We are excited to announce Jami Beck, 2nd Grade teacher at Three Rivers Elementary School in Tulare County, as our 2021 Outstanding educator of the Year!

Jami has a passion for bringing agriculture into the classroom through books. Books, featuring different foods and cultures, encourage her young students to try a new fruit, vegetable, or food. The next step is teaching how that food gets from farm to fork, or their classroom!

“It feel it is important for students to understand agriculture because they need to know where their food comes from. They need to know that all kind of people are involved in agriculture. Most importantly they need to know that we have to keep growing food. California is extremely important because we grow food to feed the world. We want students to be contributing members of society and what better way is there than helping through agriculture?”

Message from Bobbin Mulvaney
Owner Operator Mulvaney’s B&L
Board Member

“It’s important that everyone learns what real, whole food is. What does it look like? Taste like? How does it grow and get from the farm? Ag in the Classroom helps to inspire curiosity. I’m also excited that we teach students about careers in agriculture. Most importantly, they need to know that we have to keep growing food.”

BOBBIN MULVANEY, BOARD MEMBER

Fresno Farms to You
It started with a Friday phone call.

The Fresno Unified School District, who was awarded a Farm to School Grant through the California Department of Food and Agriculture, was looking for resources to implement agriculture education and nutrition education across their district.

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Bobbin Mulvaney, Owner Operator Mulvaney’s B&L, Board Member

“A partnership was born. The Harvesting for a Healthy Community-Fresno Farms to You program is a collaboration between the school district and the California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom that introduces students to a different Fresno commodity each month. September, the first month of the program, centered around tomatoes. Students learned why and how tomatoes grow while educators also explored the health and nutritional benefits of the commodity. Then, there’s the fun part: eating! Each month Taste and Teach lesson plans encourage teachers and after school coordinators to bring the featured fruits or vegetables into the classroom for hands-on eating and learning experiences. Colorful newsletters, monthly full-size posters and farmer spotlights that highlight a Fresno farmer each month, are all incorporated into this program.

“Fresno being the agriculture center of the world, the Taste and Teach program is so easy for educators to implement. We are so excited each month to see the newsletter and put the new posters in our cafeterias,” added Harvey.

Photo Credit: DL Cunningham Photography

″Fresno being the agriculture center of the world, the Taste and Teach program is so easy for educators to implement. We are so excited each month to see the newsletter and put the new posters in our cafeterias,” added Harvey."
Virtual but Vital

Zoom it was. For the second year in a row, the California Agriculture in the Classroom Annual Conference was virtual, due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

The silver lining: more than 300 registrants, from 43 different California counties “tuned in” to the conference. Coincidently 43-percent of registrants were first time attendees!

Conference highlights included: A "live" look at a Sacramento Valley tomato harvest, a tour of one of the oldest farmers markets in the state (in Auburn, CA), presentations by nearly a dozen agricultural organizations and in-depth educator workshops. We concluded with the ever-popular Farmer Panel.

Twenty Years and the 99% Club!

Light those birthday candles because What’s Growin’ On? turns 20! For two decades CFAITC has published this educational newspaper highlighting California’s diverse agricultural industry through student-friendly articles, graphics, and activities aligned to California Academic Standards for grades 3-8. We estimate that over 11.7 million readers have set their eyes on this colorful publication. A collaboration between educators and agricultural industry experts, What’s Growin’ On? breaks down where our food and fiber come from in an entertaining and engaging manner.

The 99% Club will be our upcoming and 20th Anniversary edition. From almonds to artichokes, rice to raisins, plus ten other commodities that California produces 99% of, students will learn why these crops thrive here. The underlying theme: California is key to growing these crops and it’s vital to preserve our agricultural heritage. In many cases, we are literally feeding the nation.

We are 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.

We are a 501 (c) (3) organization. WWW.LEARNABOUTAG.ORG

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