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1. Teacher Feature: Dawn Thomas

Teaches: High School Agriculture

School: Lompoc High School

Dawn Thomas was selected as one of this year's 25 Literacy for Life grant recipients. She began teaching agriculture at Lompoc High School this fall. Learn more by checking out this article on the [LompocRecord.com](#).



California Foundation for
Agriculture in the Classroom

DID YOU KNOW?!

Purple, orange and green cauliflowers are not genetically modified. They are [natural mutants](#) of white cauliflower.

What's the "Ag Commodity a Week" project?

I am teaching Lompoc High's first *Foods and Nutrition* course to 37 students in grades 9-12. It is my goal to create a hands-on, exploratory classroom and lab environment. Using Ag in the Classroom's [Agricultural Fact and Activity Sheets](#), students will discover a new commodity each week and create nutritious recipes we can make in class. We will create a recipe book each student will take with them at the end of the year.

What inspired you to create this project?

My passion is to instill agricultural literacy and to advocate for agriculture. I teach my students to be informed consumers, to be critical thinkers and to ask questions. Students come to my class with very little agricultural knowledge, and I pride myself on helping to build that foundation through exposure and exploration.

2. Seed Survivor Mobile - CA Tour

Two Seed Survivor Mobile trailers continue to make their way across the state, starting in Northern California, and now making their way to the Central Valley, visiting students in grades K-6 (grades 3 - 4 is the most appropriate.)

RESERVATIONS FOR CENTRAL CALIFORNIA ARE NOW AVAILABLE!

Schedule Seed Survivor while it is in your county!

December 7 - 11: Sacramento County (Full)

December 14 - 18: Sacramento/Placer County (Full)

January 4 - 8: San Joaquin County (Full)

January 11 - 15: Stanislaus County

January 18 - 22: Stanislaus/Merced County

January 25 - 29: Madera/Fresno County

February 1 - 5: Fresno/Kings County

February 8 - 12: Tulare/Kern County

February 15 - 19: Tulare/Kern County

February 22 - 26: San Luis Obispo County

The registration form is available on the [Seed Survivor website](#). Register online when the display is in an area near you! Email caseedsurvivor@gmail.com if you have any questions.

For schools in Southern California, stay tuned for your chance to register.

Southern California Tour: February 29 - March 31, 2016

3. *Imagine this...* Story Writing Contest Regional Winners Announced!

The regional winners have been [posted to the website](#). Congratulations to the winning students and teachers from across the state! Teachers will be sent official letters and awards within the next few weeks. This year's state winners will be posted on January 1.



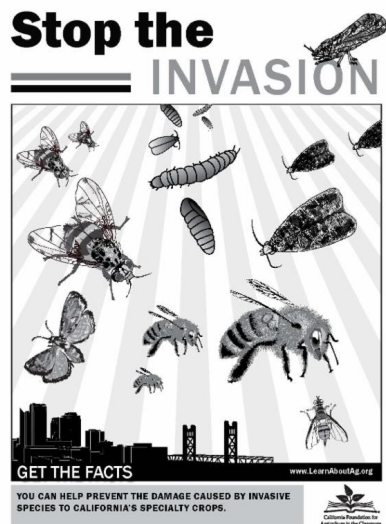
If you were a participating teacher in this year's contest, and you have not completed the 5-minute feedback survey yet, please [follow this link](#). Thanks you!



4. Invasive Species Fact Sheets

There's an invasion going on and you can help stop it! With the [Invasive Species Fact Sheets](#), (6-12) students will discover six different invasive species, the damage they cause to California specialty crops, and how to stop their spread. The accompanying lessons and activities are aligned to California Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards.

Invasive species cost our state more than \$3 billion annually! In January, this set of fact sheets will be mailed to all California principals. Be an ambassador on your campus and help *Stop the Invasion!*



5. Statewide Workshops and Events

Sign Up for a [World Ag Expo School Tour!](#)

- The World Ag Expo takes place February 9 - 11
- Tulare, California
- Deadline to sign up is January 15, 2016

LifeLab Workshops, UC Santa Cruz

- **Sowing the Seeds of Wonder: Discovering the Garden In Early Childhood Education**
 - Saturday, March 5
- Register for these events and other LifeLab workshops at www.lifelab.org.



Jan. 20, 2016- [AgVenture San Joaquin County](#)-
Stockton

March 1, 2016- [AgVenture San Joaquin County](#)- Lodi

March 8-9, 2016- Kern County Farm Bureau's [Farm Day in the City](#)

May 10, 2016- El Dorado County's [Farm Day](#)



Show Your Support for Agricultural Literacy

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