



## Welcome Back to School! In this issue...

- [1. Teacher Feature - Kim Kelso](#)
- [2. Register Now! California Agriculture in the Classroom Conference](#)
- [2. Get Involved in the Conference!](#)
- [4. Literacy for Life Grants](#)
- [5. Imagine this... Story Writing Contest](#)
- [6. Celebrate 30 Years at Dodger Stadium](#)
- [7. Grant Feature: Lowe's Toolbox for Education](#)
- [8. Featured Resource: California Walnuts](#)
- [9. More Resources](#)
- [10. Statewide Workshops and Events](#)
- [11. County Ag Activities](#)
- [12. More Ag Opportunities](#)
- [Support AITC](#)



## 1. Teacher Feature - Kim Kelso

Teaches: Second Grade



California Foundation for  
Agriculture in the Classroom

### DID YOU KNOW?!

Bell peppers can be harvested when they are still green or after they have ripened to red, yellow or another color (based on variety).

[Source: UC Vegetable Research & Information Center](#)

**School:** Twin Oaks Elementary in San Marcos, California

Kim Kelso has been teaching for 18 years. Her first experience with Ag in the Classroom was attending the 2015 conference in Long Beach. Last school year, she and her students took on the role of caring for their school garden. They grew radishes, beets, lettuce, cucumbers and pumpkins. Kim's students enjoyed harvesting, washing and eating the fresh vegetables.

**What brought you to the 2015 California Agriculture in the Classroom Conference?**

Our school principal found out about the conference online and asked if I would like to go. Neither of us had heard of Ag in the Classroom before, and we were both intrigued by what the conference offered, especially relating it to Common Core.

**What did you like most about the conference?**

If I had to pick the most rewarding aspect, it would be the conversations I had. I learned many valuable details about implementing school gardens, and I realized just how valuable they are to students' learning experiences. The hands-on approach to learning opens the mind, heart and spirit of students, so they can learn to the fullest extent.

**What's next for your school garden?**

As I continue to develop and revive our school garden, my hope is to eventually enlist other teachers and grade levels in our school to participate and experience what our garden has to offer. During this summer, I have cared for the wildflowers we planted and the pumpkin plants. Unfortunately, squirrels have damaged some of our crop. I continue to learn how to maintain the garden through trial and error and online resources.

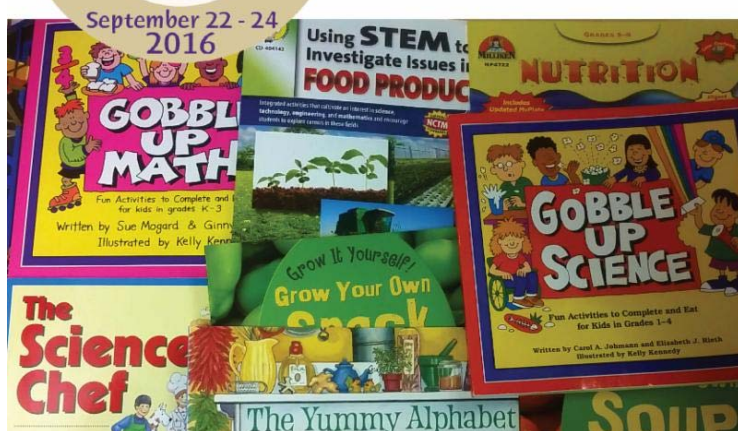
## **2. Register Now! California Agriculture in the Classroom Conference - Sacramento, September 22-24, 2016**

It's time to register for the 2016 Agriculture in the Classroom Conference! [Explore the list of tours and workshops, and register today.](#) If you register by midnight, August 12, you will be able to select a FREE book when you check in at the conference. We have a wide selection of creative, nutrition education books for all ages, and you will get to choose one!

**Reserve your hotel room by August 25, 2016 to confirm your discounted conference rate.**



**Register by midnight,  
Friday, August 12.  
Receive a FREE book!**



### 3. Get Involved in the Conference!

We are currently accepting applications to present Make 'n' Take sessions. Make 'n' Take presenters will receive a \$50 stipend. You can also exhibit at the conference or host a *Taste of California* dinner table! [Apply today!](#)



### 4. Literacy for Life Grants

Want to take your class on an ag field trip, purchase a class set of ag books, or host an ag education day? Here is your chance! Grant possibilities are limitless; be creative and innovative! The Literacy for Life grants are designed to initiate new projects or expand existing ones that promote agricultural literacy. [Apply online today](#). Applications are **due October 1, 2016**.





## 5. *Imagine this...* Story Writing Contest

# FREE SEEDS

for all students  
who write stories  
about agriculture.



*Imagine this...*  
2016

The *Imagine this...* Story Writing Contest is open to all **California third through eighth-grade students**. The contest aligns with Common Core State Standards, as students write creative narratives based on facts about California agriculture. The annual deadline is **November 1**, and this year, all students who write stories will receive a FREE packet of seeds! Explore prompt ideas, past-winning stories, author interviews and more at [LearnAboutAg.org](http://LearnAboutAg.org). Contact [jennifer@LearnAboutAg.org](mailto:jennifer@LearnAboutAg.org) with questions or to request hard copies of the [promotional flyer/entry form](#).

## 6. Celebrate 30 Years at Dodger Stadium



We're bringing together long-time supporters and new friends for a [Luncheon and Tour of the Los Angeles Dodger Stadium](#). Join us on **Tuesday, August 30**, as we celebrate 30 years of agricultural education. Funds raised will give students across the state a chance to learn and understand where their food and fiber come from. Please RSVP by August 23, 2016.

## 7. Grant Feature: Lowe's Toolbox for Education



Lowe's Toolbox for Education provides [grants of up to \\$5,000](#) to K-12 public/charter schools for enhancing school landscaping. Project ideas include creating school gardens.

See our [Literacy for Life](#) grant and [full listing of other grants](#) and deadlines. Keep your program growing!

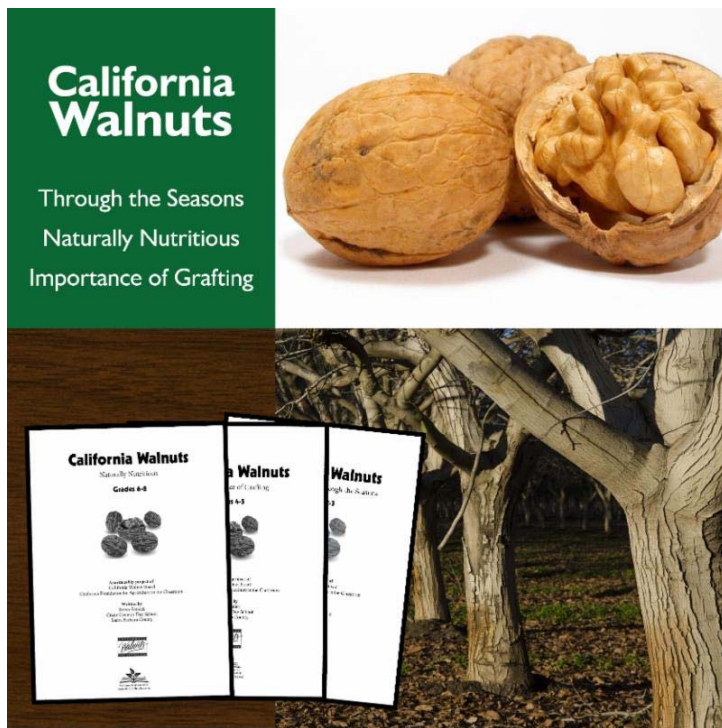


## 8. Featured Resource - California Walnuts

Check out our walnut lesson plan units!

- A Walnut Orchard Through the Seasons (2-3)
- The Importance of Grafting (4-5)
- Naturally Nutritious (6-8)

Find these units and more in our [Lesson Plan Table](#).



## 9. More Resources - Science Experiments

The [American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture](#) provides a great collection of teaching resources, including science experiments for home or school. Check out these [5 Simple Science Experiments on Cookie Ingredients!](#)

## 9. Statewide/Nationwide Events, Competitions, & More!

### Growing Lunch 2-Day Workshop (educators of K-8)

- **August 11-12, 2016**
- 2-Day Workshop to Sustain Your Edible Garden, \$40 cost
- Yolo Farm to Fork is hosting this event at the Bryce Garden Cafe in West Sacramento.
- Learn how you can use your existing or new school garden to enhance nutrition education.
- [Sign up online.](#)

### 2015 USDA Farm to School Census Overview Webinar

- **August 11, 2016 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.**
- The webinar will provide an overview of the recently-released 2015 USDA Farm to School Census.
- [Register online.](#)

### Santa Cruz School Food and Garden Tour (educators of K-8)

- **October 13, 2016**
- 1-Day tour of school sites, cost \$150/\$180
- The tour is hosted by Life Lab and is open to anyone interested in school food or school gardens.
- Learn about garden design, best practices and how to bring academic learning to life in your garden.
- [Sign up online.](#)

### 2nd Annual Tri-County Growing Edible Education Symposium (K-12 educators and community members)

- **October 14-15, 2016**
- 2-Day Symposium in Santa Paula, cost \$30- \$100
- Visit garden, food service and farm education programs
- Share best practices for teaching food and nutrition at this event hosted by the Ventura County Farm to School Collaborative.
- [Register online.](#)

#### **Photo Contest: Green Education Foundation**

- Enter your best photo of students learning about sustainability, whether it is in a garden, classroom, or wherever learning moments occur.
- Ten winners will be selected to receive a \$25 gift card to Gardener's Supply Company. The grand prize winner will win \$250 cash and a \$1,000 gift card. Two runners-up will receive \$100 gift cards.
- The deadline is **September 30, 2016**.
- Submit via email: [service@greeneducationfoundation.org](mailto:service@greeneducationfoundation.org).

#### **Photo Contest: California Farm Bureau Federation**

- The contest is open to California Farm Bureau Federation members, contributing members of the California Bountiful Foundation, and their children.
- Submit up to five photos that celebrate California agriculture.
- The Budding Artist category is for photographers 13 years old and younger.
- The deadline is **September 30, 2016**.
- [See rules and entry forms.](#)



## **10. County Ag Activities**

August 13, 2016 - **El Dorado County's** [20 Mile Taste Fundraiser](#)

August 27, 2016 - **Sacramento County's** [A Toast to Education: Winemaker's Dinner](#)

September 3, 2016 - **Sacramento County's** [Harvest for All Gleaning Day and ag tour](#)

September 10 and 17, 2016 - **Yolo County's** [Teacher Grape Day](#)

October 6, 2016 - **Merced County's** [Farm2U Day](#)

November 5, 2016 - **Ventura County's** [Farm Day](#)

## **11. More Ways to Learn About Ag**

**Sacramento County** - The [Farm-to-Fork Festival](#) will take place on Saturday, September 24, 2016, celebrating where food and drinks come from and bringing attendees face-to-face with the people who are feeding the region and the world.

**Stanislaus County** - The [Fertilizer Research and Education Program](#) (FREP) will host its annual conference October 26-27 at the DoubleTree hotel in Modesto.

**Santa Cruz County** - [Life Lab](#) offers garden-based field trips for preschool through middle school students in the Garden Classroom on the UC Santa Cruz CASFS Farm.

**San Mateo County** - [Elkus Ranch Environmental Education Center](#) provides hands-on opportunities for children from preschool through high school.



### Show Your Support for Agricultural Literacy

Help us continue to provide programs and materials to create an awareness and understanding of agriculture among California's educators and students.

[Make a one-time or recurring donation.](#)

### Stay Connected



California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom,  
2300 River Plaza Drive, Sacramento, CA 95833

[SafeUnsubscribe™ {recipient's email}](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by [info@learnaboutag.org](mailto:info@learnaboutag.org) in collaboration with



Try it free today