animal projects that use agricultural concepts to teach reading, writing, math, science, social studies and other subjects. **The deadline for the \$500 grants is Sept. 15.**

[Learn more and apply for a CHS Foundation Classroom Grant today!](#)

Imagine this... Story Writing Contest

California students in grades 3-8 creatively explore where their food 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!](#)

Mobile Dairy Classroom

Bring agriculture to your school with the Mobile Dairy Classroom! Dairy Council of California's assemblies teach how milk and dairy foods are produced and how they contribute to healthy eating. When you combine the Mobile Dairy Classroom with Dairy Council's 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>Life Lab Workshops 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>Powerhouse Science Center 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>Hilmar Cheese Company School and Youth Tours 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>AgVentures! Learning Center 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!



 Forward to a Friend