



Cream of the Crop

A harvest of ideas for educators

October 2020



California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom

Fantastic Fact:

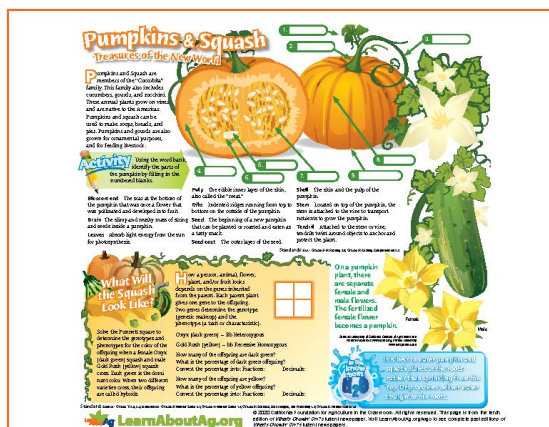
Pumpkins are 90% water, high in fiber, and contain potassium and vitamin A.

In this Issue...

Conference updates, new resources, and more ways to #LearnAboutAg!

Visit our blog

[#LearnAboutAg@Home](#) for daily activities to incorporate agriculture into your classroom in person or virtually!



Utilize this page from our 10th edition of *What's Growin' On?* to learn all about [pumpkins!](#)



LearnAboutAg

Virtual AgVentura - Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who attended the 2020 California Agriculture in the Classroom Conference - Virtual AgVentura! We were thrilled to bring dynamic workshops, live tours of agriculture operations, a cooking demo, and so much more!

We are working hard on editing the recordings from conference and hope to have them posted next week!

Thank you again for making our first virtual event a success!



LearnAboutAg

Imagine this... Story Writing Contest



Have your students finished their stories yet? California students in grades 3-8 creatively explore where their food and fiber comes from by writing narrative stories for their teachers to submit. The winning stories from each grade are illustrated by high school art students and published in our annual story book, *"Imagine this... Stories Inspired by Agriculture."*

Visit our website for [Imagine this... Writing Activity Guide](#) and [Prompt Ideas and Classroom Tips!](#)

Annual deadline: November 1

Teacher Feature

Devin Yates

Grades taught: 9-12th Grade

School: Red Bluff High School

County: Tehama County

How and when did you first learn about Ag in the Classroom?

I first learned of Ag in the Classroom while at a conference my first year teaching (2015) and that sparked my department to develop an Ag in the Classroom committee of students, in which I headed up. The student committee used Ag in the Classroom curriculum and resources to create a lesson plan and activity to deliver to our local elementary and middle schools during class visits. That year, the committee visited six schools and taught kindergarteners all the way to 8th graders about cows and their by-products, called "Everything But The Moo."



How long have you been teaching students about agriculture?

I have been an agriculture teacher for seven years.

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

So far, my favorite AITC resource is the Journey2050 Sustainable Agriculture farming simulation game. I saw the program advertised at National FFA Convention and Ag Teacher Summer Conference for a few years, but only this year did I take the time to incorporate it into my Sustainable Ag Biology classes. I love it because after talking and lecturing about sustainability and sustainable agriculture, the students were able to get real world experience with it - virtually! As soon as the kids made some progress in the game, I started to hear them vocalize their excitement when they "made bank" on a crop and then also their frustrations when they lost a crop to pests. They were loving it! Getting reactions like that are few and

far between in the high school world these days, so it made me very happy! I look forward to incorporating Journey2050 each year!

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

Red Bluff High School Agriculture Department is currently marketing and selling its own olive oil! We have a five-acre olive orchard on our school farm that was planted, now maintained and harvested by Ag students. We have sold our oil to families and the community since 2016 but in Fall 2019 we were able to get our olive oil sold by five local stores throughout Tehama County! This project has been fun to be a part of because I have been able to see every step of the process as well as the evolution of our product.

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

Find out what your students are interested in or what they enjoy most, and work backwards with the goal of connecting it to agriculture. You will set yourself up for major buy-in and excitement from them if it's relatable. Also, make sure to reach out to those directly involved in agriculture! Guest speakers (farmers, scientists, vets, teachers!) are always fun, you can have a class Zoom with an agriculturalist or go on a virtual field trip to a farm or ranch (there are a ton of free ones online)! Social Media is your friend. Make sure to tag Ag in the Classroom!

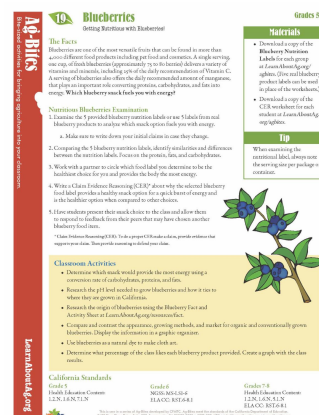
Featured Resource

Getting Nutritious with Blueberries!

Blueberries pack a nutrient punch, providing over 25% of the daily vitamin C and variety of other vitamins and minerals!

Analyze which blueberry snack fuels you with energy by downloading our new *Blueberry Ag-Bite* for grades 5-8!

[Download your free copy here!](#)



Featured Resource

Distance Learning with Journey 2050

Have you checked out the FREE online [Journey 2050](#) program for grades 6-12 yet? California Foundation for Agriculture in the



Classroom staff is now offering virtual classroom presentations! You can schedule your virtual visit after creating a Journey 2050 teacher profile under the *Guest Speaker* option! Have questions? Reach out to Hayley@LearnAboutAg.org or Raleigh@LearnAboutAg.org!

Grant Feature

CalAgPlate Grants

Deadline: October 22, 2020

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is offering 2020 CalAgPlate grants that promote agricultural education and leadership activities for students at K-12, post-secondary, and adult education levels. The CalAgPlate program is made possible through proceeds generated through the sale of agricultural-themed license plates. [Apply Here!](#)



More Ways to LearnAboutAg®



CA State Fair's Insect Pavilion Goes Virtual!

Since you can't bring your classroom to us, we're bringing our insect pavilion to you! At the [CA State Fair Virtual Insect Pavilion](#), students will learn all about pollinators, their importance in California agriculture, and their contribution to sustaining our environment. Registration is FREE and quick!



- Fully virtual experience
- Contains interactive and educational activities, handouts to download
- Focuses on pollinators, invasive species, biodiversity, & climate change

Community Events

For Educators

Event Name and Description	Event Location	Event Date
California Science Teachers Conference This conference will offer more than 100 professional development workshop sessions, exhibits, classroom resources, exciting keynote speakers and more.	Virtual	October 16-18, 2020
California Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education Join AEOE for their fall webinar series with workshops focusing on mental health and pandemic trauma for educators, early childhood education in the outdoors, and inspiring green behavior change with remote learning activities.	Virtual	Upcoming Workshops: October 24 November 21 December 5 December 12
AgExplorer's Virtual Field Trips National FFA and Discovery Education have teamed up to create career resources to help explore careers within agriculture. Utilize these virtual field trips to have your students gain a firsthand account of the diverse career opportunities within the agricultural industry.	Virtual	On-going
Sacramento County Farm Bureau Virtual Tours Sacramento County Farm Bureau has launched a new Virtual Farm Tour series! Each week, different agricultural operations are explored to learn more about Sacramento County agriculture.	Virtual	On-going



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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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