

Fantastic Ag Fact:

Columbus and Spanish explorers named bell peppers for their "bell" shape while searching for peppercorn plants to make black pepper.

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Suzanne Squires, CFAITC's Outstanding Educator of the Year and National Excellence in Teaching about Agriculture Award recipient will be honored on *Live on Tuesday, June 9 at 7:00 a.m.* on [National Agriculture in the Classroom's](#) Facebook Page.



A Message from Secretary Karen Ross, California Department of Food & Agriculture



CDFA Secretary Karen Ross Addresses CA Teachers



LearnAboutAg

Ag in the Classroom Annual Survey

California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom is working to continue educating students about the important role of agriculture in our lives. Now, more than ever, we have come to realize how much we depend on a stable food supply and the supply chain that delivers these California grown products to our stores.

You play an important role in our success. With your use of our resources and teaching the importance of agriculture, you can provide valuable feedback to the future of our programs! Please take our annual survey and we will send you a class set of seeds, snacks or resources!

[Take Our Survey Here!](#)



Elsie Bohorquez

Grades taught: Kindergarten

School: Riverside Drive Charter

County: Los Angeles County

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

I learned about Ag in the Classroom in 2017 when I applied for a "Literacy for Life" Grant.

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

I have been exposing my kindergarteners to agriculture for about nine years. I started by taking students on a field trip to a local farm and introducing them to growing organically and harvesting crops. This led to me growing and planting with students in the classroom and in the school garden. My favorite activity has been making a sunflower house in the school garden after reading *Sunflower House* by Eve Bunting.



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

My favorite AITC program is Taste and Teach Program because it introduces students to produce grown in California. It allows students to try fruits and vegetables that are locally grown. In my classroom we have a monthly "Fruit and Veggie Party." Students are excited to try the fruits and veggies even if they were hesitant to try them before or thought they didn't like it.

4. Describe an agriculture-based project you have been involved in lately?

Every year my students act in the "Little Red Hen." This year I thought it would be fun for students to grow wheat and turn it into

bread, just like the character. My students and I were able to plant seeds and tend to our growing wheat. We unfortunately did not get to harvest the wheat or bake bread together as a class due to COVID-19 and the closure of our school. But thanks to technology, we were able to watch a video about harvesting. I personally baked the bread and shared it virtually and some of my students even baked bread with their families!

5. Do you have any advice for other teachers on how to implement agriculture into their classrooms?

I would suggest starting small. Visit a local grocery store or farm, teach students about local organic produce, start an herb garden outside your classroom, or grow seeds in an egg carton. Do anything that will engage and excite your students about agriculture!



Make Your Own Yogurt

June is National Dairy Month! Celebrate California's number #1 commodity using this STEM activity from the [Dairy Council of California](http://dairy.councilofcalifornia.com) to Make Your Own Yogurt!

Ask students to discuss and journal about their experience:

- What does the yogurt look, smell, feel and taste like?
- Describe and compare the texture, color, appearance, taste and smell of the yogurt.
- Can you tell the difference between

STEM: Make Your Own Yogurt

Enjoy delicious yogurt that you and your family can make at home. It's easy!

Or make cheese using the "Say Cheese" Ag-Bite from California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom.

<http://learnaboutag.org/resources/bites/cheese.pdf>

Ingredients:

- 1 quart (4 cups) low-fat or fat-free Milk
- 2 tablespoons Yogurt, plain with live, active cultures
- 2/3 cup fat-free powdered Milk (omit if using whole milk)
- Non-stick saucepan, 2 quarts or larger
- Wisk
- Candy or general cooking thermometer
- Quart sized jar, container or insulated bottle

For sweetened yogurt, stir in:

- 2-4 tablespoons Honey or Maple syrup
- 1/2 cups fresh or dried Fruit
- 1/2 teaspoon Vanilla

Preparation:

Combine milk and powdered milk in a non-stick saucepan. Wisk together and constantly stirring, heat milk to 180-190 degrees. The milk will be steaming, expanding and beginning to form bubbles.

Remove from heat and let milk cool to 115-120 degrees.

In a small container, mix two tablespoons of yogurt with two tablespoons of the heated milk and wisk until smooth.

Stir yogurt mixture into the saucepan of cooling milk and continue stirring for at least two minutes.

Pour the contents of the saucepan into a warm jar, container or insulated bottle. Cover it and keep it warm until it sets, usually 4-6 hours. You can wrap the jar in kitchen towels, place your container in an insulated cooler or place it in the oven with a light bulb on.

Once the yogurt sets, refrigerate it to firm its structure and mix in any desired flavorings.

Healthy Food Scramble

Unscramble the words to finish each sentence:

Yogur _____ foods are an important part of a healthy diet.

Milk is a good source of incalcu _____ which is important for strong bones.

Oyogur _____ and eeuhtc _____ are examples of dairy foods.

Milk has rtipned _____ which is good for building muscle.

Children ages 9 and older, as well as adults, should eat ehne _____ servings of dairy foods each day.

LEARN MORE AT: <http://www.healthyeating.org/Healthy-Eating/Milk-Recipes/Browse/Search-Recipes?id/58472/home-made-yogurt.aspx>

Content originally developed with California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom. For more free ag-related education resources visit www.learnaboutag.org

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[healthyeating.org](http://www.healthyeating.org)

- yogurts? (fun to do as blind taste test)
- Discuss what "fermentation" means and how it affects the taste and texture.

[Download your copy today!](#)



Grant Feature

Green Thumb Challenge Grants



These \$500 awards recognize continued sustainability of an exceptional youth garden program that has demonstrated success. The Green Education Foundation and Gardener's Supply Company have teamed up to provide an opportunity to enhance and showcase youth gardens.

Applications are due September 30.

[Click here for more information](#)

Looking for more grant opportunities? Check out Ag in the Classroom's upcoming opportunities!

[Look at Agriculture... Organically Grants:](#)

Applications Open July 1 - August 31

[Literacy for Life Grants:](#) Applications Open August 1 - October 1

[Taste and Teach Grants:](#) Applications Open August 5 - August 23



More Ways to LearnAboutAg[®]

National Agriculture in the Classroom Virtual Summit

June 24-25, 2020

In lieu of the National Agriculture in the Classroom scheduled for this month in Salt Lake City, National Agriculture in the Classroom is hosting a virtual summit! All educators are invited to participate for

FREE! Workshop sessions presented by Agriculture in the Classroom state

contacts, pre-kindergarten through

12th grade teachers and National Center for Agricultural Literacy lesson developers will be featured. [Download/view a detailed agenda with workshop descriptions and presenter bios.](#)



Register Here

You must register to receive the Zoom links for the workshops.

Registration is Open - Join Us!
2020 CA Agriculture in the Classroom Conference
September 24-26, 2020
Ventura, CA

By September, we'll need a break from Zoom and hope to come together safely to LearnAboutAg® with our friends from throughout the state!

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!



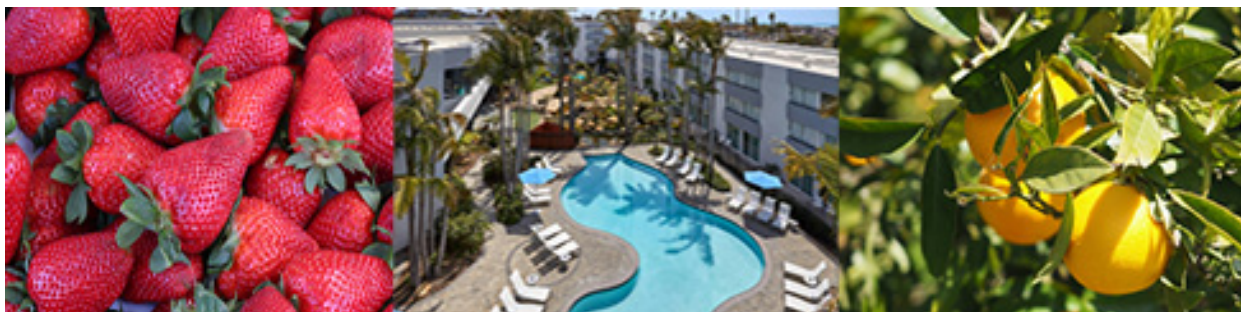
We are so excited to announce our dynamic keynote speakers, [Dr. Frank Mitloehner](#) and [Dr. Rose Hayden-Smith](#)! We cannot wait for them to share their expertise with you on sustainable agriculture and victory gardens!

[Learn More about the Conference!](#)

Should it be necessary to postpone our conference, full refunds will be available.

Looking for more ways to be involved?

[Present a Workshop](#)
[Be an Exhibitor](#)
[Host a 'Taste of California' Dinner](#)



Community Events

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

If you are looking for digital activities to do with your class, check out our [#LearnAboutAg@Home](#) campaign! Fun, educational, and standard-aligned activities are added each day!

Event Name and Description	Event Location	Event Date
Teachers' Ag Seminar 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 kernag_ed@yahoo.com for a registration form.	Bakersfield, CA	July 13-15, 2020
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	Upcoming Workshops: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 23-24 • September 11 • September 24-25 • October 24

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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