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join me this year in supporting and contributing to its vital mission. 🤜 will and I hope

NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS OF AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM



## Seed Survivor Tours California Again!

We depend on plants for food, medicine and oxygen, and they're also fun to have around. Why not learn about them in a 32-foot mobile classroom with talking walls? Agrium's Seed Survivor Mobile is an interactive plant nutrient classroom on wheels, and it will be making its way across California, starting in November.



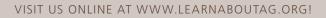
California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroon (CFAITC), Agrium and Crop Production Services (CPS) have teamed up again to make the experience available to California students. With its focus on plants, Seed Survivor teaches the basics of agricultural production. CFAITC Executive Director Judy Culbertson believes this interaction is beneficial, not only to youth.

"Seed Survivor is a great way to introduce students to agriculture," Culbertson says. "We use plants for food, clothes, animal feed, and countless other products. It's important to nurture the curiosity youth have for plants as an opportunity to explore

and understand all aspects of agriculture. We're thankful to Agrium and CPS for their partnership in this effort."

With dynamic presenters, interactive displays and a seedplanting activity, Seed Survivor offers something for all learning styles. Participants discover what plants need to survive: water, light, soil and nutrients. The program teaches a number of Next Generation Science Standards.

CFAITC last hosted Seed Survivor Mobile in 2011 to 2012, when one trailer visited 84 schools and four community events, reaching more than 22,000 students. This year, two trailers will visit students in K-6. Register for a presentation on SeedSurvivor.com, and call CFAITC at (800)700-2482 with any questions.



SEED SURVIVOR WAS AT THE 2012 WORLD AG EXPO AND WILL BE RETURNING ON ITS 2015- 2016 TOUR.

upcoming events: Come aboard the .. California AITC

Conference The Queen Mary Long Beach, CA Oct. 22-24, 2015



National Agriculture Week Events Northern & Southern CA March & April 2016



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# California Milk Advisory Board:

### A Real Loyal Supporter



Look for the Seals

Promoting knowledge about California's number one

commodity is an important part of what we do. The support of Real Milk experts has been a great benefit as we strive to provide accurate and interesting information to teachers and students. For this reason, we would like to thank the California Milk Advisory Board (CMAB) for their continued funding and collaboration.

A common goal to educate consumers has been the basis of a strong relationship between CFAITC and CMAB. Since 1994, CMAB has consistently provided funding for developing new curriculum, coordinating events like the annual California Agriculture in the Classroom Conference, promoting National Agriculture Week and assisting with general operating expenses. The results of this dedication include fun teaching resources like the Say Cheese activity sheet and the Milk Matters! Discovering Dairy unit.

The 24 dairy farmers governing CMAB place value in the opportunity to showcase their farms and products for students to see, understand and appreciate. Board member Brad Scott of the San Bernardino district first learned of the organization at his county Farm Bureau meeting. Ever since, Scott has been a devoted advocate and friend of CFAITC.



THE **SAY CHEESE** AG-BITES ACTIVITY SHEET SHOWS TEACHERS HOW THEY CAN MAKE 12-14 OUNCES OF FRESH MOZZARELLA CHEESE IN 30-60 MINUTES. THE SHEET INCLUDES SUGESTED CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES FOR MEETING SCIENCE, NUTRITION, AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS STANDARDS.

"CMAB represents just one of many agricultural commodities in our state," Scott says. "It is important to get these groups involved with CFAITC to help communicate the message about California agriculture and its economic and nutritional benefits to residents."

> In a world where real facts can be hard to come by, it is critical that CFAITC continues to bring agricultural education to teachers and students. This effort would not be possible without loyal partnering organizations. Thank you, CMAB, for keeping it real and being our friend. 🤜

## Reaching Every Student... with Popcorn Genetics!



What do a zookeeper, popcorn, and teaching have in common? Just ask Suzanne Squires, teacher at Los Olivos Elementary School in Santa Barbara. Squires was SUZANNE SQUIRES awarded a Literacy for

Life grant last fall and was the 2015 California State Teacher of the Year.

"I'm my own species of teacher," Squires says. Teacher by accident, Squires earned her bachelor's degree in animal science

and started her career as a zookeeper. After working with penguins, eagles and other birds, she became a quarantine biologist for the Santa Barbara Agricultural Commissioner's Office, identifying pests and diseases.

Although she enjoyed her work, concern for potential budget cuts led Squires to pursue a teaching credential. Her mother had always said she should be a teacher, and after student teaching, Squires had to admit mom was right. She has been teaching seventh and eighth grade for twenty years now. Squires teaches science, agriculture, health and multimedia. She approaches learning like no other.

"There aren't too many science teachers who are also agriculture teachers," Squires says. "I don't really fit either mold. I bring in the other parts of agriculture that sometimes get forgotten. I've modeled a lot of things in the classroom after my work as an agricultural biologist." Fusing science and agriculture, Squires develops teaching ideas to keep the classroom interesting. "I love curriculum," she says. "One of my favorite parts of being a teacher is coming up with new projects."

When the school gardener approached Squires with a variety of popcorn seeds, her "wheels started turning," leading to the Popcorn Genetics project. Sixth grade students planted the corn, and Squires' seventh graders harvested, separated the kernels by color and counted them. They even popped a few kernals to taste the four varieties. Finally, students planted the first generation of kernels, and they

"Just that little will repeat this process again bit of awareness with the second generation. is critical." Squires has found this model useful for engaging students.

> "The project gives a good representation of genetics. Most kids like popcorn, and they also like to talk about the products," Squires says.

By involving students from the point of a single kernels to a finished product, Squires strives to reach all students and let them know the agricultural industry offers a variety of opportunities...

Read the full story and find out <u>ا</u>ال what happens next in Squires' Popcorn Genetics project! www.LearnAboutAg.org/hoa





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

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