



Cream of the Crop

A harvest of ideas for educators

September 2019



California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom



Fantastic Ag Fact:



96% of all processed tomato products eaten in the US come from California.

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We partnered with McDonalds to develop a CA ag focused tray liner! More than 90,000 tray liners were distributed to McDonald's restaurants between Chico and Fresno. The tray liner is also available for [download](#) from our website. Learn where your McDonald's meals may have come from in California!



LearnAboutAg

SAVE THE DATE: 2019 Agriculture in the Classroom Conference



**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**

Carla Peterson
Grade taught: 3rd SDC
School: Brooks Elementary
County: Sonoma



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

I attended an interest meeting for teachers that were being invited to write lessons for a local ag curriculum that was being developed by Sonoma County UCCE. At the meeting it was announced there would be a conference about teaching agriculture in the classroom that weekend in Rohnert Park. I was able to attend Saturday only, but it was so amazing I was sold on AITC for life. That was over 20 years ago!

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

I have taught agriculture for my entire career, first with my 4th-6th graders, and now I will continue with my 3rd graders. The projects that have been the most popular with the students have been building a chicken coop, drying fruit, propagating houseplants, and making recycled paper are just a few. I've integrated ag into all subject areas; it fits so well with common core. All students love "taste tests" with California fruits, nuts, and vegetables. My class has participated locally in the Sonoma County Ag Days, Petaluma Ag Day, Sonoma-Marin Fair Ag in the Classroom program for K-6 graders, and has participated in the CFAITC *Imagine this...* writing contest.

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

That's a hard question to answer. All AITC resources are great. First of

all, the website is a tremendous resource; a teacher new to ag should start there. I have always found the lessons to be top notch and *What's Growin' On* student newspaper to be fabulous. My top recommendation would be the annual conference. All teachers should attend the conference - it is absolutely amazing and inspiring. (this year it is back in Rohnert Park, October 17-19!)

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

Last spring while I was student teaching in a K/1/2 EDB classroom I had the opportunity to teach about plants. We observed seeds, looking at and comparing monocots and dicots, studied plant and flower parts, and students learned how to transplant flowers and potted a flower to take home. We also had taste tests where "rainbow" carrots were a favorite!

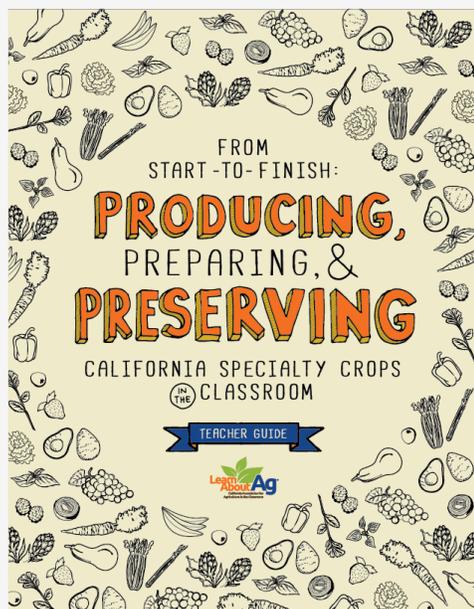
5. Do you have any advice for other teachers on implementing agriculture into the classroom?

Start with what you are interested in learning or know about. Integrate ag into other subjects, like figuring out animal pen sizes (perimeter and area) and measuring seeds (math), biography projects and writing recipes/cookbooks, participating in the *Imagine this...* writing contest (ELA). The ideas are endless. Check out the Learn About Ag website and other websites to see what resources are available. Most of all have fun!



Featured Resource

From Start to Finish: Producing, Preparing & Preserving



This three-lesson unit for grades 5-8 is designed to teach students about producing, preparing, and preserving California agricultural commodities. Lessons include inquiry-based, real life challenges that engage students in a meaningful way, as they discover the story behind how their food is produced. To extend the lessons, student workbooks with independent reading and activities are available.

[Order your Teacher & Student guides today!](#)



Grant Feature

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!](#)

 Grant Feature



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!](#)

 More Ways to LearnAboutAg[®]

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!](#)**

Budding Artist Photography Contest

The California Farm Bureau Federation Photo Contest is open to any amateur photographer who is a county Farm Bureau Member's child. Applicants under 13 years old are invited to submit entries. Budding Artist entrants will receive a copy of "Imagine this... Stories inspired by agriculture" book developed by California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom. Entries must be postmarked or entered online by **September 30, 2019**. Find more information [here!](#)

Community Events

For Educators

Event Name and Description	Event Location	Event Date
<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!	Santa Cruz, CA	Spring - Summer 2019
<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 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).	Sacramento, CA	Year-Round (including summer)

For Youth

Event Name and Description	Event Location	Event Date
<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.	Hilmar, CA	Year-Round
<u>AgVentures! Learning Center</u> Tours of the Learning Center are available year-round for elementary school students. Cost is \$3 per student.	Tulare, CA	Year-Round
<u>McKellar Farms</u> McKellar Family Farms is located in the heart of the world's most productive agricultural region -- California's Central Valley. Farmers around here feed the world. Literally! We can't wait to take you on a behind-the-scenes tour of our citrus farm. Come and let your senses run wild as you see, taste, touch, feel and smell some of California's juiciest gems!	Ivanhoe, CA	Fall and Spring
<u>Yuba-Sutter Farm Day</u> Farm Day is an annual event put on by the Yuba Sutter Farm Bureau where 2,000 local third-grade students, plus teachers and parents, visit the Yuba-Sutter Fairgrounds for a fun-filled day of learning all about agriculture.	Yuba-Sutter Fair Grounds	September 27, 2019

<p><u>Glenn County 4th Grade Farm Day</u> All Glenn County 4th Graders are invited to participate in a morning of fun ag education at the Glenn County Fairgrounds.</p>	Glenn County Fair Grounds	September 18, 2019
<p><u>Shasta County Farm Day</u> Farm City Day is an FREE educational field trip for all of Shasta Counties fourth grade students. The event is organized by the Shasta County Farm Bureau. Each class takes home a bin full of lesson plans and free school supplies for each child.</p>	Shasta Fairgrounds	September 25, 2019

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



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