



# Cream of the Crop

A harvest of ideas for educators

November 2020



California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom

## Fantastic Fact:

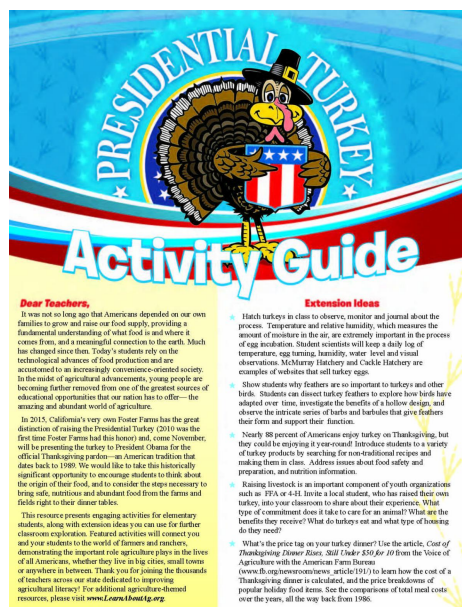
Pumpkins and squash are members of the "Cucurbita" family. This family also includes cucumbers, gourds, and zucchini. .

## In this Issue...

- Conference recordings available
- Resources to celebrate Native American Indian Heritage Month
- More ways to #LearnAboutAg!

Visit our blog

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



The [four-page guide](#) introduces students to the history of our nation's Presidential Turkey tradition and engages them with activities about the popular poultry.



LearnAboutAg

## Virtual AgVentura - Conference Videos

The recordings from the 2020 CA Ag in the Classroom Conference are available to watch online at: <https://learnaboutag.org/programs/conference/>

We hope you enjoy this opportunity to explore the dynamic workshops and tours from our conference. From Victory Gardens to building a Bitmoji classroom, to learning about produce that wasn't around 40 years ago, there is so much content to help you #LearnAboutAg!

We hope you save the date to join us next year, September 23-25, 2021 in Ventura!



## Teacher Feature

**Danielle Marquez**

**Grades taught:** K-12

**School:** Hawthorne School District

**County:** Los Angeles County

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

Our district had been working with Network for a Healthy California. Mandy Richardson, who was overseeing that program as teacher on special assignment, suggested I check out Ag in the Classroom for free resources. It was one of the best recommendations, and I fell in love with Ag in the Classroom.



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

I have been incorporating agricultural lessons for the last four years when I started teaching nutrition workshops with families. We transitioned to garden-based nutrition, visiting the garden for some hands-on learning. Lessons included planting, harvesting, taste tests and even a little yoga. Seasonally, there's always lots to discuss and grow. We highlight, Harvest of the month, and grow the crop featured in the lesson.

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

I love all of the Ag in the Classroom resources. The list of free resources, shipped for free, makes incorporating AITC doable! I had the chance to participate in the Pick - a - Peck program. AITC sent me all the materials in an organized binder. We grew and tasted the harvests of the month. We had so much fun learning and tasting as the commodities grew. Students loved tending to their plants and going on observation walks with their scientific journals.

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

I started working with Community Healing Gardens, a non-profit that focuses on the healing and regenerative powers of cultivating your own food. We shifted from an instructional after-school program with lots of community engagement to donating all the food grown to feed the community. I work at the micro farm, with youth interns and have the privilege of growing food for families who receive fresh local

produce. We get to grow, give, and teach. For me, that's what it's all about.

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

Start small, use what you've got, and if you can, get a partner in planting. Before you consider researching other resources for ag, make sure you check out all that Ag in the Classroom offers. They have resources from animal agriculture, bees, trees, and even tomatoes. They make it easy to follow and their lessons align with many standards. Plus they have tons of free resources to start with. Happy growing!

## Featured Resource

### **The Three Sisters Garden**

Corn, beans, and squash are referred to as the "*three sisters*" that legends say Aztec and Native Americans planted together, with each crop providing a benefit to one another. Explore more about this legend through the National Agriculture in the Classroom's lesson plan [Three Sisters Garden](#) as a way to have a classroom discuss that November is National American Indian Heritage month!



## Grant Feature

### **USDA Farm to School Grants**

**Deadline: January 8, 2021**

The 2020 USDA Farm to School Grant Program is now accepting applications. Grants can range in size from \$10,000 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.



**[Learn More and Apply Online!](#)**

## More Ways to LearnAboutAg®

### **Golden Owl Award**

**Deadline: December 31, 2020**

Parents, teachers, fellow teachers, and other supporters can nominate their favorite agriculture teacher and share what makes them the best in the state. In partnership with California FFA and the California Farm Bureau Federation, Nationwide introduced this program to California in 2019. Finalists will receive \$500 and an engraved plaque. One grand prize winner will receive \$3000.



**Learn more and nominate an agriculture teacher today!**



## For Educators

Event Name and Description	Event Location	Event Date
<b>Nimbus Fish Hatchery Free Public Webinars</b> These webinars will be broadcast live from the Nimbus Fish Hatchery for all ages to enjoy. Information on each webinar and a link to register (required) will be posted to their Facebook page at <a href="http://www.facebook.com/nimbushatchery">www.facebook.com/nimbushatchery</a> . For additional information, please contact <a href="mailto:stephanie.ambrosia@wildlife.ca.gov">stephanie.ambrosia@wildlife.ca.gov</a> or call (916) 358-2884.	Virtual	Upcoming Webinars: November 5, November 12, November 19, November 25
<b>2020 Virtual Forestry Challenge</b> The Forestry Challenge is an academic event for high school students in technical forestry and current forestry topics. The program will be student-led and will require minimal teacher involvement. The program will be free and will be open to as many teams as each teacher wants to recruit. Each student will receive an event t-shirt and a certificate of participation at the conclusion of all sessions.	Virtual	Upcoming Workshops: November 7, November 14, November 21, December 5, December 12
<b>California Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education</b> 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: November 21 December 5 December 12
<b>Environmental Education Training</b> Become a Project Learning Tree certified educator in a hands-on workshop for educators. Upcoming professional development trainings will focus on California's Fire Adapted Ecosystems and will be held via Zoom.	Virtual	Upcoming Workshops: December 1 December 2 December 4
<b>AgExplorer's Virtual Field Trips</b> 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
<b>Sacramento County Farm Bureau Virtual Tours</b> 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



## 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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