



### Fantastic Ag Fact:

The Hass avocado is named after Rudolf Hass, who discovered it.

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California Ag in the Classroom was honored to receive a Heroes of the Heartland award sponsored by Stater Bros. Charities in March. We want to thank Stater Bros. Charities for their support of the Taste and Teach Program.



## Registration is Open - Join Us!

**2020 CA Agriculture in the Classroom Conference**  
**September 24-26, 2020**  
**Ventura, CA**

Register now to attend the 2020 CA Agriculture in the Classroom Conference! Come and learn about the importance of educating our youth about food and fiber through all subject areas. The program at a glance and hotel accommodation information is now available!



[\*\*Learn More about the Conference!\*\*](#)

## Looking for more ways to be involved?

[Present a Workshop](#)

[Be an Exhibitor](#)

[Host a 'Taste of California' Dinner](#)



## Teacher Feature

### Lawrence Omeje

**Grade taught:** Fourth Grade Science

**School:** Yokomi Elementary School

**County:** Fresno County

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

I was introduced to the California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom during my first year of teaching in 1996. My presiding Principal at Turner Elementary had attended the CFAITC Conference in Sacramento the previous year and shared the program with me.



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

My favorite program(s) to attend are the CA Agriculture in the Classroom Conference and the National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference. While attending each of those programs, I am able to meet and interact with various other educators from around the country and world at large. During interactions we get to demonstrate and share our teaching experiences.

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

The latest agricultural project that I was immersed in was getting ready for our annual science fair. Prior to the closure of schools, my fourth graders were conducting various experiments including determining the optimum amount of water that plants require to survive and figuring out the type of plants that can tolerate and survive in saltwater. Yokomi is a unique school, the subjects are departmentalized, and each teacher focusses on a subject area. The students rotate like middle school, thus, on a daily basis I get four groups of rotations for science. My classes

were also able to participate in the "From Farm To You" presentations, a collaboration between California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom and McDonald's. A local McDonald's franchise owner came to our class and educated the students about different facets in agriculture, job opportunities, and nutrition.

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

My advice to anyone wanting to implement agriculture in their classrooms is to be passionately dedicated, the children may automatically sense the passion and will gravitate to it.

## Featured Resource

### LearnABoutAg@Home



Ag in the Classroom has started a new campaign to make it easier to share ag-tivities on our social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram and Twitter) to help teachers and parents throughout CA ensure their students can continue learning where their food and fiber comes from while they are out of their classrooms. Each day at 10 am, Ag in the Classroom shares fun, education ag-tivities that can be enjoyed at home. The ag-tivities will be listed on our blog for easy reference and sharing. Check out our blog [here!](#)

We want to hear how you are adapting to a virtual classroom! Ag in the Classroom has created a discussion group within our Facebook Page to help educators share resources and ideas that are working for you and your new classroom dynamic. Join the Facebook Group [here!](#)

## Grant Feature

### GENYOUTH Grants

Calling all Superintendents, Principals, School Nutrition Professionals- GENYOUth is providing grants of up to \$3,000 per school to supply much-needed resources for meal distribution and delivery efforts to get food to students. The grants will help ensure all our children continue to receive the nutritious meals they need, now more than ever, while schools across the nation are closed. Applications will be reviewed and approved on a rolling basis.

**[Click here for more information!](#)**

 More Ways to LearnAboutAg®

**Want to go to Salt Lake City this 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!](#)

**On the Farm STEM Event**

The American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture's On the Farm STEM event will be held July 7-10 in Nashville, TN. This event is designed for STEM educators who want to learn more about NGSS curriculum. Attendees will hear from beef farmers and ranchers, researchers, nutritionists and veterinarians through tours and visits. Apply today to attend! Applications close March 6, 2020.

Find out more [here!](#)

 Community Events

Please confirm the Educator and Students events are still happening because so many public and education events have been, and continue to be, cancelled and/or postponed.

**For Educators**

Event Name and Description	Event Location	Event Date
<p><b><a href="#">Life Lab Workshops</a></b> Life Lab has trained tens of thousands of educators across the nation! Sign up today for one of their many workshops, spring through summer!</p>	Santa Cruz, CA	Upcoming Workshops: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• July 23-24</li> <li>• September 11</li> <li>• September 24-25</li> <li>• October 24</li> </ul>
<p><b><a href="#">Powerhouse Science Center</a></b> 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 are aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards and focus on</p>	Sacramento, CA	Year-Round (including summer)

providing opportunities for mastering disciplinary core ideas (DCIs) and Science and Engineering Practices (SEPs).		
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**For Youth**

Event Name and Description	Event Location	Event Date
<p><b><u>Teachers' Ag Seminar</u></b>                      Discover different ways to bring agriculture into your classroom by learning hands-on experiences from local farmers and ranchers. The seminar will include presentations, tours, activities and free resources for your classroom. Registration is \$60 before June 1 and \$75 afterwards. Contact <a href="mailto:kernag_ed@yahoo.com">kernag_ed@yahoo.com</a> for a registration form.</p>	Bakersfield, CA	July 13-15, 2020
<p><b><u>McKellar Farms</u></b>                      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
<p><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, 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><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.</p>	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 [donation](#) today!

Stay Connected! @LearnAboutAg



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