

# NATIONAL AGRICULTURE WEEK EVENTS!

Did you know, last year we reached more than 900,000 students with information about agriculture?

You can help us reach even more students and teachers this year by supporting our upcoming events celebrating National Ag Week.

The demand for resources continues to grow — thank you for making a difference!



Sip and see how amazing it is to support bringing agriculture into the classroom.

Join us in person (the first time in 4 years!)

### Friday, March 24, 2023

Evening Reception  
Silt Wine Company, Clarksburg, CA

### Thursday, April 13, 2023

Luncheon  
Wilson Creek Winery, Temecula, CA



## Teacher Feature Why I Teach About Ag...

Ten different apple tree varieties grace the garden at East Palo Alto Charter School in San Mateo County. Teacher Eron Truran, who has been bringing agriculture into the K-3 classroom for 13 years, has effectively used apple trees to promote a greater appreciation and understanding of agriculture.

“Students learn about how apples form, the parts of an apple, taste test varieties of apples, and make apple products, explained Truran. This year we made applesauce, pressed apple cider, dehydrated apple chips, and grated apples into pancakes! Truran leans heavily on a specific Ag in the Classroom resource.



“I especially like the Ag-Bites activities. I teach a variety of grades and really appreciate that these activities have California Teaching Standards mapped out for different grades. Ag-Bites also include clear directions, materials, and helpful tips and can be sized up or down, depending on the teaching time available.” Truran also encourages her students to ask questions. “I love when I can get families involved,” shared Truran. “Asking students to interview a family member about their favorite fruits and vegetables helps start new conversations.” Teachers like Eron Truran fuel our learning about ag fire! Your support helps get more resources into the hands of teachers eager to bring agricultural literacy into their classrooms. 🌱



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## Getting Weather Wise

Talk about timing!

Just as our latest edition of *What's Growin' On?* went to press, California experienced a series of historical storms. Suddenly, *Weather Wise*, this year's topic, appeared more pertinent than ever.

In this 21st edition, students explore how weather events and related systems impact all our lives but especially how weather impacts agriculture



in the Golden State. California grows more than 400 different commodities, and while agriculture is at the mercy of the atmosphere, we have become increasingly better at predicting weather events. Accurate forecasting—using science to predict or estimate a future weather event—positively impacts farmers and ranchers, making them more weather-wise than ever. In this latest edition, students also get to hear directly from farmers and ranchers. A scan of a QR code

takes you straight to interviews with

farmers, where students will learn from farmers about California's historical weather events, technology that provides better forecasting, and how unexpected challenges are met with resilience. Talk about making agriculture come alive in the classroom!

Help us get this timely resource into the hands of even more students by sharing with a classroom teacher or by sponsoring a school-wide distribution. We provide free classroom sets to all California educators. Contact us at 916-561-5625. 🌱

### SAVE THE DATE

**California  
Foundation for  
Agriculture in  
the Classroom  
Conference**

Sacramento, CA  
September 22-24,  
2023



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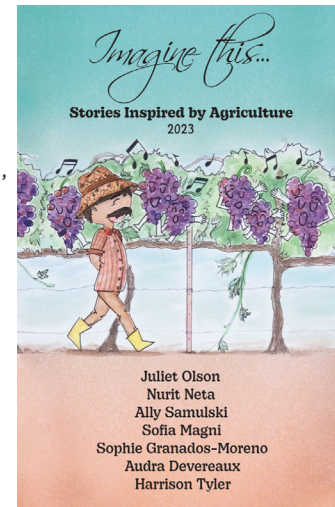
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**Imagine this... Story Writing Contest**

What do a talking earthworm, a trip to the peach cannery, and the song, "I Heard it Through The Grapevine," have in common? These topics are part of winning stories included in our *Imagine this... Stories Inspired by Agriculture* book this year. Additional story topics include dairy farming, invasive species, bees, and generational farming.

Going on its twenty-fourth year, the *Imagine this... Story Writing Contest* gives students in grades 3-8 the opportunity to write agricultural narratives about real or imagined experiences or events based on California agriculture.

We are thrilled to welcome seven students, on March 21, to the California Capitol to publicly celebrate this outstanding achievement as part of the Capitol Ag Day festivities on the Capitol steps.



Juliet Olson  
 Nurit Neta  
 Ally Samulski  
 Sofia Magni  
 Sophie Granados-Moreno  
 Audra Devereaux  
 Harrison Tyler

**New Ag-Bite**

Our newest Ag-Bite takes apples to a whole new level. Part science lesson, with a dash of nutrition and history thrown in, Modern-Day Applesauce Making is a hands-on, bite-sized activity that brings agriculture into the classroom.

Students learn how to make a simple microwave applesauce while comparing how American traditions have changed from the past to the present. Other activities - such as taste testing different applesauce, and researching, and creating a poster on why "an apple a day" is good advice - round out this Ag-Bite.

Interested in sponsoring an Ag-Bite yourself about a specific commodity? Contact us at 916-561-5625.

**Ag-Bites** Grades 3-8

**21. Modern-Day Applesauce Making** Grades 3-8

*Make a simple microwave applesauce while comparing how American traditions have changed from the past to the present.*

**Activity**

- Wash your apples under running water. If desired, peel apples.
- With the help of a grown-up, remove the core and slice the apples. If students want to make a more uniform salsa, they may be given a core slicer and a peeler to make the half-size smaller slices.
- Place the apples in a large microwave-safe bowl. Add approximately half-cup of cinnamon and a teaspoon of orange. Add 1/4 cup of sugar in a pinch. Depending on what size your apples are, you may vary.
- Place the bowl in the microwave and heat for the full 10 min. Microwave for 10 minutes, or until the apples are soft and pressed with a fork.
- Allow apples to cool until they are safe to handle. Use a green marker to lightly mark the apples in the bowl until they reach the desired consistency. Serve and enjoy!

**Classroom Discussion**

- What technology did we use today to make applesauce? How do you think this method compares to how applesauce was made long ago?
  - When applesauce arrived in North America, they only found wild, over-ripe apples. How did the apples we enjoy today come to grow in America?
    - Due to refrigeration, applesauce was an important and convenient way to preserve apples for extended periods in time. Other facilities would store applesauce in milkweed bags a year when fresh fruit was not available. How does this compare to how your family enjoys applesauce today? What does your applesauce come from? What do you eat with it?
    - What are some other apple products you enjoy today? Do you think they had these made long ago? Why or why not?

**Classroom Activities**

**Science**

- Observe the changes that occur during the process of making applesauce. Compare an experiment and evidence that some changes caused by heating or cooling can be reversed and some cannot.
- Bring a variety of apple products into the classroom. Classify the products based on their chemical properties. Identify if the items can be categorized as a solid, liquid, or gas.

**Nonfiction**

- Conduct a fun mix of applesauce made from different varieties of apples.
- Participate in a shared research project. As a class, work together to create a poster highlighting the reasons why eating "an apple a day" is good advice.

**California Standards**

Grade 1 CA History/Social Studies 1.4.15 CC ELA-W.1.2	Grade 2 CA History/Social Studies 2.1 CC ELA-W.2.1-2.4 CC ELA-W.2.7	Grade 3 CC ELA-W.3
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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.**  
**WWW.LEARNABOUTAG.ORG**

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*Jaime Morse  
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