

Fantastic Fact:

The first commercial crop of pistachios in California was not harvested until 1976 and now California produces 99% of the United States' pistachio crop.

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- Get Popping and Celebrate National Popcorn Day!
- More ways to #LearnAboutAg!

Visit our blog

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



Nuts are the Taste and Teach Commodity for January. Watch this video from the **Almond Board of California** to #LearnAboutAg and discover the journey an almond takes from the orchard to you!

🥪 LearnAboutAg

Congratulations to the State Winners of the Imagine this... Story Writing Contest!

California students in grades 3-8 creatively explored where their food and fiber comes from by writing narrative stories. The statewinning stories from each grade level are being illustrated by high school art students and will be published in our annual story book, *Imagine this...* Stories Inspired by Agriculture which will be released during National Agriculture Week in March.



Find the Winners Here!

Let's Eat Healthy Educator Recognition Program

Dairy Council of California's Educator Recognition Program identifies, engages and celebrates California educators who proudly advocate for the health of their students and school community through nutrition education. The program also includes an award component, the Let's Eat Healthy Leadership Award, which allows educators who embody the spirit



of the program to be recognized by their peers and partners for demonstrating outstanding advocacy.

Learn more about the program, last year's Let's Eat Healthy leaders, and how to nominate and recognize an advocate by visiting

HealthyEating.org/NutritionAdvocacy. The deadline is February 1, 2021.

V Teacher Feature

Julie Brackx Grades taught: 3 School: Pioneer Elementary School County: San Diego County

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

I first learned about the California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom from the Cooperative Extension in San Diego. I was able to attend my first conference in San Mateo back in 2003. Since then, I have continued attend the annual conferences as I



am able and have participated with various other AITC programs and resources.

How long have you been teaching students about agriculture?

I have been teaching agriculture for more than 17 years! Being a biology major as an undergrad student, I've always had a love for science and nature. I helped start the garden at my school to bring hands-on learning experiences to life for the students. Every year, I start off with a craft and writing project I learned about at a CFAITC conference years ago, "If it weren't for farmers." Kids sometimes think food and clothes just magically appear at stores! They are surprised to learn the journey it takes for goods and crops to be be grown/raised, harvested, etc. before ending up on store shelves. I enjoy sharing all of these agriculture experiences with them.

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

My favorite event is the annual conference. Not only do you learn new things, you meet lots of great people and leave with oodles of resources for your classroom!

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

I have been participating recently with the Taste and Teach Program. This is such a wonderful opportunity to introduce various fruits, vegetables and other produce to students that might not otherwise have the chance to experience them. I like to find a read aloud book or story, and then pair it with fun activities that go along with each month's featured item.

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

Agriculture is a great way to introduce many different subjects to your students including: math, science, nutrition, and language arts. Once you start looking, you will find all kinds of fun and creative ways to make agriculture come to life for your class!



Get Popping!

Are you looking for a way to pop off the new year in your classroom?!

Celebrate National Popcorn Day on January 19 with your students by using this phenomenon-based lesson plan for grades 3-5, <u>Get Popping</u>, developed by our friends at National Center for Agricultural Literacy!



🦢 Grant Feature

State Farm® Teacher Assist

Deadline: January 15, 2021

The State Farm® Teacher Assist program is giving away \$500,000 to teachers throughout California, Texas, Florida, and New York. Forty teachers in each state will win a \$2,500 grant to implement their innovative ideas.

The submission period opens on January 11 and ends January 15 or when 200 submissions are reached.

Find out more here!

EPA's Environmental Education Awards

Know a K-12 student who is setting an environmental stewardship example for their community? Encourage them to apply for EPA's President's Environmental Youth Award (PEYA). For more information and the application

visit: https://www.epa.gov/education/presidents-environmental-youthaward

Know a K-12 teacher using environmental education to set an example for their students and inspire their learning? Encourage them to apply for EPA's Presidential Innovation Award for Environmental Educators (PIAEE). For more information and the application visit: https://www.epa.gov/education/presidentialinnovation-award-environmental-educators

Applications for the award programs are due no later than February 19, 2021.

California Council for the Social Studies Conference

The CCSS 2021 virtual conference, Cultivating Global Citizens for the 21st Century, is scheduled for March 5-7, 2021. This conference will help educators develop and share the resources, skills, and competencies necessary to cultivate students who engage meaningfully and responsibly in an evolving global community. Find out more here!

National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference

Mark your calendar for June 28 - July 1, 2020 to attend the 2021 National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference in Des Moines, Iowa. Surround yourselves with educators passionate about incorporating agriculture into their classrooms! Find out more here!



For Educators

American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture -Foundation Night In! Event Location: Virtual **Event Dates:**

• January 11 at 5:00 EST

Foundation Night In! Join the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture on January 11, 2021 at 5:00 PM EST from home as they reveal the Book of the Year, the Farm Dog of the Year, and much more! The first 1,200 registrants will receive a free copy of the 2021 Book of the Year!

School Garden Support Organization Network Event Location: Virtual Event Dates: • January 31	The School Garden Support Organization Network Best Practices Webinar Series has hosted 14 webinars covering topics that include garden care, teaching remotely, and using outdoor spaces as a response to COVID. Their upcoming webinar focuses on Designing Garden Education to Support English Language Learners . Archived webinars are available <u>here.</u>
Cal Water H20 Challenge Event Location: Virtual Event Dates: • Deadline: February 1	Cal Water H2O Challenge's Classroom Challenge is a project-based, environmentally focused competition for classrooms, grades 4-6. The Classroom Challenge offers a unique opportunity for upper elementary teachers to facilitate their students' learning of standards- based content, while developing the core understanding of environmental principles necessary to becoming science-literate citizens.
AgExplorer's Virtual Field Trips Event Location: Virtual Event Dates: • Ongoing	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.

For Students

California Coastal Commission Event Location: Virtual Event Dates: • Deadline: January 31 The California Coastal Commission is offering a **FREE Art and Poetry Contest** for all grade levels to participate in! Don't let your students miss out on this opportunity! Check out their guidelines for virtual participation!

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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 <u>donation</u> today!

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