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## Message from Rick Phillips

I grew up with roots in agriculture and worked on my family's farm. But today's students are generations away from their source of food—they have little idea where their food and fiber comes from.

I personally recognized the need for Agriculture in the Classroom when I was driving through Idaho with my son who was nine. We saw a corral off to the side of the road with pigs in it. He asked what kind of animals were inside the corral—I thought everyone knew what a pig was and right then witnessed firsthand the importance of agricultural education. Since then I have helped to organize and develop Agriculture in the Classroom programs throughout the country.

My favorite CFAITC project is the *Imagine this...* Story Writing Contest. This contest is like magic—it is inspiring to see the students' imaginations at work as it applies to California agriculture. The diversity of the stories written by students each year illustrates the importance of agriculture.

CFAITC works everyday to ensure teachers receive trusted, credible information to help their students understand the importance of agriculture. Please join me in supporting our mission to provide teachers with solid resources that connect students to agriculture.



RICK PHILLIPS,  
 BOARD MEMBER



# hands on agriculture

GROWING... WITH YOUR SUPPORT.

September 2014

## Bon à la Beef - Cooking With Kids

California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom has partnered with the California Beef Council on a new project, Bon à la Beef. This project educates students, teachers, and consumers about beef nutrition and the proper handling and preparation of beef through four professionally-

filmed videos of elementary through high school students cooking beef recipes.



TRACY SELLERS AND  
 NICHELLE CRAWFORD  
 COOKING BEEF YAKITORI

Each cooking video is paired with an educational lesson plan that is aligned to Content Standards for California Public Schools for students in grades 3-5, 6-8, or 9-12. The lessons will help students learn the history of beef cattle, nutrition, and how to plan a meal on a budget.

The chefs are 10-year-old Nicolas Come, a student at Sacramento Waldorf School; 12-year-old Elisabeth Watkins, a 7th grade student at Excel Academy; and Nichelle Crawford, a senior at Leo A. Palmiter High School.

In July, CFAITC worked with Access Sacramento and California Bountiful's TV host, Tracy Sellers, to film the videos at the Art Institute of California-Sacramento. Access Sacramento filmed the students and created individual video clips and a 30-minute video segment that includes an interview from Jim Vietheer, a Sacramento County cattle rancher; James Winestead, Director of Food and Nutrition Outreach at the California Beef Council; and Kathie Griley, Culinary Academic Director at the Art Institute of California-Sacramento.



### upcoming events:

**California AITC  
 Conference**  
 Santa Cruz, CA  
 Oct. 16-18, 2014

**National Agriculture  
 Week Events**  
 Northern & Southern CA  
 March & April 2015

## California Women for Agriculture: A Long-standing Supporter

California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom has many partners who support our vision of an appreciation of agriculture by all. Since our inception in 1986, California Women for Agriculture (CWA) has been one of those partners. CWA was formed in 1975 and is comprised of a dynamic cross section of members. With 20 chapters throughout the state, CWA's membership is as diverse as the agricultural industry itself—with members who are farmers, ranchers, bankers, and consumers—all with a common passion for California agriculture.



“Today’s students are helping to make many of the important decisions affecting California agriculture. They learn about the drought and water conservation tips in school and take this information home to teach their parents. In school, students are trying new fruits and vegetables and encouraging their parents to purchase those items at the grocery store,” said Lynn Figone, CWA President. “It is one big circle and that is why it is so important to educate students about California agriculture and all that it provides.”

Throughout the years, CWA has supported CFAITC at county events and teacher conferences. Many members helped celebrate CFAITC’s 25th anniversary at San Francisco Farm Day. CWA chapters throughout the state have used funding to provide scholarships for California educators to attend the California Agriculture in the Classroom Conference. “This is important because we are able to help educate students and their teachers about agriculture at the same time,” Figone said.

CWA doesn’t stop at helping educate students. Another part of their mission is legislative advocacy on behalf of agriculture. One way that the organization accomplishes this goal is by partnering with CFAITC and the California Department of Food and Agriculture to host California Agriculture Day at the State Capitol each year. California Agriculture Day unites all industries within the agricultural community to show legislative members why it is important to keep agriculture viable. “It is critical that we help consumers understand that if they eat food, or wear clothes, they are involved in agriculture,” Figone said.

CFAITC thanks CWA for its continued support of agricultural literacy. 🌱

## Ag in the Classroom...

### Providing Educator Grants

California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom is pleased to provide educators with grants to encourage agricultural education and help students learn how their food is grown and how their fiber is produced through creative and unique projects. **Currently, three grant programs are available to California educators.**



ROBIN SATNICK'S STUDENTS STUDYING GARDEN CRITTERS

**Literacy for Life Grants**, sponsored by the Orregia Family Foundation, are designed to initiate new projects or expand existing projects that promote agricultural literacy. Grants of up to \$500 are provided

to 25 California educators each year to support the integration of agriculture into regular classroom instruction. These grants have helped teachers purchase classroom sets of agriculturally themed books, incubate and hatch chicks to study life cycles, tour farms and ranches, and learn about agriculture in many creative ways.

**California Specialty Crop Taste Test Grants**, established in 2013, provide 250 third through eighth grade teachers with grants of \$200 each to purchase California specialty crop fruits and vegetables for monthly

taste tests. Along with the grant funding, educators receive a Specialty Crop Resource Packet that includes lessons, activities, and recipes that assist with their teaching about California specialty crops. This is a two-year grant program sponsored by the California Department of Food and Agriculture’s Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. During the first year, more than 13,500 students were introduced to new fruits and vegetables.

This year, CFAITC partnered with the California Certified Organic Farmers (CCOF) to provide 10 California educators with \$1,000 through our **Look at Agriculture... Organically! Grant** program to creatively enhance organic agriculture education for their students. Projects include growing an organic pizza garden, creating a seed library, and studying soil quality.



STUDENTS AT WALNUT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TASTING FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

During the 2013-2014 school year, **CFAITC awarded \$95,810 in grant funding to teachers and 23,650 students benefited from projects funded by these grants.** These grant programs provide teachers with tools that make learning about agriculture fun, engaging, and memorable for students. 🌱



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.

{800} 700-AITC (2482)

[www.LearnAboutAg.org](http://www.LearnAboutAg.org)

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