



## Fantastic Ag Fact:

The pear is one of the few fruits that does not ripen on the tree, so growers pick the fruit when it is mature, but green, and not yet ripe.



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Magee Academy of Arts and Sciences students built and reestablished garden beds where they planted succulents and native plants with high drought tolerances through their *Look at Agriculture... Organically!* grant.

Applications for the [Look at Agriculture... Organically!](#) grants open July 20!



## Agriculture... à la carte - Your Weekly Ag Update

We have added a new feature to our social media platforms - Agriculture... à la carte - Your Weekly Ag Update. Every Monday, we share current content about agriculture.

Our goal is to help connect your classroom to the agricultural industry. To read the stories we have shared, visit our blog, [#LearnAboutAg@Home](#).



LearnAboutAg

## "Retro" *What's Growin' On?* Available!



Are you interested in adding to your classroom rolodex of resources? We are offering a ONE TIME opportunity for California educators to order a unique set of *What's Growin' On?* student newspaper editions produced throughout the past 18 years!

**[Reply here](#)**, to request your retro resources! Please include you preferred mailing address in your request.



Teacher Feature

**Star Pedron**

**Grades taught:** 6-8th

Grade ELA

**School:** Our Lady of Fatima Catholic School

**County:** Stanislaus County

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

I've been utilizing many of the resources of CFAITC since 2004 during my third year of teaching. Spending much time in the car commuting, I've become more aware of how important agriculture is in

California. I'm old enough to remember when I-680 through Fremont was lined with tulip fields for the florist industry.



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

I've made agriculture a part of my classroom, across grades 5-8, for 16 years. It's too important not to teach. How can you live in California and NOT be aware?

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

The most visible event, of course, is the *Imagine this...* Story Writing Contest. I've been lucky to have several regional & state winners over the years. The writing contest gives my students a highly desirable goal - they love to win! The real win is how much they learn about California agriculture because of it.

My students really enjoy the Fact Sheets that CFAITC publishes. It gives them a great way to see what things are part of agriculture. They're always surprised about dairy and cut flowers!

The most recent program that I've introduced to my students has been the Taste and Teach program. Students, especially junior high students, LOVE to eat. The Taste and Teach program gives them an opportunity to widen their personal experience with California agriculture by enjoying favorite foods, and trying new ones, based on California grown products. They had no idea that tomatoes and apples have different tastes.

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

A current work in progress, that I haven't revealed to students, is a school garden. I'm trying to get the various permissions I need to start a garden that the students decide on what is grown, with the hopes that we would be able to grow fruits and vegetables to be served with our school lunches or afterschool care snacks. The latest project the students have been involved in was the Taste and Teach program. Agriculture is year-round in my classroom.

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

My best advice would be to choose something your kids are already interested in doing. I don't really start focused agriculture lessons in my classroom until I've been with my kids at least a month. My 8th graders this year were adventurous foodies, several kids cooked or baked, so I started with that. My 6th graders love to get dirty, which is why I started looking into a garden for next year when they're in 7th grade. Keep it simple, keep it personal and the kids respond.



## Featured Resource

### Spanish 'What's Growin' On? Props to Specialty Crops' Edition Now Available!

In this edition of *What's Growin' On?* we are getting our nutritional education nourishment from Specialty Crops grown in California! Request a classroom set of Spanish and English copies to be mailed directly to you, FOR FREE! Challenge your students to read both editions full of activities, engaging text, and already aligned to standards!

**[Request A Free Class Set!](#)**



## Grant Feature

### Look at Agriculture... Organically! Grants

The *Look at Agriculture... Organically!* grants are provided through a collaborative effort between CFAITC and the California Certified Organic Farmers (CCOF) and are designed to creatively enhance



the understanding of organic agriculture for K-8 grade students. Grants of up to \$1,000 will be provided to educators nationwide to support the integration of organic agriculture into regular classroom instruction.

Applications will be available July 20 - August 31, 2020.



**[Visit our website for more information and to apply.](#)**

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

**Literacy for Life Grants:** Applications Open August 1 - October 1

**Taste and Teach Grants:** Applications Open August 5 - August 23



## **2020 CA Agriculture in the Classroom Conference**

**September 24-26, 2020  
Ventura, CA**

Rain or shine, in-person or virtual, we look forward to offering an opportunity to LearnAboutAg® with our friends from throughout the state at the 2020 CA Agriculture in the Classroom Conference!

From strawberries to lemons and avocados, we are excited to explore Ventura County agriculture! Learn about the importance of educating our youth about food and fiber through all subject areas.



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

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



## Community Events

Please confirm the Educator and Student events listed below are still happening before you plan to attend because many public and education events have been 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 standards-aligned activities are added each day!

Event Name and Description	Event Location	Event Date
<p><b><a href="#">Teachers' Ag Seminar</a></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

## 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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7/8/2020

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