



summer 2008

# hands on agriculture

GROWING... WITH YOUR SUPPORT.

## Jim Hicks, 17 Years of Lending a Hand

Jim Hicks first learned of California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom (CFAITC) 17 years ago, when he picked up a pamphlet during his travels in the fertilizer industry. "I knew, right then, that this organization was the answer. I've been fond of Ag in the Classroom from day one," said Hicks, who, since his discovery, has been among Ag in the Classroom's most loyal supporters.



JIM HICKS WITH CFAITC BOARD  
MEMBER MARTHA DEICHLER  
AT THE 2008 CONFERENCE

In June, during the National Ag in the Classroom Conference in Orange County, Hicks stopped by to see for himself how his support is impacting teachers. He volunteered in the "CA Grown Zone," chatting and handing out fresh produce to educators from across the country. "I was amazed at the quality and the scope of the organization, and was equally impressed by the teachers who were there and by their desire to learn about the industry," he said.

Hicks is owner and manager of Jim Hicks & Company, a widely suc-

cessful and respected wholesale distributor of commercial fertilizers in Brea, California, where his two sons, Pat and Grady are also part of the family business. "The biggest problem facing agriculture today, is that we are coming up on second and third-generation Americans who have no idea where their food comes from," he said. The generous contributions made by Jim Hicks, and every donor to Ag in the Classroom, help to reverse this growing trend.



upcoming events:

NATIONAL  
AGRICULTURE WEEK  
**MARCH 15-21, 2009**

CFAITC CONFERENCE  
**OCTOBER 22-24, 2009**

## \$300,000

California Farm Bureau Federation

## \$50,000

Allied and Nationwide Insurance Companies  
The James G. Boswell Foundation  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

## \$10,000

Ag Foundation, Inc.  
Bank of America  
California Association of Nurseries and Garden Centers  
California Teachers Association  
Farm Credit American Ag Credit  
Farm Credit West  
Fresno Madera Northern California Farm Credit  
Sacramento Valley Farm Credit  
Grand National Foundation  
Health Net of California  
Jim Hicks and Company, Inc.  
Bob Johnson Syngenta Crop Protection  
Wells Fargo  
Edwin and Jeanne Woods Family Foundation  
Zenith Insurance Company

## \$7,500

CALAMCO  
California Milk Advisory Board  
Walnut Marketing Board

## \$5,000

Cal Poly Agriculture  
California Beef Council  
California Department of Food and Agriculture  
CAPCA  
Don Diego Fund  
Folsom Lake Dodge  
Olive Hill Greenhouses  
Paramount Farms  
Western Growers

## \$2,500

The Allen Group  
American AgCredit  
American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture  
Blue Diamond Growers  
California Strawberry Commission  
Dow AgroSciences  
Farmland Management Services  
The Bertha and John Garabedian Charitable Foundation  
R. Gorrill Ranch Enterprises  
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Orange County Farm Bureau  
Pauli Ranch  
Sierra Pacific Foundation

Peter and Amelia Tognazzini  
Paul and Deborah Wenger  
Western United Dairymen  
Word & Brown

## \$2,000

The Henry W. Bull Foundation  
California Cantaloupe Advisory Board  
Rabobank, N.A.  
San Joaquin Tomato Growers, Inc.  
Yosemite Farm Credit

## \$1,500

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Bank of the West  
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California Women for Agriculture  
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Riverbend Dairy  
The Tremont Group, Inc.  
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Vaquero Foundation  
Vino Farms, Inc.  
W. D. Young & Sons, Inc.

## \$1,000

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American Farm Bureau Federation  
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VH Azhderian  
Willard E. Bartel Foundation  
Bell-Carter Foods, Inc.

Blue Cross of California  
Bosman Dairy  
George and Ruth Bradford Foundation  
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California Alfalfa and Forage Association  
California Association of Winegrape Growers  
California Canning Peach Association  
California Cherry Advisory Board  
California Fresh Carrot Advisory Board  
California Grape and Tree Fruit League  
California Poultry Federation  
Chevron Corporation  
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# donor highlight Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

CFAITC is excited to announce that Wal-Mart has become the primary sponsor of the Foundation's annual *Imagine this...* creative writing contest, a program designed to challenge students in grades 3–8 to research and write a story about some aspect of the California agriculture industry.

The annual contest inspired more than 10,000 agriculturally-themed essays to be written in 2007. Each year, six student authors are selected for their original stories and honored with special awards and recognitions. The stories are illustrated by high school students and published as a soft bound book, highlighting the students' achievements.

# Support from Health Net is Above Par!

On Monday, May 12, 2008, nearly 100 California golfers teed-off to support agriculture education at the



GEORGE GOMES POSES FOR THE CAMERA

prestigious Granite Bay Golf Club. Health Net, Inc., one of the nation's largest publicly traded managed health care companies, served as the

Signature Sponsor of the annual golf tournament benefiting CFAITC.

"Health Net's goal to improve health aligns with our goal of educating students about the importance of agriculture in our society, our economy and in the personal health and well-being of each of us," said Ag in the Classroom Executive Director, Judy Culbertson.

Proceeds of the tournament support the development and distribution of resources, programs and training opportunities that help foster an appreciation for an industry that provides safe, abundant and affordable products, and a strong economy.

## CFAITC Conference Draws a Crowd

This past June 25-28, California hosted the National Ag in the Classroom Conference for the first time in 16 years. More than 550 teachers, administrators, nutritionists, volunteers and state officials from 49 states, including Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell, and Secretary of Food and Agriculture A.G. Kawamura, gathered in Costa Mesa to attend the annual event.

During his remarks on June 27, O'Connell commended the audience of educators for their dedication to bringing agricultural awareness to today's students. "We've laid a solid founda-

tion for the study of agriculture to thrive in our classrooms," he said.

The California agriculture industry and many Agriculture in the Classroom donors helped make the conference a success by providing a generous array of auction items, wines, flowers, and more than \$4,000 worth of fresh California produce.

STRAWBERRIES DONATED BY  
THE CALIFORNIA STRAWBERRY  
COMMISSION





We are California Foundation for  
Agriculture in the Classroom (CFAITC).

Our mission is to increase awareness  
and understanding of agriculture  
among California's educators  
and students. Our vision is an  
appreciation of agriculture by all.

We are a 501 (c)(3) organization.

{800} 700-AITC (2482)  
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\$25       \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

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PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: CFAITC, 2300 RIVER PLAZA DRIVE, SACRAMENTO, CA 95833-3293

TO CONTRIBUTE ONLINE, VISIT  
OUR WEB SITE AT [WWW.CFAITC.ORG/GIVING](http://WWW.CFAITC.ORG/GIVING)



# Welcome To Hands on Ag!

For many of you – Welcome Back! We are pleased to again provide this newsletter for friends and supporters of California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom, aimed at presenting news, program updates, and general information, as well as expressing our gratitude for all you do.



JUDY CULBERTSON,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Your generosity has allowed us to reach more than 11,000 educators in 40% of California's schools through our programs and resources. By helping classroom teachers recognize the importance of our food and fiber production, we are essentially passing this message on to our students, the next generation of consumers, voters, employers and parents.

Thank you for sharing this vision with us and taking that extra bit of time, effort and expense to support Agriculture in the Classroom. We look forward to sharing our progress with you, as you continue to turn our goals into reality. Thank you very much for your support.

Sincerely,

*Judy Culbertson*



CALIFORNIA FOUNDATION FOR  
AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM  
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