



Cream of the Crop

A harvest of ideas for educators

August 2017



California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom

Fantastic Ag Fact:

96% of all processed tomato products eaten in the US come from California!



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Photo of the Month: Educators tour a citrus farm during the 2017 California Agriculture in the Classroom Conference!



Teacher Feature

Robin Dick

High School (9th -12th)
Westminster High School
Westminster, CA

How and when did you first learn about Agriculture in the Classroom?

I first learned about Agriculture in the Classroom while I was taking college courses at Cal Poly Pomona. I heard wonderful things about how they advocate for agriculture.

How long have you taught students and why did you choose to become an educator?

This year I completed my first year as a high school agriculture teacher. I decided I wanted to become an agriculture teacher after my freshman year



of high school. I took a ton of agriculture classes and they all got me hooked.

What is one piece of advice you'd give an educator interest in starting to implement agriculture into their classroom?

The biggest piece of advice I could give someone is to do your research, and don't be afraid to ask questions. There are so many misconceptions about the agriculture industry and the best thing you can do to advocate for it is to make sure you are doing so with the truth.

Why do you believe it is important for our students to be agriculturally literate and aware in today's society?

I feel that it is vital that people are literate in the agriculture industry. One of my favorite sayings was by Brenda Schoepp. She said, "My grandfather used to say that once in your life you need a doctor, a lawyer, a policeman and a preacher, but every day, three times a day, you need a farmer." This depicts the necessity of the industry, and people need to realize that no matter what happens, it is the industry of life.

Pulled from July 2015 Cream of the Crop Archives



Thank you, conference attendees and sponsors!



The 2017 California Agriculture in the Classroom Conference in Visalia was a great success thanks to our enthusiastic attendees, amazing presenters and generous sponsors. Check out the photo archive on our website. See more photos on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Thanks to all who shared posts with #CATEachAg17! We encourage you to keep the conversation going.

If you attended the conference but have not yet completed the online survey, [click here!](#)



**Teacher Favorite:
Fruits and Vegetables for Health
Newly Updated!**

Newly updated to include the 2015-2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans, Fruits and Vegetables for



Health contains five lessons designed to teach students about the production, distribution, and nutritional value of California-grown produce. Order your free unit for the new school year!

Great for grades 4-6

[Find it online!](#)



Grant Feature

Literacy for Life Grant



California Foundation for
Agriculture in the Classroom

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! Literacy for Life grants are designed to initiate new projects or expand existing ones that promote agricultural literacy. Teachers K-12 are eligible.

Deadline: October 1, 2017

[Apply Online!](#)

CHS Classroom Grants



The CHS Foundation and National Agriculture in the Classroom Organization are partnering again this school year to offer CHS Classroom Grants. Teachers of grades K-12 who have agriculture projects they would like to fund to help them teach reading, writing, math, science, social studies and more are eligible to apply. Fifteen \$500 grants will be awarded

Deadline: September 15, 2017

[Apply Online!](#)

More Ways to LearnAboutAg®

Imagine this... Story Writing Contest

California students in grades 3-8 creatively explore where their food comes from by writing narrative stories. The winning stories from each grade are illustrated by high school art students and published in our annual story book, "Imagine this... Stories Inspired by Agriculture".

Annual deadline: November 1. Find out more [here!](#)

Want to go to Maine next summer?

Do you have a knack for using agriculture and food-related concepts to teach reading, writing, nutrition, social studies, STEM subjects and more? Would you like to visit Maine next summer? National Agriculture in the Classroom has the answer for you. Submit a workshop proposal for next year's national conference 'Agriculture for ME: On Land & Sea' to be held June 27-29, 2018 in Portland, Maine. Workshop proposals are due by Oct. 6, 2017. Find out more by visiting naitconference.usu.edu/Presenters

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

Event Name and Description	Event Location	Event Date
<p>Teacher Awareness Program U.S. Farmers & Ranchers Alliance is partnering with the Minnesota Soybean Research and Promotion Council to launch a Teacher Awareness Program that allows urban teachers and students to learn about modern agriculture first-hand. Visit a farm and tour an agricultural facility! Receive an iPod touch and virtual reality headset for attending! No cost!</p>	Sacramento, CA	August 31, 2017
<p>Life Lab Workshops 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!</p>	Santa Cruz, CA	Summer & Fall 2017
<p>Growing Edible Education Symposium 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.</p>	San Luis Obispo, CA	October 5-6, 2017

For Youth

Event Name and Description	Event Location	Event Date
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<p>Tahoe Farm Day 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!</p>	South Lake Tahoe, CA	September 19, 2017
<p>Fertilizer & Sustainability Media Contest <i>The Fertilizer Is At the Root of It</i> Contest is a creative way to showcase fertilizer and sustainability. Science and Agriculture classes grades 7-12 are invited to create a video or poster on how sustainability is implemented in your school. Find out more information here!</p>	Nationwide	September 22, 2017
<p>AgVentures! Learning Center Tours of the Learning Center are available year-round for elementary school students. Cost is \$3 per student.</p>	Tulare, CA	(Year-Round)



Swing To Link Agriculture and Education September 13 - Poppy Hills



We're bringing together long-time supporters and new friends of Ag in the Classroom for a Golf Tournament at Poppy Hills golf course in Pebble Beach. Tee off with us on Wednesday, September 13, as we aim to provide more students and teachers with opportunities to LearnAboutAg!

[Register Online!](#)



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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