

Our 25th Silver Anniversary

March 19

The Flower Fields, Carlsbad
Luncheon and Wagon Tour
10:00 a.m.

March 25

Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento
Dinner and Gallery Viewing
6:00 p.m.

October 20

Cow Palace, San Francisco
Afternoon BBQ

Sponsorships of our Silver Anniversary events are available from \$1,000 to \$25,000 and include complimentary tickets to each of the events listed above. Please see enclosed envelope for details.

Individual tickets to the Crocker Art Museum or The Flower Fields may be purchased for \$150 each. Tickets to the BBQ at the Cow Palace are \$50 each.

If you are unable to attend an event, please consider offering a general donation in support of our 25th anniversary.

Online registration of sponsorships, tickets, and general donations are available online:

www.LearnAboutAg.org/support. 🌱

We are a 501 (c)(3) organization. Tax ID 68-0100601.
{800} 700-AITC (2482)

Message from Martha Deichler

My love-affair with Ag in the Classroom began in 1989 when I was a 6th grade teacher in Chula Vista. Although I had never heard of Ag in the Classroom, a friend introduced me to the *Imagine this...* Story Writing Contest. The contest intrigued me, and the topic was timely. Our class was studying ancient civilizations, and we had just learned how irrigation was the key to civilization in Mesopotamia where agriculture first developed. One student was less than thrilled to learn of this writing assignment. "I only write about sports," Chris declared to me. I challenged him to find a connection between sports and agriculture, and to turn it into a story. The result was a fantastically creative story about how "groundkeepers are the agricultural geniuses of football." His story was selected as a state winner and the recognition he received propelled him into a becoming a more successful student and allowed him to explore his talent as a writer.



MARTHA DEICHLER,
BOARD MEMBER

After Chris won his award, I attended CFAITC's Summer Ag Institute which changed my career path forever. I knew that agriculture lessons were vital for our students so I accepted a position as coordinator of a large school/community garden. Now, I am thrilled to be a member of the Board of Directors and delighted to see that CFAITC continues to inspire and support California's students. Thank you for your support and your commitment to an organization we all adore. 🌱



2300 RIVER PLAZA DRIVE
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February 2011

hands on agriculture

GROWING... WITH YOUR SUPPORT.

Celebrating 25 Years of CFAITC!

Welcome to the start of an exciting year—one worthy of celebration, recognition, reflection and gratitude. At CA Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom, we have reached a milestone in our pursuit to create an agriculturally literate California. With your support, an entire generation of Californians have been forever changed by taking a closer look at the food and fiber products they rely on every day, and the farmers and ranchers who provide them.

We have been supporting California educators since 1986 by providing free and essential standards-based classroom resources, offering critical teacher conferences and trainings as well as awards programs to reward students and teachers for their efforts to link agriculture and academics. It is with sincerest thanks that we invite you to help us celebrate 25 successful years of Agriculture in the Classroom by attending one of our very special Silver Anniversary events. You may RSVP to our Silver Anniversary events or make a Silver Anniversary donation online at www.LearnAboutAg.org/support or by returning the enclosed reply envelope. Further details are available on the following pages.

The pinnacle of our 25th Anniversary Celebration will occur on October 20, 2011 as we re-create San Francisco Farm Day, the event that truly marked the inception of the Foundation. Be a part of this food and farming phenomenon as we introduce agriculture to more than 10,000 San Francisco students, followed by a celebratory barbecue at the Cow Palace.

Additional details about San Francisco Farm Day are online at www.LearnAboutAg.org/anniversary. 🌱



Upcoming Events:

Crocker Art Museum
Dinner and Gallery
Viewing, Sacramento

The Flower Fields Luncheon
and Wagon Tour, Carlsbad

BBQ at the Cow Palace,
San Francisco

Dates inside...

The Ledbetter Family & Vino Farms

Lodi, California

It is only fitting, as we celebrate 25 years of agriculture literacy, to highlight one of the most loyal, long-time supporters of CFAITC. John Ledbetter and his family own and operate Vino Farms, a multigenerational family business, and have believed in our vision of an agriculturally literate California since the very beginning.

“It is impossible to place a monetary value on Ag in the Classroom because we never know when the seed planted by the program will sprout,” says Ledbetter. “We do know that Ag in the Classroom helps nurture that seed by the cooperative spirit among the participants. I am an advocate and supporter of Ag in the Classroom and feel more money needs to be invested in these types of educational programs.”

In addition to their generous annual donations, Vino Farms has frequently gifted the Foundation with donations of wine for use at annual fundraising events. The Ledbetter family also hosted educators in their home for several years during the Foundation’s Summer Ag Institute, an immersion program giving educators an in-depth, live-in experience on a working farm. He recalls these as some of his most rewarding experiences. “Educating people about a different environment is done best by immersing them in that environment,” John Ledbetter says. “Ag in the Classroom does exactly that by partnering the participants with production agriculture—real people living real experiences.”

The company farms more than 13,000 acres of premium winegrapes in Napa, Sonoma, Yolo, Monterey, San Joaquin, Sacramento, San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties — it sells grapes to about 100 premium California wineries. The Ledbetter family has been farming in California since the 1930s and continues a legacy of leadership in agriculture with their involvement in a long and impressive group of organizations.

John’s daughter, Kim Ledbetter-Bronson, is the first of the third generation to join the business, and takes pride in continuing the Ledbetter legacy. She currently serves as chair of the California Association of Winegrape Growers board of directors. 🌿



25 Years of Accomplishments

Ag in the Classroom began in 1986 with a passionate group of individuals, an increasing number of small but mighty classroom resources, and a calling to fill an important void within a growing number of California schools. Opportunities such as the Summer Ag Institute evolved into new ventures to meet greater demands, while some resources—such as the Hands on Ag newsletter you hold in your very hands — have been around since the start.

The numbers speak for themselves:

25 years of developing and providing free, high-quality, teacher-tested and factually-accurate resources to support common-sense integration of agriculture in California classrooms.

162,000 agriculturally-themed stories written by students for our *Imagine this...* Story Writing Contest.

4,500,000 copies of our *What’s Growin’ On?* student newspaper printed and distributed in classrooms and homes across the state.

10,000,000 students’ lives touched by CFAITC programs and resources... and growing.

We’ve come a long way in 25 years, but our mission has remained constant—to create an awareness and understanding of agriculture among California’s educators and students. Thank you for your support as we bring to life our vision of an agriculturally literate society. Please visit www.LearnAboutAg.org/anniversary to view more of CFAITC “by the numbers.” 🌿



In Memoriam

Ciara Eleanor Chiesa
April 12, 1996 -
December 7, 2010



Thank you for inspiring us all with your courage, strength and love of life, and for sharing your words with us.

Ciara was selected as the seventh grade state winner of the 2009 *Imagine this...* Story Writing Contest for her story, “Amy’s School Garden.” Read her story at www.learnaboutag.org/imaginethis/garden



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