Annual Conference for Educators

One of the valuable programs California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom (CFAITC) is proud to offer, thanks to the generous support of our sponsors, is our annual conference for educators. Each year, CFAITC hosts 200 to 300 educators and offers them a glimpse into the world of agriculture education at the California AITC Conference.

We strive to ensure that our attendees LEARN BY DOING—a skill they can share with their students in the classroom. Interactive Make ‘n’ Take sessions, eye-opening workshops, and one-of-a-kind field trips to actual agriculture production sites are a few of the ways we connect conference attendees with the industry that feeds and clothes us all! Participants will gain insight into the current trends in teaching agriculture, experience tremendous networking opportunities, enjoy inspirational guest speakers, and take home an abundance of resources.

This year, the conference is being held November 4-6 at The Cliffs Resort in Shell Beach where we will explore fantastic local sites, including Hearst Castle and Ranch and Cal Poly, SLO. Topics will include Farm to School programs, history, nutrition education, and incorporating agriculture into school curriculum. Registration is available at www.LearnAboutAg.org/conference. Teachers, volunteers, administrators, and everyone interested in spreading ag literacy, is encouraged to attend. 

VisiT US ONLINE AT LEARNABOUTAG.ORG!
Your Support—Making a Real Difference

One of our goals is to develop accurate, teacher-tested and scientifically sound classroom materials to enhance the educational experience of K-12 students in many learning environments. CFAITC continues to develop quality resources and exciting new projects with your annual donation. Take a look at what you’ve helped us accomplish!

- **Our latest agricultural Fact and Activity Sheet** features everyone’s favorite leafy green—spinach! The 30th in the series, this new fact sheet, sponsored by Chiquita/Fresh Express, will allow educators to fulfill required Content Standards while providing students with information about this valuable commodity.

- **Together with Foster Farms,** CFAITC has developed curriculum to focus on the poultry industry while teaching the subjects of English-language arts, nutrition, history-social studies, math and science. The project includes a statewide school tour with the 2010 Presidential Turkey, set to be pardoned by President Obama this November.

- **In an effort to expand our urban outreach,** CFAITC will host a garden and nutrition education workshop for teachers in the San Francisco Unified School District this fall. The workshop will familiarize city teachers with using a garden as an outdoor laboratory and will ultimately reach an estimated 7,000 students.

- **CFAITC developed and is now distributing CROP Circles** (California Regions of Optimal Planting), a school garden regional planting guide that diagrams the proper planting and harvesting times for 18 crops commonly found in school gardens.

- **Through a partnership with First Lady Maria Shriver’s office,** CFAITC helped establish “WE Garden in Capitol Park.” Real world garden experiences are now being extended into the classroom through a series of CFAITC-developed lesson plans and activities that demonstrate over arching garden themes for students in grades 1-6.

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A Long-standing Supporter

California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom is pleased to recognize the long-standing support of the California Walnut Board and Commission. Since 1993, the Board and Commission have been making a remarkable difference in the way students and teachers understand their food source, both through their own efforts and by supporting our efforts at CFAITC.

The California Walnut Board and Commission were among CFAITC’s first sponsors of Agricultural Fact Sheets, a two-page resource detailing the production, history, value and varietals of the popular nuts, as well as suggested activities, fun facts and lesson plan ideas for the classroom. Print copies of the Walnut Fact and Activity Sheet have been widely distributed at education workshops across the state, and thousands of e-copies have been downloaded from CFAITC’s website.

“The California Walnut Board and Commission also generously donate walnuts and walnut products on behalf of their growers for special events. Recently they pledged to provide walnuts for attendees at the upcoming California AITC Conference. The Board and Commission’s website, www.walnuts.org provides excellent resources for teachers, including activity sheets with word searches, trivia, recipes, crosswords and other features that are fun and educational for all ages.”

CFAITC would like to thank the California Walnut Board and Commission for their unwavering support over the years, and for helping bring agriculture into the lives and classrooms of California students!