

AG CAREER DAY

at the Cow Palace

More than 500 middle and high school students from the San Francisco Unified School District and surrounding districts will venture beyond their urban environment to discover career opportunities in the agriculture industry. Careers in Agriculture—Growing your Future Career Fair will be held on Thursday, October 17 at the Cow Palace in San Francisco.

Class 43 of the California Agricultural Leadership Program (CALP) is partnering with California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom and the Cow Palace to host this career fair to introduce students from urban areas to agriculture-related career and college opportunities.

The students will visit various stations sponsored by agricultural industry leaders and partners. They will learn about the types of careers available within each organization, become familiar with the qualifications for those positions, and participate in activities that will provide them with a hands-on experience.

“We are very excited to offer this unique career day for students and show them how they can have a future in agriculture, even if their past does not include any agricultural experience,” said Manpreet Bains, a CALP Class 43 fellow. “This event will also be a great opportunity for business owners and industry leadership to engage in conversation with the next generation of potential employees.” 🌱

Message from Craig Thomson

I have been working with Agriculture in the Classroom (AIRC) for the last 20 years and each time I see a student's face light up when they make a connection to how their food and fiber is produced, it confirms that agriculture should be an integral part of classroom instruction. It is a shining moment for all involved when they see a cow for the first time and learn that cows produce milk!

Last year, I invited AIRC to make a presentation about agriculture at the Fresno office of Zenith Insurance Company. Many of the associates at Zenith do not have an agricultural background, but they work within the industry each day. They wanted to learn more about agriculture because the more they understand, the better they are able to do their jobs protecting farmers, ranchers, and ag businesses. The presentation helped make this connection.

What makes Agriculture in the Classroom so valuable is the extent of its outreach. AIRC provides a combination of teacher resources, student materials, and conferences. AIRC associates have a passion for agriculture that reaches a variety of audiences—teachers, students, parents, and supporters. It is the combination of AIRC's outreach efforts that make the Foundation so powerful and effective. 🌱



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October 2013

Literacy for Life Grants

In 2012, California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom awarded 25 educators with grants of \$500 each through our new Literacy for Life Grants program to initiate new projects or expand existing projects that promote agricultural literacy. Below are three testimonials.



TERRA BARSANTI'S STUDENTS
WORKING IN THE SCHOOL GARDEN.

Terra Barsanti, an elementary teacher in Santa Cruz County experienced success with her project, *Planting Perennial Fruits, Flowers and Herbs*. “Golden teaching moments happen everyday in the garden. Cutting flowers for the lunchroom and harvesting veggies for school lunches is a powerful experience that touches the whole school.”

Mandy Garner, a high school teacher in Sacramento County, taught her students about agriculture through her project, *Third Grade Ag Mentorship Program*. “The agriculture students learned the joys and discomforts of agriculture that they speak about when reciting the FFA creed. They experienced broken irrigation pipes and they celebrated as the bulbs they planted finally bloomed.”

Jillian Lovelady, an elementary teacher in San Diego County taught about chicks through her project, *Life Cycles*. “Over a 21-day period, we watched 100 chicken eggs in the incubator. The students learned about chicken production and even watched a chick hatch!”

The 2013 Literacy for Life Grant award winners will be announced in November at www.LearnAboutAg.org/literacyforlife.

**upcoming events:**

Ag Career Day
San Francisco • Oct. 17, 2013

**National Agriculture
Week Events**
Mulvaney's Next Door
to the B&L Dinner
Sacramento • Mar. 20, 2014

Angel Stadium
Tour and Luncheon
Anaheim • Apr. 3, 2014

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A Long-standing Supporter

California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom (CFAITC) is pleased to recognize the long-standing support of Bob Johnson of Pacific Grove. For nearly 20 years, Johnson has supported the development of resources that will help students and teachers statewide appreciate and understand the industry that clothes and feeds them. Johnson believes that agricultural education is critical to the survival of the agriculture industry.

Johnson has been involved in agriculture his entire life. He farmed salad crops in the Salinas Valley and served on the California Farm Bureau Federation (CFBF) Board of Directors when Agriculture in the Classroom was founded. He has been a supporter of Agriculture in the Classroom and agricultural literacy since the beginning. Throughout the years, Johnson has also attended and supported Agriculture in the Classroom's special events.

Johnson believes it is imperative that students today understand how and where their food comes from because everybody needs to eat. "As the world's population continues to grow, farmers and ranchers will have to become innovative in how enough food can be produced to feed an increasing global population. We live in a society today where children cannot remember a time without cell phones, let alone understand that their milk actually comes from a cow, and not the carton at the grocery store," said Johnson.

Johnson is not only involved in agricultural literacy efforts at the statewide level, but he is also active locally. Each year, Monterey County hosts a farm day for more than 6,500 third-grade students at three different locations. CFAITC sends resources for the farm day participants to learn more about where their food and fiber comes from.

The farm days allow students a firsthand look at agriculture and food production. Students are allowed to touch and even milk a cow. For many, this is an opportunity they will remember forever! It is critical for students to know that food does not come from the grocery store, but is the product of hardworking farmers and ranchers. 🍷



STUDENTS INTERACTING WITH A CALF AT SAN FRANCISCO FARM DAY IN 2011



SECRETARY ROSS SHARES FRUIT SAMPLES WITH THE STUDENTS

Connecting the Cafeteria to the Classroom *Central Valley Farm to School Pilot Program*

California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom (CFAITC) partnered with California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and California Bountiful Foundation to bring local produce into Chatom Elementary School during the 2012-13 school year. More than 480 students

were introduced to many of California's specialty crops.

Throughout the school year, students participated in monthly taste test activities, school-wide assemblies, a

field trip, and a school-wide farmers market. A salad bar was added to their cafeteria for all students to enjoy! This year-long program helped students understand the value of agriculture within the Central Valley and its importance to the production of food and fiber throughout the state, nation, and world.

"Our goal with this program was to give students the opportunity to learn that choosing fresh fruits and vegetables at lunch time will help them perform better in school and have a happy and healthy life," said CDFA Secretary Ross. "We want them to include



more of California's rich agricultural bounty in their family meals."

Pre- and post-surveys were distributed to the students in grades 3-5 to measure how much the students learned about California specialty crops through the program. The results proved that the students increased their knowledge about California specialty crops. The number of students who correctly identified where to purchase specialty crops increased from 56% to 70%.

"This program made it possible to offer healthy choices for our students," said Genevieve Lucas, food services director at Chatom Union School District. "It is a beautiful thing to see the sense of empowerment a child can feel when they are given a choice!" 🍷



STUDENTS PURCHASED FRESH PRODUCE FROM LOCAL FARMERS USING "CHATOM BUCKS"



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.

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www.LearnAboutAg.org

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