

# IMAGINE THIS...

## Story Writing Contest

Goes Digital!



"The *Imagine this...* Story Writing Contest made me love writing. It feels so good to be rewarded for writing a good story and it has given me confidence in all of my schoolwork," said Nick O'Brien, 2010 and 2011 state-winning author.

*Imagine this...* promotes a positive learning experience that incorporates reading, writing and the arts, and furthers the understanding of agriculture for elementary school students. Each year, for the past 11 years, 8,000-10,000 California students enter the contest. Six of the students become published authors after being named state winners of CFAITC's *Imagine this...* Story Writing Contest.

This year, an e-reader version of the book was created for iPads and websites featuring a full-color page-turner with the student authors reading their stories.

Watch our winning authors on YouTube or download the audio book from [www.LearnAboutAg.org!](http://www.LearnAboutAg.org!)

## Message from Jamie Johansson

In 2004, I had the opportunity to listen to Cathey Anderson, Outstanding Educator of the Year, at the California Farm Bureau Annual Meeting. Her enthusiasm about Ag in the Classroom was contagious. This was my "ah-ha" moment, realizing that the resources CFAITC develops and distributes make an outstanding difference in the lives of California's teachers and students.

Ag in the Classroom has incredible, unique relationships with many of California's commodity associations. Together, they develop resources and curriculum that teach students real-life lessons about agricultural commodities using classroom friendly activities that meet the California State Content Standards. These relationships bridge the gap between California agriculture and classrooms throughout the state.



JAMIE JOHANSSON,  
BOARD MEMBER

The *Imagine this...* Story Writing Contest is one of the most valuable programs that CFAITC offers. Students write stories about agriculture and, in the writing process, learn about the food they eat, the clothes they wear and the products they use on a daily basis. This program takes learning far beyond the textbook. Programs like this determine the future of the agriculture industry in California. As more students understand how their food and fiber is produced, it will lead to a deeper appreciation for California agriculture.



2300 RIVER PLAZA DRIVE  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95833-3293

ADDRESS SERVICE  
REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT NO. 1407  
SACRAMENTO, CA



# hands on agriculture

GROWING... WITH YOUR SUPPORT.

December 2012

## Back to San Francisco!

On October 18, 2012, volunteers of California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom (CFAITC) headed back to the City to host farm activities for elementary students in the San Francisco Unified School District. The schools



CHARLOTTE MITCHELL OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY SHARES INFORMATION ABOUT HER SHEEP HERD WITH STUDENTS.

were provided with plant and livestock demonstrations highlighting California agriculture.

Farm day activities were available at selected school sites for kindergarten through fifth grade students. CFAITC estimates that more than 3,200 students participated in the festivities. The students received a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to touch, see, feel, smell and truly experience all aspects of the agricultural industry. Teachers

received resources to help them continue teaching about agriculture long after the animals left their school site.

San Francisco Farm Day was held in conjunction with the Grand National School Tours at the Cow Palace, where even more students participated in additional farm day activities. The success of last year's farm day would not have been possible without the more than 300 volunteers who gave their time and generous support. This year, CFAITC once again partnered with California CattleWomen, Inc., County Farm Bureaus, California Women for Agriculture, FFA Chapters and 4-H groups to help make this event a day to remember.



### upcoming events:

April 5, 2013  
National Agriculture Week

Dinner Event  
at the  
Nixon Presidential  
Library and Museum

Yorba Linda, California

Curriculum development and teacher training opportunities are two types of projects that have been made possible through the generosity of the California fertilizer industry.

The **Fertilizer Research and Education Program (FREP)** has funded the development and updating of four resources that will help students and teachers alike understand the importance of healthy plants.

- *Chemistry, Fertilizer and the Environment*—a new five-lesson unit that challenges students to apply chemistry concepts in real world scenarios.
- Updating *How Much is Too Much, How Much is Too Little?*—a comprehensive unit addressing the nutrients required by plants.
- Updating *What Do Plants Need to Grow?*—a multi-lesson unit where students identify and investigate the basic needs of plants.
- A teacher's guide to accompany Nutrients for Life Foundation's *Fun With The Plant Nutrient Team* coloring book.

The **California Fertilizer Foundation** has sponsored:

- Three Agricultural Fact and Activity Sheets—Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Potassium.
- The 6<sup>th</sup> edition of *What's Growin' On? Planting Healthy Lives* (2007).
- The 11<sup>th</sup> edition of *What's Growin' On? Elements for Life* (2012).

Many organizations in California have been supportive of CFAITC's agricultural literacy efforts. CAPCA has supported the Foundation annually since 1987.

**Crop Production Services** partnered with CFAITC when the Seed Survivor Mobile, a 32-foot trailer filled with interactive learning experiences, was brought to California from October 2011 through March 2012 and more than 14,000 students at 85 different schools learned about growing healthy plants. Jim Hicks from **Jim Hicks & Company** has supported CFAITC for more than 17 years and currently serves on the Foundation's board of directors. The **J.R. Simplot Company** hosted the writing meeting for the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of *What's Growin' On?* at their Lathrop facility. Rick Phillips, manager of public affairs for the J.R. Simplot Company, is a CFAITC board member and represented CFAITC at the National AITC Conference in Loveland, Colorado this year.

CFAITC truly appreciates the support that they, and many more companies within the California fertilizer industry, continually show to our programs, resources, and events. 🌱

## From Stem to Core

At the 2012 California Agriculture in the Classroom Conference, educators experienced the latest in agricultural literacy, teaching strategies, and curriculum. These experiences helped expand their professional development and celebrate their commitment to connecting students with the roots of their food source. This year, the California AITC Conference, *From Stem to Core*, was held in Sacramento Oct. 25-27.



ATTENDEES LEARN STRATEGIES FOR INTEGRATING NUTRITION INTO CLASSROOM CURRICULUM.

Sacramento and its surrounding counties feature a diverse array of agriculture production that participants experienced and explored firsthand. Attendees joined in engaging workshops, one-of-a-kind field trips, and exciting Make 'n' Take activities that focused on current agricultural and educational trends. A few of this year's exciting field trip locations included Blue Diamond Growers, Campbell Soup Company, Syngenta Seeds and Farmers' Rice Cooperative.



Conference participants heard from inspirational guest speakers who are agriculture and education

experts. This year's conference focused on incorporating science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) into agricultural curriculum.

They walked away with an abundance of resources and enthusiasm to bring back to their students to help them understand where their food and fiber come from. "I learned so much at the 2012 conference that can be passed on to both students and adults at my school," said an attendee.



TEACHERS PARTICIPATE IN SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES DURING HIGH-ENERGY MAKE 'N' TAKE SESSIONS.

Thanks to the generous support of sponsors, nearly 200 educators experienced the opportunities presented within the world of agricultural education.

Visit [www.LearnAboutAg.org](http://www.LearnAboutAg.org) or call 800-700-AITC to learn more about the agricultural education programs provided to students and teachers throughout the state. 🌱



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.

{800} 700-AITC (2482)

[www.LearnAboutAg.org](http://www.LearnAboutAg.org)

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- Kenny Watkins, Chairman  
*San Joaquin County*
- Martha Deichler  
*San Diego County*
- Jim Hicks  
*Orange County*
- Debbie Jacobsen  
*Fresno County*
- Jamie Johansson  
*Butte County*
- Rick Phillips  
*Idaho*
- Jane Roberti  
*Sierra County*
- Craig Thomson  
*Sacramento County*
- Mary Winn  
*Sacramento County*

**STAFF**

- Judy Culbertson  
*Executive Director*
- Mandi Bottoms  
*Curriculum and Evaluation Specialist*
- Mindy DeRohan  
*Communication Coordinator*
- Stephanie Etcheverria  
*Program Coordinator*
- Lyn Hyatt  
*Administrative Coordinator*
- Renee Hyatt  
*Website Coordinator*
- Britney Patterson  
*Program Assistant*
- Terri Salmund  
*Administrative Assistant*

**RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**

- Cathie Bradley  
*CJB & Associates, LLC*