



# Cream of the Crop

A harvest of ideas for educators

April 2018



California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom

## Fantastic Ag Fact:

Americans consume an average of 30 pounds of lettuce per person each year!



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On March 23 we hosted 1,000+ students and teachers for the first ever Sacramento Farm Day. Students learned about a variety of agricultural topics. Pictured: Karen Ross (CDFA Secretary), Dave Joerger (NBA Head Coach of the Sacramento Kings), and Jamie Johansson (CAITC President).



LearnAboutAg®

## SAVE THE DATE: California Ag in the Classroom Conference!



September 27-29, 2018

## Renaissance Hotel - Marriott Palm Springs, CA

We are seeking enthusiastic presenters who would like to share their expertise, experience, and educational resources with our attendees.

### Proposals are now being accepted for:

Workshops  
Make 'n' Takes  
Exhibits  
"A Taste of California"

**\*Information regarding general registration coming SOON!\***



### Sheila Amaral

3rd Grade Teacher  
Gratton Elementary School  
Denair, CA

California Foundation for Agriculture  
in the Classroom's Outstanding  
Educator of the Year

Sheila Amaral was selected as the Ag in the Classroom Educator of the Year at the end of 2017. She addressed an audience at our recent Special Event Dinner in Sacramento on March 23, 2018. Watch the video or read what she shared about her classroom!

I teach third grade at Gratton Elementary School. Gratton is a rural K-8 school with about 135 students. We are surrounded by agriculture, mostly almond trees. I joke with friends and family that on my mile and a half commute, I'm lucky to pass a tractor and rarely pass another car. I have been teaching at Gratton for twenty years and love what I do.

Like most California schools, Gratton too is driven by standards, test scores, and new curriculum to keep up with these demands. It is sometimes hard to find that line that allows for the extra activities. Is Ag in the Classroom really extra? Let's do some digging, and head out to my school garden.

This fall my class planted broccoli. After preparing the soil, we researched the requirements for our young plants. We then measured so we could gently place our young transplants in the ground at the correct depth and distance apart. Now, let's fast-forward to this past week. My students harvested over a wheelbarrow full of beautiful broccoli. We were able to provide broccoli soup for our entire school. Students were again measuring the ingredients, slicing off the broccoli florets, reading and following a recipe, and enjoying a delicious and



healthful soup. They were proud of their efforts and I loved hearing their comments as they and their friends ate their soup.

**"This is the best soup I've ever eaten!"**  
**"Can I get the recipe to make this again!"**  
**"Can I have seconds?"**

We just added a little STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math, integrated across the curriculum, and made lifelong memories to what could have been just a story in a book.

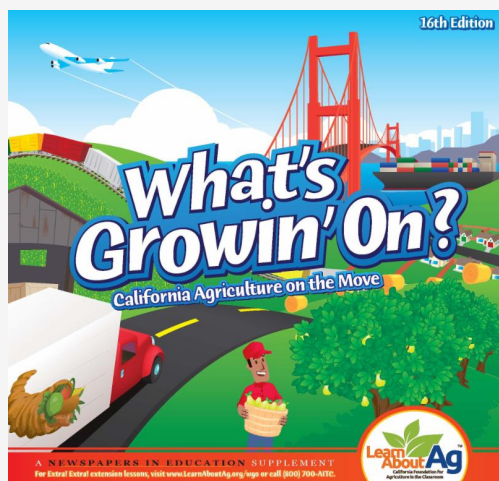
This little demonstration can happen each day, each week, or more often if you let it. By adding agriculture into your classroom, students experience hands-on learning and develop a deeper understanding of the Five F's of Agriculture: Food, Fiber, Forests, Flowers, and Fuel.

Agriculture in the Classroom is STEM; and whether we're working in the school garden, making a connection through writing a story for the *Imagine this...* contest, collecting, managing, and marketing eggs from the chickens housed in our school garden. It is my strong opinion that Agriculture in the Classroom is an essential program that our youth can benefit from and develop a love for learning and a love for agriculture.



## Featured Resource

### ***What's Growin' On?*** **16<sup>th</sup> Edition NOW AVAILABLE!**



How does food travel from the farm to your home? In this edition of *What's Growin' On?* we'll explore agricultural transportation - the movement of agricultural commodities such as apples, milk, flowers, nuts, cattle, fish, cotton, and lumber to destinations all over the world.

Teachers: you can now request classroom sets (up to 50) of this resource to be mailed directly to you, **FOR FREE!** Full of activities, engaging text, and already aligned to standards, this resource will be a great addition to your classroom! Order now!

**[Request This Resource Online!](#)**



## Grant Feature

**Look at Agriculture... Organically!**  
**Grant Application Now Open!**



The 'Look at Agriculture... Organically!' grants are designed to creatively enhance the understanding of organic agriculture for kindergarten through eighth grade students. Grants of up to \$1,000 will be provided educators nationwide. These grants are made possible by a partnership California Certified Organic Farmers and California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom.

Deadline: **May 15, 2018**

**[Apply Online!](#)**



## **Education and Agriculture Together (EAT) Foundation**

The EAT Foundation offers a variety of Continuing Education (CE) Classes which combine hand-on Workshops, Seminars, and Tours in the field of Agriculture. Our courses are offered in 1, 2 & 3 day Sessions and take place at various locations and times of the year. Find out more [here!](#)

### **Mobile Dairy Classroom**

Bring agriculture to your school with the Mobile Dairy Classroom! Our assembly teaches how milk and dairy foods are produced and how they contribute to healthy eating. When you combine the Mobile Dairy Classroom with our Common Core aligned nutrition lesson plans, your students learn the full story of healthy foods - from the farm to the table - and how they can make healthy choices for themselves. Find out more [here!](#)

### **Farm Academy Live**

Farm Academy Live offers classrooms virtual field trips to farms using interactive video conference technology. Trusted by teachers since 2009, 100,000 students across 33 states and four countries have benefited from this program. This 40-minute virtual tour of a farm teaches plant and animal science in line with national science standards. The experience is enhanced by offering students the opportunity to engage in hands-on activities like ginning cotton by hand and mixing a feed ration for a dairy cow. Find out more [here!](#)



## **For Educators**

Event Name and Description	Event Location	Event Date
<b><u>National Farm to Cafeteria Conference</u></b> This biennial event will convene more than 1,000 diverse stakeholders working to source local food for institutional cafeterias and foster a culture of food and agricultural literacy across America.	Cincinnati, OH	April 25-27, 2018
<b><u>Professional Development Workshops for Educators</u></b> Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) is offering FREE workshops to teachers. Learn how to bring energy education into your classroom. Materials and meals provided!	Sacramento, CA	Spring 2018



<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 spring!	Santa Cruz, CA	Spring 2018
<b><u>EAT Foundation Classes</u></b> The EAT Foundation offers a variety of Continuing Education (CE) Classes which combine hands-on Workshops, Seminars, and Tours in the field of Agriculture. Courses are offered in 1, 2 & 3 day Sessions and take place at various locations and times of the year.	Hanford, CA	Summer 2018

## For Youth

Event Name and Description	Event Location	Event Date
<b><u>Farm Connection Day</u></b> Farm Connection Day is a wonderful opportunity for local school children to: *Learn and interact with farm animals *View creative arts and sciences projects *See project demonstrations of archery, dog obedience, and SO MUCH MORE!	Woodland, CA	May 4, 2018
<b><u>El Dorado County-Placerville Farm Day</u></b> Farm Days are fun, hands-on field trips where lessons of agriculture and its role in our everyday lives, our county, and its economy are taught in the context of local farms, ranches, forests, and watersheds. Registration is available to all 3rd grade classes in El Dorado County.	Placerville, CA	May 8, 2018
<b><u>Hilmar Cheese Company School and Youth Tours</u></b> Join us for the most fun and educational field trip in the Central Valley! Free for all public schools, private schools and home schools associated with a school district. Organized and led by trained tour guides, safe and fully accessible. All students receive free cheese samples, a hairnet, Daisy's Dairy "ABCs" and a souvenir pencil.	Hilmar, CA	Year-Round
<b><u>AgVentures! Learning Center</u></b> Tours of the Learning Center are available year-round for elementary school students. Cost is \$3 per student.	Tulare, CA	Year-Round



## Sacramento Region Big Day of Giving

**May 3, 2018**

A program of the Sacramento Region Community Foundation's initiative to grow local philanthropy, Big Day of Giving is a 24-hour online giving challenge that brings together the region's nonprofit

community to help raise much needed unrestricted funds and shine a spotlight on the work nonprofits do to make the Sacramento region the place we call home. [Schedule your donation now!](#)



## 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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