



Fantastic Ag Fact:



There are more than 85 varieties of table grapes grown in California.

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Woodlake Elementary School is participating in the Pick-A-Peck Program where they dried apples, made zoodle spaghetti and bruschetta! This is just one way they are learning about ag!



LearnAboutAg



"The Ag in the Classroom Conference provided wonderful resources and free materials! Great presentations that I will always remember and strategies I can use in my classroom," - 2019 CA Agriculture in the Classroom Conference Attendee.

Wine grapes, dairy, chickens, and mushrooms are just a few of the commodities that attendees of the 2019 California Agriculture in the Classroom Conference learned about in Sonoma County. The conference was held October 17-19, 2019 in Rohnert Park. We were excited to have welcomed more than 150 educators and volunteers, of which 61 percent were first-time attendees to our 32nd California Agriculture in the Classroom Conference.

To see a few pictures from the conference, visit [here!](#)

Teacher Feature

Mark Fraser

Grade taught: 7th-8th

School: Feaster Charter School

County: San Diego

1. How and when did you first learn of Ag in the Classroom?

I first heard about Ag in the classroom through an email by the San Diego County Master Gardner Program. I have found the Master Gardeners to be a great resource for any newbie to the garden world.



2. How long have you been teaching students about agriculture?

I started teaching my Agriscience Elective 2 1/2 years ago. My school constructed a hydroponic greenhouse and my journey began. I am an accidental farmer. Our tag line is Feaster Farm Greenhouse, Growing Humanitarians because we donate everything we grow. We recently donated 150 lbs of Pak Choi (Bok Choi) to a local provider of meals to the homeless, Father Joe's. We will be donating another similar amount in the second week of November. Follow along on Instagram @FeasterFarmGreenhouse.

3. What is your favorite AITC program/resource/event and why?

I attended the Ag in the Classroom conference in Palm Springs and I found it very inspiring. My school agreed to pay my registration. Resources and support are so crucial when teachers start programs, and AITC has been a great help to me in my classroom.

4. Describe any agriculture-based projects you have been involved in lately.

In addition to the greenhouse, I appropriated two long, narrow and barren stretches of land wedged between our middle school classrooms and a busy avenue. We have up to 40 tomato plants in the ground at any one time. We connected a simple hose timer to handle the water. We played with heirloom and modern commercial varieties and gorged ourselves

silly on all things tomato. My students were also excited to share with our school community. We are currently putting peas in the ground to recharge soil nitrogen and discuss the benefits of companion planting and crop rotation. Urban farming is a blast!

5. Do you have any advice for other teachers on implementing agriculture into the classroom?

My advice to any teacher looking to start a program is jump in. There are so many nooks and crannies on the average school campus that can grow food. Irrigation systems don't have to be complicated or expensive. Reach out to your community's Master Gardener program if they have one, or local gardening clubs. People will help you if you ask. Don't be afraid to start. Seeds have one job and they do it well. Plant them and they will grow.

Featured Resource

Great Reads About Agriculture



Books about agricultural topics are some of our favorite things! To help inspire students about agriculture, CFAITC developed "Great Reads About Agriculture." This guide compiles our favorite agriculturally-themed books for Elementary, Middle and High School!

[**Download your copy today!**](#)

Grant Feature

USDA Farm to School Grant Program



The 2020 USDA Farm to School Grant Program is now accepting applications. Grants can range in size from \$20,000 to \$100,000 and are available to schools, nonprofits, state and local agencies, agricultural producers and Indian Tribal organizations to further farm to school activities and education.

Deadline: December 13, 2019

[Learn More and Apply Online!](#)



Want to go to Salt Lake City next summer?

Mark your calendar for June 23-26, 2020. Attend the 2020 National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah. Surround yourselves with educators passionate about incorporating agriculture into their classrooms!

Find out more [here!](#)

National Farm to Cafeteria Conference

The 10th National Farm to Cafeteria Conference will be held April 21-23, 2020 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. This conference, hosted by the National Farm to School Network is the only national gathering of stakeholders from throughout the country. Find out more [here!](#)



For Educators

Event Name and Description	Event Location	Event Date
Life Lab Workshops Life Lab has trained tens of thousands of educators across the nation! Sign up today for one of their many workshops, spring through summer!	Santa Cruz, CA	Spring - Summer 2019
Powerhouse Science Center For over 65 years, Powerhouse Science Center has been dedicated to partnering with educators across Northern California. Visit the center to try the hands-on labs, workshops and programs that	Sacramento, CA	Year-Round (including summer)

are aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards and focus on providing opportunities for mastering disciplinary core ideas (DCIs) and Science and Engineering Practices (SEPs).

For Youth

Event Name and Description	Event Location	Event Date
<p><u>Hilmar Cheese Company School and Youth Tours</u> Join us for the most fun and educational field trip in the Central Valley! Free for all public, private 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.</p>	Hilmar, CA	Year-Round
<p><u>AgVentures! Learning Center</u> Tours of the Learning Center are available year-round for elementary school students. Cost is \$3 per student.</p>	Tulare, CA	Year-Round
<p><u>McKellar Farms</u> McKellar Family Farms is located in the heart of the world's most productive agricultural region -- California's Central Valley. Farmers around here feed the world. Literally! We can't wait to take you on a behind-the-scenes tour of our citrus farm. Come and let your senses run wild as you see, taste, touch, feel and smell some of California's juiciest gems!</p>	Ivanhoe, CA	Fall and Spring

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 [donation](#) today!

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