



# Cream of the Crop

A harvest of ideas for educators

July 2017



California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom

## Fantastic Ag Fact:

California harvests more than 2 billion pounds of strawberries annually!



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Photo of the Month: Educators pick up free resources from the California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom table at the National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference in Missouri.



## Teacher Feature

**Lori Taylor**

### **The Produce Mom®**

This month instead of featuring a classroom teacher, we are highlighting an informal agricultural educator! In just TWO WEEKS The Produce Mom will be at the California Ag in the Classroom Conference to speak to educators about fresh produce. Don't miss your chance to hear from this rockstar; [register today!](#)

**Why is it important for teachers to embrace the idea of using fresh produce and agriculture in the their classroom?**

School has made a greater impact on my children's produce consumption habits than

I have been able to make as their mother. The field to fork story inspires people of all ages to think about where their food comes from. Teachers, classrooms, lunchrooms, and peers are extremely important players when it comes to increasing the consumption of fresh produce among children.

**What is one piece of advice you'd give an educator interest in starting to incorporate fruits and veggies into their schools?**

"Done" is always better than "coming soon". Take action!

**How can educators use The Produce Mom® and your programs in their classrooms?**

Follow the lead of fellow CA educator and former Ag in the Classroom Teacher of the Year, Julie Cates: use our Monthly Produce Challenge Calendar as your guide for discussing fruits and vegetables on a daily basis!



Learn more about The Produce Mom® at the [2017 California Agriculture in the Classroom Conference](#)! Or, visit her website at [theproducemom.com](http://theproducemom.com)!



LearnAboutAg®

**2017 Agriculture in the Classroom Conference**  
**July 14-15, 2017**  
**Visalia, CA!**



Join us in the heart of California Agriculture as we Grow Our Future! Learn about the importance of educating our youth about food and fiber through all subject areas. Agriculture is everywhere and in everything we do!

Sign up to present a [Make 'n' Take\\*](#), [Exhibit](#), or host a [Taste of California](#) table today!

**[Register Now!](#)**

\*\$50 stipends available for Make 'n' Take Presenters!



### Track Your Nutrition Ag-Bites



On your marks, get set, go! Join the track meet! To win the race, you must "eat" from all five food groups and complete at least three laps. Learn fun facts about the food groups and complete at least three laps. Learn fun facts about the food groups and how your body uses the food you eat. Get ready to get active!

**[Find all the Ag-Bites here!](#)**



### Educational Garden Design Grants



The California Native Garden Foundation (CNGF) is pleased to make available native garden design grants to schools, colleges, museums, and other public spaces and non-profit organizations across California.

**Deadline: Rolling Deadline**  
**[Apply Online!](#)**

See [other grant opportunities](#) at [LearnAboutAg.org](http://LearnAboutAg.org).



### Science of Agriculture

Developed by the United States Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, these short animations, interactive modules, and videos teach math and science concepts crucial to the study of agriculture. Find them [here!](#)

### Discover Ag Careers

Did you know that there is an estimated 57,900 high-skilled job openings annually in the food, agriculture, renewable resources, and environmental fields in the United States? The American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture has developed a FREE Educator Guide titled "When I Grow Up" to help educators teach about the diversity of agricultural careers. Find the Educator guide [here](#)!

## Community Events

### For Educators

<b><u>Forestry Institute for Teachers (FIT)</u></b> A multi-day residence workshop providing K-12 teachers with knowledge, skills and tools to effectively teach their students about forest ecology and forest resource management practices.	Meadow Valley, Sonora, Shingletown or Arcata	Summer 2017
<b><u>Life Lab Workshops</u></b> Life Lab has trained tens of thousands of educators across the nation! Sign up today for one of their many workshops this summer and fall!	Santa Cruz, CA	Summer & Fall 2017
<b><u>Growing Edible Education Symposium</u></b> Join us as we implement, promote, and support farm-to-school activities in our community. Gain the knowledge, skills, connections, and confidence to say, "YES WE CAN". Graduate university credit available. Registration coming soon.	San Luis Obispo, CA	October 5-6, 2017

### For Youth

<b><u>Soil Scientists</u></b> Explore the geology of wetlands by taking your own core sample, making a soil horizon, and participating in the Great Percolation Race. Get the dirt on soil! Hosted by the Yolo Basin Foundation.	Davis, CA	July 10-14
<b><u>Farm Girls Summer Camp</u></b> This camp for girls and women of all ages will teach about permaculture farming techniques. Registration cost \$150.	San Luis Obsipo, CA	July 11-14, 2017
<b><u>STEAM Summer Camp</u></b> Students ages 14-18 are invited to this one of a kind STEAM Summer Camp! Themes of the camp include Food Nutrition, Urban Agriculture, and Food Safety.	Sacramento, CA	July 17-28, 2017
<b><u>Tahoe Farm Day</u></b> Third grade classes are invited to a day of fun, hands-on experience, and agricultural lessons. Interactive displays include subjects like nutrition, land stewardship, and more!	South Lake Tahoe, CA	September 19, 2017
<b><u>Farm Camp</u></b> This summer day-camp is an opportunity for students to see a real organic vegetable row crop and fruit orchard farm.	Watsonville, CA	Summer 2017
<b><u>AgVentures! Learning Center</u></b> Tours of the Learning Center are available year-round for <b>elementary</b> school students. Cost is \$3 per student.	Tulare, CA	(Year-Round)

## Show Your Support for Agricultural Literacy

Help us continue providing programs and materials that create an awareness and understanding of agriculture among California's educators and students. Make a one-time or recurring [donation](#).

Stay Connected! @LearnAboutAg



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