

# hands on agriculture

Summer 2018

## Looking Forward - New Logo

After 30+ years, we refreshed our look to attract even more teachers and families to our Foundation. We greeted 2018 by rolling out our new and improved logo. While our previous logo led us through great success since 1986, it was time for an update. Our new logo was developed with great thought and care and each of the three pieces has significant meaning relating to the work we do. We hope you enjoy!



California Foundation for  
Agriculture in the Classroom



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The **sprouting leaves** from our original logo have been revamped with a new modern look. Just as these leaves are thriving, we hope the students and teachers we reach are growing in their understanding of agriculture.

The orange and blue colors for the words, **LearnAboutAg**® were chosen to represent the sun and water—important resources in all corners of agriculture. Brown was chosen for the words ‘**California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom**’ to symbolize soil.

For several years now, we have used LearnAboutAg® as our slogan to reach teachers. Our dedicated educators are used to finding invaluable resources on LearnAboutAg.org . Our name says it all. We are dedicated to bringing agriculture into classrooms throughout California. 🌱

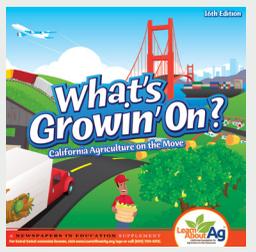
VISIT US ONLINE AT [LEARNABOUTAG.ORG](http://LEARNABOUTAG.ORG)!

**Upcoming Events:**  
California Agriculture  
in the Classroom  
Conference  
September 27-29, 2018  
Palm Springs, CA



# Program Updates

## What's Growin' On? California Ag on the Move



What's Growin' On?  
16<sup>th</sup> Edition

Each year, a new edition of *What's Growin' On?* joins the collection. This year we explore ag transportation—the movement of agricultural commodities to destinations all over the world. The 16-page educational newspaper highlights California's vibrant and diverse agriculture industry with current and accurate information. 🌱

## New Lessons Coming Soon!

Through a variety of grants and sponsorships, we are able to produce new lesson plans for teachers. To develop the lessons, we bring in educators to help craft them in a way that teachers will be able to plug them



Writing team teachers learn planting techniques from a Yolo County farmer.

into any learning environment. One project we are excited to announce will highlight Producing, Preparing, and Preserving! This curriculum full of hands-on lessons will be available starting in 2019. 🌱

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AND RESOURCES ONLINE AT  
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## Message from Nancy McDonough

It has been my privilege and pleasure to be involved with California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom (CFAITC) since its inception in 1986. What a remarkable history of accomplishments! What began as a program of California Farm Bureau Federation, developed into the first AITC organization in the nation. It continues to be recognized as California's premiere resource for ag literacy.

CFAITC has reached teachers and students in countless ways for decades. Their materials and activities, all of which are available to teachers free of charge, are extraordinary. The lesson plans and fact sheets, which are peer reviewed and meet the Common Core Standards, are invaluable to teachers. As CFAITC focuses on STEM disciplines, it advances a better understanding of food science, animal agriculture and sustainable energy. Farm to fork education was CFAITC's mission long before it became fashionable.



I have long been an avid proponent and supporter of CFAITC. With less than 2% of Californians engaged in production agriculture, CFAITC's vision of "an appreciation of ag by all" is daunting. However, with your continued generous support, this goal could one day become a reality. Please join me in supporting this outstanding organization's crucial mission. 🌱

# Donor Highlight

CALIFORNIA FOUNDATION FOR AGRICULTURE  
IN THE CLASSROOM RELIES ON THE GENEROUS  
SUPPORT OF OUR DONORS, WITHOUT WHOM OUR  
MESSAGE WOULD GO UNHEARD. THANK YOU!

## Zenith Agribusiness Solutions

While we have hundreds of amazing sponsors who make it possible for us to work on fulfilling our mission, there are a handful of sponsors who have gone above and beyond. For approximately 17 years, Zenith Insurance Company has made not only significant financial contributions, but has also dedicated many hours of staff time and in-kind services.

Since 2010 Zenith's Executive Vice President and Chief Agricultural Officer, Craig Thomson, has served on our Board of Directors. Craig's passion for agricultural education is a huge asset to our leadership team. "I believe every Californian has a stake in agricultural literacy. As consumers today and in the future, our students should have an understanding and vested interest in how food is produced so that this industry we rely on is sustainable, efficient, and competes both domestically and internationally," Craig commented.

At our recent event, Sacramento Farm Day, six Zenith employees (including Craig!) spent their day teaching 1,000+ students from Sacramento schools about agriculture. When we asked Craig about the event all he had to say was, "Love it! I only wish more students were able to experience it!"

Zenith doesn't just talk the talk when it comes to their support. They provide in-kind printing of many of our resources which allows us to then provide them to teachers throughout California free of charge. "True supporters like Zenith allow us to make an even greater impact!" said California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom's executive director, Judy Culbertson.

We are so thankful for Zenith Insurance Company and all of our donors' continued support in providing great resources to California educators.



Zenith employees volunteered to help pass out snacks to students at Sacramento Farm Day.



## Sacramento Farm Day

On March 23 we partnered with the Dave Joerger Foundation (NBA Head Coach Dave Joerger of the Sacramento Kings) to provide 1,000 students with a unique opportunity: participation in our first-ever Sacramento Farm Day.

One thousand 4th-6th grade students, with their teachers, were invited from under-served Sacramento schools to experience a day of hands-on education featuring interactive activities focusing on the 5 F's of Agriculture: Food, Fiber, Flowers, Forest, and Fuel. At the event, students rotated through a variety of stations hosted by local agricultural organizations. The students and teachers learned about where their food, fiber, and other natural resources come from, the resources it takes to produce them, and were inspired to LearnAboutAg!

With support from more than 100 local volunteers, donors, partners, and California Department of Food and Agriculture Secretary Karen Ross, the participants saw a demonstration of working farm dogs, enjoyed lunch and snack attacks stations, and experienced the true meaning of the "America's Farm-to-Fork Capital" movement. Sponsors included Bayer CropScience, Blue Diamond Growers, California Cotton Alliance, California Department of Food and Agriculture, California Farm Bureau Federation, Kaiser Permanente, Raley's, SMUD, Teichert Foundation, Union Bank, and Zenith Agribusiness Solutions.



Students learned about the many different aspects of agriculture. Here students interact with a rabbit used for fiber production.



Karen Ross (CDFA Secretary), Dave Joerger (NBA Head Coach), and Jamie Johansson (CFAITC President) show their support at Sacramento Farm Day.

Kim Shouten-Williams, of Washington Elementary School in Sacramento, said, "One student asked to pet the chicken. When I let him know he could, but that it was a turkey, he asked me what the difference was! I also heard students asking the names of what I thought were common fruits and vegetables. Farm Day was educational and inspirational."

We look forward to hosting this event again next year. Email [info@LearnAboutAg.org](mailto:info@LearnAboutAg.org) to learn how you can participate!



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)**  
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