

Learn About Ag

California Foundation for
Agriculture in the Classroom



2025 Annual Report

A Message from the Executive Director



As I reflect on 2025, I am filled with gratitude, pride, and optimism for the future of agricultural literacy in California. This past year has been especially meaningful, as it marked my first full year serving as Executive Director. Stepping into this role has been both an incredible honor and a profound learning experience.

I have had the privilege of witnessing firsthand the passion of our educators, the curiosity of our students, and the unwavering support of the agricultural community that makes this work possible.

Throughout 2025, our organization experienced a year of growth, innovation, and deepened impact. Across the state, teachers continued to bring agriculture to life in their classrooms, students explored new connections to the food system, and our partners helped us expand both programs and resources. Every lesson downloaded, every workshop delivered, and every student reached represents another step toward building a more agriculturally aware generation.

We were proud to introduce new curriculum, strengthen existing programs, and develop meaningful partnerships that allow us to respond to the evolving needs of educators. From climate-smart agriculture and farm-to-school resources to hands-on learning opportunities and teacher grants, our work continues to connect students not only to where their food comes from, but to the vast career pathways within agriculture.

This year also brought important organizational evolution, including the transition to our regional coordinator model. These changes position us to better serve educators, strengthen local relationships, and ensure our programs remain accessible, relevant, and impactful throughout California.

None of this work happens in isolation.

To our educators — thank you for your creativity, curiosity, and commitment to your students.

To our donors and sponsors — thank you for your trust and investment in our mission. Your support directly fuels classroom experiences, educational resources, and opportunities that would not otherwise be possible.

To our board members, staff, and partners — thank you for your leadership, collaboration, and belief in the importance of agricultural literacy.

As we look ahead, I remain deeply inspired by the work we are doing together. The need for agricultural literacy has never been greater, and the opportunities to make a difference have never been more exciting.

Together, we are helping California's students better understand the world around them, one classroom at a time.

With sincere appreciation, *Amanda Fletcher*

Amanda Fletcher
Executive Director

Success by the Numbers



2025 REPORT CARD

THE NUMBERS BEHIND THE IMPACT

In 2025, Ag in the Classroom expanded our mission to increase awareness and understanding of agriculture:



1,368,822
students reached



30,555
classroom resources
downloaded



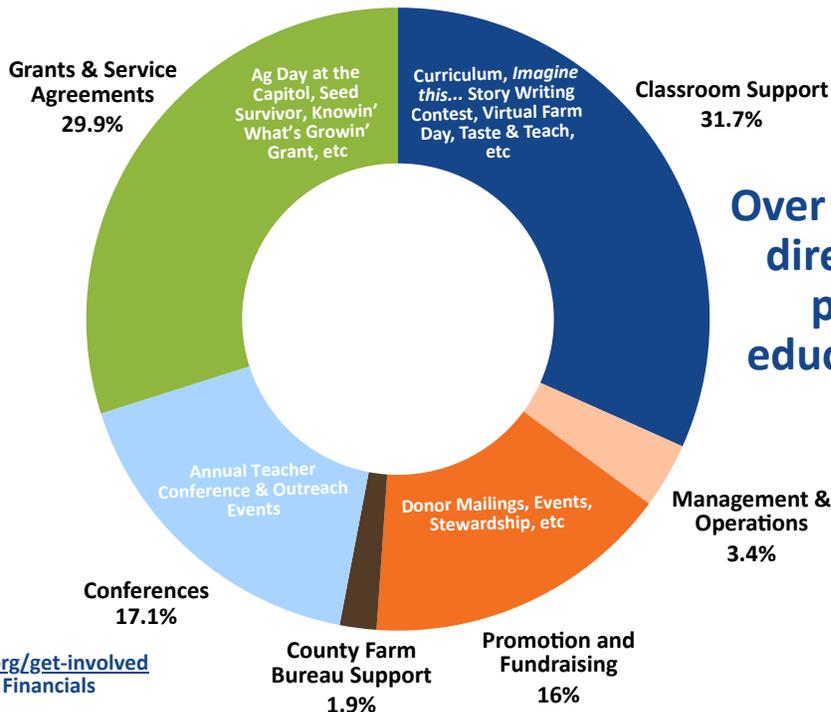
39,420
educators supported



\$64,750
in grants given

Financial Stewardship

**2024 Total
Expenses:
\$1,351,763**



**Over 80% of expenses
directly supported
programs and
educator resources.**

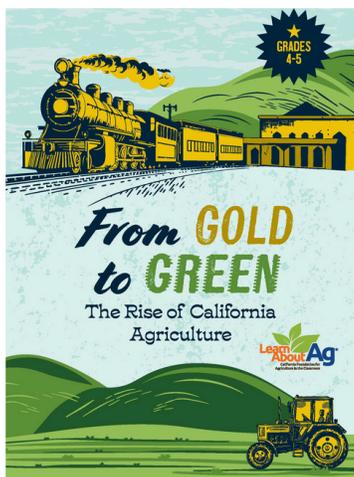


Visit LearnAboutAg.org/get-involved
for our 2024 Audited Financials

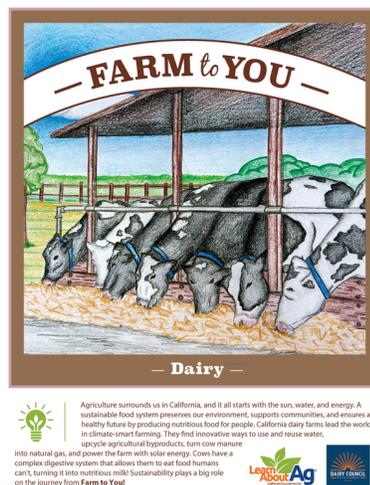
New Programs & Resources

Our educational resources are always free and available online for download—or to order in print at no cost—on LearnAboutAg.org. We also offer a variety of programs and events that connect students, teachers, and communities with the people and processes behind California agriculture.

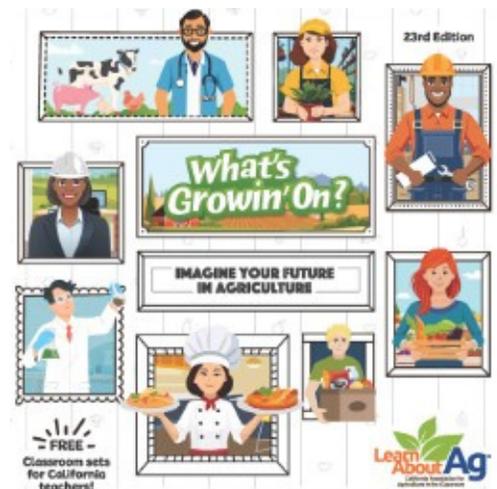
This past year, we were proud to launch several new programs to expand our impact even further. We achieved this by deepening relationships with industry leaders to develop new curriculum, creating win-win partnerships that helped us identify and fill resource gaps.



**From Green to Gold:
Knowin' What's Growin'
Curriculum**



Farm To You: Dairy



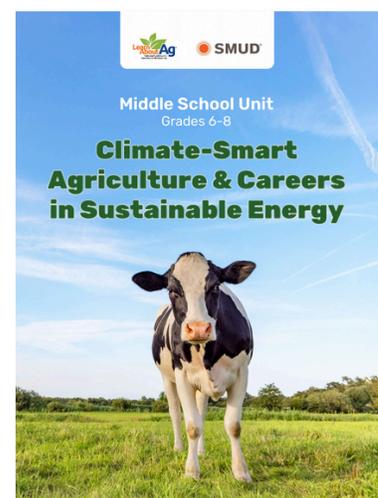
**23rd Edition of
What's Growin' On?**



**New Farm to School
Resources**



What's the Dirt on Soil?



**Climate Smart Ag &
Careers in Sustainable Energy**

Programs for Teachers and Students

California Agriculture in the Classroom Teacher's Conference

The 2025 California Ag in the Classroom Conference brought together more than **150** educators from across the state in Sacramento for three days of hands-on workshops, farm tours, and engaging sessions designed to connect students to the food system. From industry tours and farmer panels to “Cafeteria to Classroom” discussions, interactive workshops, and creative make-and-takes, every session sparked new ideas and brought agriculture to life in the classroom.



Imagine this... Story Writing Contest

The 2025 *Imagine this...* Story Writing Contest invited California students in grades 3-8 to explore the world of agriculture through creative writing. This year, we received over **300** submissions! We also unveiled a more contemporary and colorful contest logo, designed to match the remarkable creativity of our students authors and illustrators. Winners participated at Ag Day at the Capitol and received their awards during the Ceremony.



Programs for Teachers and Students

California Virtual Farm Day

Classrooms across the state were invited to explore the theme of Careers in Agriculture through a dynamic mix of pre-recorded video segments and live interactive hosts. More than **31,000** students tuned in to learn directly from farmers and agricultural industry experts as they explored career preparation and awareness of ag-related jobs. The 23rd edition of *What's Growing On?* further supported the Farm Day theme, Careers in Agriculture, by highlighting pathways within the agricultural industry.



Seed Survivor

The Seed Survivor trailer rolled back into California! Agriculture in the Classroom once again partnered with Nutrien Ag Solutions to bring the Seed Survivor Mobile Classroom to schools across Northern California! During this mobile field trip, students explored what plants need to grow and how they can be stewards of our natural resources — all through fun, hands-on learning led by expert educators. The trailer visited **36** schools for a total of **8,300** students bringing agricultural education directly to students where they learn.



Grants

Literacy for Life Grants

Literacy for Life Grants support PreK–12 educators in bringing agricultural literacy into the classroom. Sponsored by the Oreggia Family Foundation, **25** California teachers each received **\$750** to launch agricultural-based projects that expand ag literacy in their schools and communities.



Scan to read about teacher projects



Taste and Teach

This exciting program, sponsored by Raley's and Stater Bros. Markets, invites teachers across California to "taste and teach" a variety of California-grown commodities.

This year, we were able to increase the gift card amount to **\$200** to support hands-on classroom learning! Winners also receive a resource booklet packed with helpful tools, including step-by-step instructions for leading a taste test activity that aligns with California Academic Standards.



Outstanding Educator of the Year

Congratulations

Rupika Malik

Tennyson High School
Alameda County

2025-2026

OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR



Ag in the Classroom recognized Rupika Malik of Tennyson High School (Alameda County) as Outstanding Educator. Her Literacy for Life project, Harvesting Health: Soil-Free Microgreens in the Classroom, introduces students to sustainable agriculture and nutrition through hands-on hydroponic learning. Rupika will receive a **\$1,000** grant to support her project, travel, and registration expenses to attend the 2026 National Ag in the Classroom conference.

Excellence in Ag Education Award:

Tulare County Farm Bureau

California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom presented its inaugural Excellence in Ag Education Award to Tulare County Farm Bureau, honoring their outstanding commitment to increasing agricultural literacy in their community. Tulare County Farm Bureau invests \$100,000 annually in ag education programs that reach students and adults alike. Their efforts include long-standing educational partnerships, hands-on STEM teacher workshops, and more than \$35,000 in scholarships to support the next generation of agricultural leaders.



Regional Coordinator Model

California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom Program Coordinator Regions



As our programs and educator network continued to grow, we implemented a new regional coordinator model to better support educators across California. This transition enables us to provide more personalized, regionally informed assistance while strengthening connections within local communities.

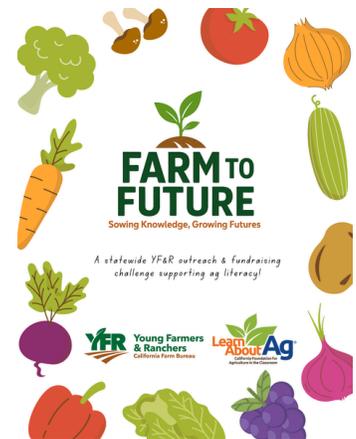
This important step forward reflects our dedication to meeting educators where they are and ensuring our team is equipped to support the evolving needs of classrooms statewide. We are confident this structure will strengthen our organization, enhance our service to educators, and sustain our momentum for continued success.

Farm to Future Program

This year marked the launch of a new partnership between California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom and California Farm Bureau's Young Farmers & Ranchers.

This statewide initiative empowers Young Farmers & Ranchers chapters to engage local schools through classroom presentations, farm day events, and hands-on agricultural education experiences.

We also proudly presented our inaugural YF&R Excellence in Ag Education Award to the **San Joaquin County Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee**, recognizing their outstanding leadership and commitment to advancing agricultural literacy.



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Mandi Bottoms, Curriculum Specialist

Marji Zarinelli, Curriculum Developer

Becca Whitman, Strategic Relations

Thank You to our Supporters

The work we do would not be possible without our generous donors. You help make a difference for students and educators across California.



Barnraiser - \$75,000 & Up

The James G. Boswell Foundation

Harvester - \$50,000 & Up

The Raley's Companies

Stater Bros. Charities

Cultivator - \$25,000 & Up

Oreggia Family Foundation

Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD)

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Farm Credit: AgWest Farm Credit, American Ag Credit, CoBank, Colusa-Glenn Farm Credit, Fresno Madera Farm Credit, Colden State Farm Credit, Yosemite Farm Credit

Kaiser Permanente

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J.R. Simplot Company

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George and Ruth Bradford Foundation

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TomKat Ranch Educational Foundation

Grand National Foundation

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Blue Diamond Growers

California Department of Education, Nutrition Services Division

Gardener - \$5,000 & Up

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