



A Teacher's Journal: Learning from Agriculture

A N N U A L 2005 R E P O R T





California Foundation for
Agriculture in the Classroom
increases awareness and understanding
of agriculture among
California's educators and students.
Its vision is to foster an appreciation
of agriculture by all.



An Educator's Ponderings

**The stories
are plentiful...**

By CFAITC Staff Writer

There's the young boy who spent the night at a friend's ranch. He refused to eat eggs for breakfast after gathering them from under the hens in the chicken coop. He waited 'until he got home so his mother could make breakfast using "regular" eggs.

Then, too, there's the college student who shrugged off the devastating hailstorm that pelted cherry orchards up and down the valley just before harvest. Not a problem — she'd just eat her cherries out of a can.

These stories, and a wad of others like them, are the real reasons for Ag in the Classroom. They tell us that kids are growing up too far from the farm. Major forces in their lives — TV, video games, ample abundance in the malls and supermarkets — leave them in the dark about what's really *real*. Eggs *do* come from chickens and cherries *don't* grow in cans.

Agriculture is real, and it has a very real impact on us all. We've got a big job just introducing young people to this reality. But we've got to do it because they just aren't getting it firsthand.

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The California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom is a reliable source of materials that work like building blocks to support an exploration of agriculture in school. The many resources inspire students to notice the ground they walk on. That's good because it's the very same ground that produces so much of what they depend on for survival.





*Good Stuff!
This experience made me remember
why I wanted to be a teacher
in the first place.*



Teachers Experience Agriculture Firsthand

The keystone in the arch linking agriculture and education is the Foundation's annual conference for educators.

Sacramento, CA

Three to four hundred participants each year discover that, on a regular basis, there is no other ag literacy conference like this one in the western United States. Evaluated by size, content or camaraderie, CFAITC's conference is *the* ag literacy event of the year!

A prime reason it's a prime event is that the conference becomes a convergence of ag literacy resources, expertise and

ideas. The same way rivers gain momentum at the spot where they meet, ag literacy builds strength from the pooling of many organizations, educators, volunteers and ag professionals who support an awareness of agriculture's value to all. "We know we've made an impact," says Dena Gibbons, CFAITC conference coordinator, "when we receive evaluations reflecting that 84% of respondents learned at least one new skill they can use in class."

The 2005 Ag in the Classroom Conference anchored itself in Sacramento. Dozens of exhibits and close to 40 workshops and make 'n' takes doused educators and volunteers with resources and ideas that could be carried into class right away or developed

into long-term projects. Field trips linked educators and producers in agricultural settings from the Sierra foothills to the eastern Bay Area and Delta. Participants heard from numerous educational and agricultural specialists, including CDEA Secretary A.G. Kawamura, past Superintendent of Public Instruction Delaine Eastin, author and farmer David Mas Masumoto, and journalist Richard Louv.


Day by day, the span connecting education and agriculture strengthened. By the end of the conference, it had formed a bridge through which a river of enthusiasm and inspiration flowed outward into all of California.

► **FOR MORE INFO:**
www.cfaitc.org



The conference reminds me that Agriculture in the Classroom works with every subject I teach!





"Imagine This" is a wonderful opportunity for students to write for an audience — and for more purpose than just a grade. In the process, they also learn a great deal about the value of agriculture in our lives.



This contest woke up my students to the idea that writing can be rewarding!



From left to right: Loris, Rebecca, Blake, Tyler, Brianna & Eva

Sheldon High School art students & teacher Shawn Sullivan



Kids Practice Creativity Through Writing Contest

Sacramento, CA

Creative thinking and writing are skills that snag the attention of employers as they sift through resumes of potential employees. Yet, many teachers say today's standardized approach to education squelches creativity and limits time spent writing. That's a problem if educators are to help prepare a workforce of the future.

The Foundation's *Imagine this...* story writing contest helps loosen some restrictiveness teachers may be experiencing. *Imagine this...* incorporates state mandated Content Standards into a writing contest that rewards third through eighth graders for creatively expressing themselves using agriculture as a writing topic.

In 2005, over 9,000 stories were penned in classrooms and home schools statewide. When the last one was read, six – one from each grade level – were selected as the cream of the crop. "It's never easy choosing just six," says Nancy Gutierrez, contest coordinator. "California students have great imaginations!"

Imagine this... doesn't come to an end with winning essays. If used as a component in a manual for the workforce of the future, *Imagine* would be a section all its own. The writing contest would be the first chapter. The second

Kids learn creative thinking and writing through the development of agriculture stories.

would showcase the skills honed by high school students in transforming the stories into animated vignettes. Using equipment comparable to that found in professional studios, they learn to take a production from storyboard concept to 30-minute animated video. *Imagine this...* presents an opportunity that will speak volumes in their future portfolios.

The video, featuring the six stories and interviews with students and teachers, is a treasure that the families of these talented students will enjoy for a lifetime. *Imagine that!*

Students Learn "What's Growin' On?"

California's Colorful Bounty

By CFAITC Staff Writer

Downward trends are great when it comes to obesity and crime. But sliding numbers offer nothing to crow about in ag literacy and newspaper readership. To emphasize benefits provided by both agriculture and newspapers, CFAITC and Newspapers in Education (NIE) completed year three of a partnership that annually raises hands in classrooms around the state.

What's Growin' On? California's Colorful Bounty featured a healthy dose of agricultural information in a 16-page newspaper supplement inserted in the Riverside Press Enterprise, The Fresno Bee and The Hanford Sentinel. Total distribution reached the neighborhood of 500,000 after delivery was extended to schools enrolled in the NIE program, to additional schools requesting classroom sets, to county farm bureaus and fairs, and to the California State Fair program.

The articles, written for a fourth through eighth grade audience, introduced concepts that could be used as fodder for extended classroom discussion. Examples of concepts explored include the fact that agriculture reaches far beyond the food the students eat; Americans spend about 10% of their disposable income on food while people in other parts of the world face percentages as astronomical as 51%; and, thanks to by-products, 98% of a steer is used but less than half is eaten.

Supplemental activities aligned with state standards encouraged students to utilize critical thinking and research skills. A corresponding Teacher's Guide helped educators make the most of the piece by providing additional information, and a component of kids.cfaitec.org encourages online learning. The

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entire supplement reinforced that agriculture is at the root of our everyday lives.

"No matter who you are, there's something to be learned from *What's Growin' On?*," says Pam Emery, Foundation curriculum specialist.

For an accompanying Teacher's Guide and to explore activities found in the supplement, visit www.cfaitec.org/wgo or call (800) 700-AITC (2482).

My students are loving it and learning how to read the paper. They have new-found knowledge about many aspects of agriculture. Wow!



- Root plan potato
- The Carro plent
- Stem trans and other

y Plants!

So... have you ever chomped on a stem? How about devoured a luscious green leaf? Sounds kind of strange when you first think about it—but you probably have! That is if you have eaten celery and lettuce! All fruits, vegetables, nuts and grains are parts of plants.

Plant Basics

Roots anchor the plant in the soil, absorb water and minerals, and in some plants, store food that has been made in the leaves. Radishes, beets, jicama, sweet potatoes and carrots are a few examples of edible roots.

Early carrots were long skinny purple roots that had a branch-like shape. Carrots are grown throughout California where soils are light and water is plentiful. California produces 80% of the nation's fresh carrots.

Stems support the leaves and flowers of plants. They transport water from the roots to the leaves and flowers and carry sugar and starches made in the leaves to other parts of the plant. Examples of edible stems are asparagus, cinnamon and celery.

Celery grew in the marshes in the eastern United States. The word "celery" comes from the Greek word "kelos" which means "quick acting." Celery is used to treat many ailments. Celery is one of this edible



Activity

Find and cut out examples of fruits and vegetables in your newspaper's grocery ads. Sort them into roots, stems, leaves, flowers, fruits, and seeds and create a pictograph. List the six plant parts along the x-axis and the numbers along the y-axis.

Standards: Grade 4 Math: Statistics, Data Analysis and Probability 1.0, 1.1 Mathematical Reasoning 2.0, 2.3
Grade 5 Math: Statistics, Data Analysis and Probability 1.0, 1.2 Mathematical Reasoning 2.0, 2.3 Grade 6 Math: Mathematical Reasoning 2.0, 2.4 Grade 7 Math: Mathematical Reasoning 2.0, 2.5



Can you find the following edible plant parts in this picture?

- | | |
|-------------|-----------|
| Broccoli | Pear |
| Popcorn | Artichoke |
| Lettuce | Asparagus |
| Cauliflower | Celery |
| | Carrot |

How many lemons can you find?

Standards:
Grade 4 Science 2, 2a, 3, 3a
Grade 5 Science 2, 2a, 2f
Grade 6 Science 5, 5a, 5b

What's outlined in this paper is exactly what I am teaching to my class now.

Do you know?

When you eat a piece of... take a look. Each tiny... you eat is a flower

Tina McEnroe
was awarded
"Outstanding
Educator of
The Year!"



Snapshots of Good Things Happening

The pace in 2005 hovered somewhere between never a dull moment and always an iron in the fire!

By CFAITC Staff Writer

The Foundation put extraordinary effort into additional areas beyond those described in prior pages. Some of those areas include:

1. **Tina McEnroe**, a Santa Barbara County fifth/sixth grade teacher, lassoed the title of Outstanding Educator. She carried that lead to the national level as one of five recipients of USDA's Excellence in Teaching About Agriculture Award.
2. **Ag literacy supporters have latched on to the Internet!** A monthly tally indicates an average of 8,600 visitors to CFAITC's Web site at www.cfaitc.org. Planting all CFAITC lesson plans and resources onto the Web allows 24/7 access to everyone connected to the Internet. The site underscores CFAITC's leadership in disseminating balanced,

informative & classroom-friendly information about agriculture – whether the resource is its own or one from hundreds of other sources reviewed and promoted by the Foundation.

3. **More than 50,000 educators and volunteers** kept abreast of ag literacy events, resources and happenings by receiving the biannual six-page newsletter, *Cream of the Crop*, and/or the monthly e-newsletter, *Current Notes*. Daily additions to the Web site also created an up-to-the minute venue for promotion of ag literacy events statewide.
4. **Ag in the Classroom Ambassadors** – almost 9,000 strong at the end of 2005 – act as a link in the AITC chain. These educators connect with others to convey the importance of agricultural literacy. When mapped out, Ambassadors are located at more than 40% of California's schools.

5. **CFAITC** introduced many thousands of educators to the Ag in the Classroom style of teaching by participating in conferences and workshops. A sampling of events includes the California Science Teachers' Association, Civics and Education Conference, California School Board Association and a bushful of local opportunities such as county-based Summer Ag Seminars and after-school in-services.

6. **The University Student Teacher Program (USTP)** introduces college grads working on their credentials to ag literacy and provides resources and knowledge for incorporating agriculture into their teaching styles right from the start. Colleges and universities up and down the state participate, setting the stage year after year for a new awareness in California's fresh crop of teachers.



www.cfaitc.org

Over 8,600 visitors a month... now I know why!

Donors!

I am grateful for a program that excites educators and makes us want to work a little bit harder at preparing our students for the future. It has opened my eyes to a lot of things.



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- Nancy Gutierrez, *Program Coordinator*
- Lyn Hyatt, *Administrative Coordinator*
- Renee Hyatt, *Web Site Coordinator*
- Terri Salmond, *Administrative Assistant*
- Rachel Snodgrass, *Office Assistant*

Resource Development

Cathie J. Bradley
CJB & Associates, LLC

Pauli presided for the last eight years. Doug Mosebar, a Santa Barbara County farmer and board member since 1990, was elected president.

Agriculture in the Classroom

Expenses - figure 1



Administration & Management 6%

Financial Highlights

Public Support & Revenue	2005	2004
Contributions	\$ 822,688	\$ 815,344
Special Event Revenue (net of direct benefits)	251,859	207,096
Program Fees	39,805	48,061
Investment & Other Income	32,569	11,783
Net Assets Released from Program Restrictions	82,574	71,926
Total Unrestricted Public Support & Revenue	<u>1,229,495</u>	<u>1,154,210</u>

Expenses (see figure 1)

Program Services	\$ 827,855	\$ 768,351
Promotion & Fundraising	198,361	197,726
Management & Administration	66,503	64,697
Total Expenses	<u>1,092,719</u>	<u>1,030,774</u>

Statements of Financial Position

Assets		
Current Assets	\$ 951,192	\$ 781,704
Endowment	84,463	84,463
Property & Equip., net	711	1,244
Total Assets	<u>1,036,366</u>	<u>867,411</u>
Liabilities & Net Assets		
Current Liabilities	67,102	53,949
Net Assets, Start of Year	813,462	676,027
Increase in Unrestricted Net Assets	136,776	123,436
Increase in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	19,026	13,199
Increase in Permanently Restricted Net Assets	0	800
Net Assets, End of Year	<u>969,264</u>	<u>813,462</u>
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	<u>1,036,366</u>	<u>867,411</u>

The California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization. To obtain a complete audited financial report, please contact the foundation at (800) 709-AITC (2482).



These cotton seeds are much larger than I thought they would be!



California Foundation for
Agriculture in the Classroom



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