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1. Teacher Feature: Mary Hight

Teaches: Seventh Grade

School: Challenger Middle School, San Diego

Mary Hight was selected as one of this year's 25 Literacy for Life grant recipients. She will use her grant



California Foundation for
Agriculture in the Classroom

DID YOU KNOW?!

Every Hass Avocado in the world can trace its roots back to The Hass Mother, born in La Habra Heights, CA in 1926.

to start a school garden and provide students across campus with an opportunity for hands-on learning.

What's your Salsa/Pizza Garden project?

I teach a Consumer & Family Sciences course on nutrition, where students cook in mini-kitchens. Now, students will also grow vegetables and herbs. Moveable garden containers will be outside during the day and inside at night. Students will learn how to grow and maintain a garden and will use the fresh ingredients to prepare food. I typically teach 150 students. I also plan to start an after-school garden club, open to all students. The garden will be available to all 43 teachers on campus for teaching about agriculture.

What inspired you to create this project?

I think it's important for students to understand the role of agriculture in California. I use the [What's Growin' On?](#) student newspaper to introduce students to the topic. From participating in CFAITC's Specialty Crop Taste Test Grant, I realized how many foods they have never seen or tasted. I'm excited about the next step of giving students the opportunity to grow foods they can eat. My goal is to expand learning by showing how they can be part of a sustainable community by producing and using crops. I also teach about water in California. I hope my students develop an understanding of California crops, their nutritional value, the importance of water, and the relationship between all these items and sustainability.

2. New Website... Coming Soon!



[LearnAboutAg.org](#) is kicking off the new year with an all new look. The new site will launch on...

Monday, January 25! Be sure to check it out!

3. Imagine this... Story Writing Contest State Winners Announced!

The names of the 2015 state-winning authors and their stories are now on the [website](#). Congratulations to the winning students and their teachers!

- 3rd Grade- Drew Ramirez, Stanislaus County

- 4th Grade- Kaiya Luevano, San Diego County
- 5th Grade- Chloe Um, Los Angeles County
- 6th Grade- Jaden Fontes, Stanislaus County
- 7th Grade- Aryanna Sobrevilla, Merced County
- 8th Grade- Tyce Griswold, Tulare County
- Honorable Mention- Jackson Edson, Glenn County
- Honorable Mention- Kristie Tan, Los Angeles County

Students will be recognized during **Capital Ag Day** in Sacramento on **March 16, 2016**.



4. Seed Survivor Mobile - CA Tour

Two Seed Survivor Mobile trailers continue to make their way across the state! The tour is currently in Central California. **Schedule a Seed Survivor visit** while the trailers are in your county. [Sign up online](#).

Help present at Central Valley tour stops. Presenters will be paid for their time. Contact Liz Baskins at 916-561-5625 or liz@learnaboutag.org.



Central California Tour Dates

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

Registration for schools in Southern California will open on February 1, 2016.

Southern California Tour: February 29 - March 31, 2016



5. Updated Units Now Available!

We have recently updated the standards on two of our units. These updated versions are now available for downloading. You can also request a free printed copy while supplies last! If you have questions about the [online request form](#), give us a call at 916-561-5625 or email us at info@LearnAboutAg.org.

Plant Nutrients

- [What do Plants Need to Grow \(2-4\)](#)
- [Too Much, Too Little \(5-8\)](#)
- [Chemistry, Fertilizer, and the Environment \(8-12\)](#)

STEM

- ["Steer" Toward STEM: Careers in Animal Agriculture \(3-5\)](#)
- [From "STEM" to Plate: Careers in Food Science \(6-8\)](#)
- [STEM Connections, Energy and Agriculture: Careers in Sustainable Energy \(9-12\)](#)
- [Request a flashdrive](#) containing all 3 STEM lessons!

6. Teachers Needed- Help Evaluate New Invasive Species Fact Sheets

We are looking for 14 teachers (grades 6 - 12) to evaluate newly added Invasive Species fact sheets. Participating teachers will receive a \$50 stipend for completing the lessons and evaluations. Contact DeAnn Tenhunfeld at deann@learnaboutag.org or call 916-561-5625 for details or to sign up. The newly added sheets feature the False Codling Moth and the Oriental Fruit Fly. Check out the whole set [online](#).



7. Grant Opportunities

[California Fertilizer Foundation](#)

- School Garden Grant Program
- Deadline Extended to January 31, 2016

[Lowe's Toolbox for Education Program](#)

- Grants for school gardens and more
- Deadline for Spring Cycle: February 12, 2016

8. Statewide Workshops and Events

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

- The World Ag Expo takes place February 9 - 11, 2016
- 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, 2016
- Register for these events and other LifeLab workshops at www.lifelab.org.



9. County Farm Days

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

February 26, 2016- [Napa County Ag Day](#)

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

March 1, 2016- [King's County Third Grade Field Day](#)

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

March 15, 2016- [Sonoma Ag Day](#)

March 17, 2016- [Marin Ag Day](#)

May 10, 2016- Solano County Fair's [Youth Ag Day](#)

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



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