



California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom



Fantastic Ag Fact:



California produces the largest supply of almonds in the world. With more than 6,000 growers and 100 almond processors, California produces approximately 80 percent of the world's almonds and 100 percent of the United States commercial supply.

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Students at Julien Elementary in Stanislaus County taste citrus fruits as part of the Taste and Teach program.



LearnAboutAg

**Congratulations to the
"Imagine this..." State Winners!**



California students in grades 3-8 creatively explored where their food and fiber comes from by writing narrative stories. The winning stories from each grade level are being illustrated by high school art students and published for our annual story book, *Imagine this... Stories Inspired by Agriculture*.

[Find the winners here!](#)

Teacher Feature

Steve Pietrolungo

Grade taught: Principal

School: Monte Vista Independent Learning Academy

County: Ventura

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

I first learned of AITC when I was teaching agriculture back in the 1980's. AITC approached me to ask if they could borrow our milking cow to take to various schools in the Los Angeles area.

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

I started teaching agriculture at a junior high in the Los Angeles area in 1978. Two years later, I was the agriculture teacher at Canoga Park High School (also part of LAUSD). I taught there for 19 years and had a very active FFA chapter. Before becoming an administrator, I helped develop an Agricultural Science Magnet. In 1997, I became a school administrator but always remembered my agriculture roots. School gardens, campuses with flowers and hands-on beautification projects have become one of my calling cards. Currently, at Monte Vista, we have a school garden, seven greenhouses, a nursery along with laying hens and rabbits. Once a month, I teach a floral design class for our students and parents. It has grown to more than 80 participants!

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

I enjoy the yearly conference. I'm able to build connections, see firsthand



various agriculture commodities being grown, and the resources and people I meet are always awesome!

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

We are going to host this year's Ventura County Farm Day. We hope to have close to 1000 3rd graders from our area visit us!

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

Don't be afraid to get your hands dirty. So what if a little dirt ends up on the floor! There so many wonderful resources out there. Use them, ask questions, and experiment! Don't worry if things do not always turn out right...it's okay to 'Fail Forward.'

 **Featured Resource**

Journey 2050



HOW WILL WE SUSTAINABLY FEED NEARLY 10 BILLION PEOPLE BY THE YEAR 2050?



As students virtually farm in different countries they must balance social, economic and environmental factors.

Lesson plans provided in this curriculum-based program geared for grade 7-12.

FREE SCHOOL PROGRAM

  

www.Journey2050.com

HOW WILL WE SUSTAINABLY FEED NEARLY 10 BILLION PEOPLE BY THE YEAR 2050?

Across the globe, students are experiencing agriculture in a way that's never been taught before. This program allows students in grades 7-12 to make decisions through interactive video games

and witness their impact on society, the environment, and the economy at a local and global scale. Check out the built-in lessons and extension activities to add to your classroom.

[Make your teacher account today!](#)

 **Grant Feature**

California Fertilizer Grants



The California Fertilizer Foundation (CCF) provides 24 grants for \$1,200 each to schools throughout California (12 awarded twice a year). At the end of each year, winning schools can re-apply for a progress grant of \$1,500 and a free agricultural field trip. Through the garden program, CFF provides direct funding to California schools for garden projects.

Grants applications due: January 15, 2020.

[Apply Today!](#)



Want to go to Salt Lake City next summer?

Mark your calendar for June 23-26, 2020. Attend the 2020 National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference in Salt lake City, Utah. Surround yourselves with educators passionate about incorporating agriculture into their classrooms!

Find out more [here!](#)

National Farm to Cafeteria Conference

The 10th National Farm to Cafeteria Conference will be held April 21-23, 2020 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. This conference, hosted by the National Farm to School Network is the only national gathering of stakeholders from throughout the country. 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>Coastal Art & Poetry Contest The contest is open to all California students in kindergarten through 12th grade, and is a chance for students to explore coastal themes and present them creatively. By encouraging youth to reflect on the beauty and spirit of California's beaches and ocean,</p>	Statewide	Due by January 31, 2020

<p>we hope to inspire a greater sense of stewardship for these natural places.</p>		
<p><u>Tulare County Farm Bureau Calendar Art Contest</u> In recognition of National Ag Week, 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. Cash prizes will be awarded at a special presentation at a County Board of Supervisors Meeting in March. This year's theme: Farming through the Ages.</p>	Tulare, CA	Due by February 15, 2020
<p><u>Cal Water H2O Challenge</u> The students of participating classrooms or clubs initiate, develop, and implement a 4-8 week-long project (or longer at teacher discretion), focusing on caring for water. This project explores water as a global resource and as a local resource, while tackling a local water problem in an individual and community-based endeavor.</p>	Statewide	Due by February 21, 2020
<p><u>Solano County Youth Ag Day</u> Youth Ag Day is a collaborative effort of the Solano County Fair Association and agricultural related businesses, organizations, farmers, ranchers and other individuals to encourage Solano County third graders to experience agriculture first-hand. This fun and educational event is free to all 3rd grade classes in Solano County and features a wide variety of hands-on 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>	Valejo, CA	March 17, 2020
<p><u>Yolo County Farm Bureau Farm Connection Day</u> Yolo County students in grades K-6 are invited to the Yolo County Fairgrounds to spend their day learning about and experiencing agriculture from the industry's experts!</p>	Woodland, CA	May 1, 2020
<p><u>El Dorado County-Placerville Farm Day</u> Farm Days are fun, hands-on field trips where lessons of agriculture and its role in our everyday lives, our county, and its economy are taught in the context of local farms, ranches, forests, and watersheds. Registration is available to all 3rd grade classes in El Dorado County. Students and teachers experience the sights, sounds, smells and feels of agriculture at Farm Day. Throughout the day, students and their teachers rotate to 6-8 different learning stations to learn about farms, natural resources, food, nutrition and animals.</p>	Placerville, CA	May 5, 2020
<p><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!</p>	Ivanhoe, CA	Fall and Spring
<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</p>	Hilmar, CA	Year-Round

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.

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!

Stay Connected! @LearnAboutAg



Forward to a Friend