



California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom

Fantastic Fact:

Lettuce was recently grown, harvested and eaten aboard the International Space Station.

In this Issue...

- Register today for California Farm Day and other March events celebrating National Ag Week!
- New Distance Learning Resources Available!
- More ways to #LearnAboutAg®!

Visit our blog

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



February is National Canned Food Month! Canned food can provide nutritious meals while continuing to support agriculture and farmers. Learn more about some of the benefits canned food has to offer by visiting [Pacific Coast Producers!](#)



LearnAboutAg

In Celebration of National Agriculture Week March 2021 Events Supporting Agriculture and Education!

Virtual California Farm Day March 19, 2021 - 9:30-11:30am

Thousands of 3rd-6th grade students from throughout California are invited to learn about California's Top 10 commodities. The first 1,000 students to register will receive a tote bag filled with nutritious snacks and their teachers will receive a box full of lessons and resources. All students registered will receive a California Farm

Day Workbook and a copy of *What's Growin' On?* Student Newspaper. There is no charge to register and participate in the Virtual California Farm Day!

Registration for California Farm Day will close on February 26! Register today!

National Ag Week Gala at Silt Wine Company March 26, 2021 - 4:00-5:15pm

Participants will experience a food and wine pairing with David Ogilvie, winemaker for Silt Wine Company and Patrick Mulvaney, award winning chef at Mulvaney's B&L. There will be a silent auction and Silt Wine Company will donate 20% of wine purchases made in March and April to California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom. Request a coupon code! Participation in virtual Gala is complimentary.

Imagine this... Student Author Ceremonies Week of March 29, 2021

Each day, state-winning student authors will be virtually recognized for their achievements!

**To register for any of the events, or to sponsor our March activities, please visit our website!
LearnAboutAg.org/specialevents**

Teacher Feature

Elaine Magni

Grades taught: 7th-8th Grade
Reading, Language Arts, History &
Religion

School: Sacred Heart Catholic
School

County: Stanislaus County



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

I first learned about California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom when I started teaching at Sacred Heart School in 2013. One of my co-workers had been using the LearnAboutAg® resources and participating in the *Imagine This... Story Writing Contest* for several years and encouraged me to integrate it into my classroom as well. Using the Ag in the Classroom resources to help my students write their *Imagine This...* stories has become one of my favorite parts of each school year.

How long have you been teaching students about agriculture?

To be honest, I learn more about agriculture from my students than they probably do from me. Teaching in the central valley has introduced me to so much about agriculture. When I first began my teaching career, I worked as a high school

English teacher in Ceres, CA. My mentor teacher was an agriculture teacher. He was the one who got me excited about incorporating agriculture into my English classroom and I've been happy to bring that into my classes at Sacred Heart School through the *Imagine This...* Story Writing Contest.

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

My favorite AITC program is the *Imagine This...* Story Writing Contest. My favorite resources are the Ag-Bites and the Fact Sheets. These two resources can make any student feel like a master in specific agricultural areas because they are packed with so much amazing information. The information students find using these resources gets them excited about agriculture and then they want to start exploring more and more about agriculture and its importance to our daily lives.

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

With COVID protocols, hands-on agriculture activities have been difficult, but one of the projects I'm most proud of is the culinary arts class I started at Sacred Heart School. Although this class is currently on hold, when our classes are in full swing, students are taught how to prepare meals using some of California's most actively produced agricultural products. Students learn about the foods they are preparing, where they come from, health benefits, and history.

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

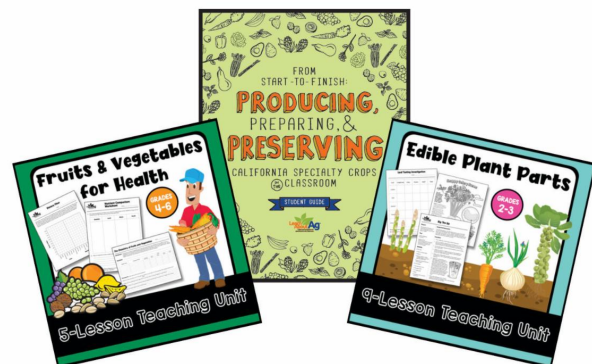
My advice is to just go for it even if it isn't your area of expertise. The resources available at LearnAboutAg.org have helped me tremendously. Additionally, I have learned that many of my students come from families with agricultural backgrounds, and they are able to teach me and their classmates, allowing the student to be the expert. That's always exciting to see!

 **Featured Resource**

Distance Learning Resources

Some of our most popular resources have been adapted for distance learning!

Each Google Slide presentation includes activity instructions, editable student worksheets, brainstorming templates, and embedded links to related videos and online games.



Download your editable copy of the presentation for classroom or homeschool use [here!](#)



Sage Garden Project Awards

Deadline: March 19, 2021

The Sage Garden Project awards underserved California Elementary schools with funding to expand garden and cooking programs. The award includes a fully-equipped mobile cooking cart, Sage Garden Project curriculum, teacher training and support. The Sage Garden Project has multi-year grants for educators to continue their projects after the first year.



Find out more [here!](#)



Bonnie Plants 3rd Grade Cabbage Program

The Bonnie Plants 3rd Grade Cabbage Program is relaunching in 2021! Through this hands-on science lesson, students will learn about backyard ecology and plant life cycles by growing colossal cabbages and reaping hefty harvests. Students also vie for “Best in State” bragging rights — with a \$1,000 scholarship awarded to one student in each participating state! Participating in the program is completely free! Find out more and register your class by March 1 [here!](#)

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. Attend the Ag in the Classroom Workshop, Journey 2050: Engaging Students in World Food Sustainability, on Sunday, March 7 at 10:10am. Find out more about the conference [here!](#)

National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference

Mark your calendar for June 28 - July 1, 2021 to attend the 2021 National Agriculture in the Classroom Hybrid Conference in Des Moines, Iowa. Surround yourselves with educators passionate about incorporating agriculture into their classrooms! Registration will open on March 1 with in-person and virtual options. Find out more [here!](#)

For Educators

CA Farm to School Network Conference

Event Location: Virtual

Event Dates:

- March 10-12

The 2021 CA Farm to School Conference will be virtual. The conference will offer professional development, networking, and sharing of best practices. Registration is free, but space is limited!

School Garden Support Organization

Event Location: Virtual

Event Dates:

- March 10
- March 17
- April 7
- April 14

Join the School Garden Support Organization for their best practices webinar series that focus on bridging the gap between distance learning and your school garden. Upcoming webinar topics include Sustaining School Garden Programs, Finding and Sequencing High Quality Lessons and more!

McKellar Family Farms

Event Location: Tulare County

Event Dates:

- Ongoing

McKellar Family Farms is excited to introduce the Farmer Bob's Citrus Farm Experience. Join Farmer Bob on a behind the scenes tour of a working citrus farm. Visit their website for more details and to book your tour.

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

Climate Video Challenge

Event Location: Virtual

Event Dates:

- Deadline: March 31, 2021

California middle and high school students are eligible to enter the Climate Video Challenge and create a video response to the question, "What Does Climate Justice Look Like to Me?"

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!



California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom | 2600 River Plaza Drive, #220, Sacramento, CA 95833

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