



Cream of the Crop

A harvest of ideas for educators

March 2021



California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom

Fantastic Fact:

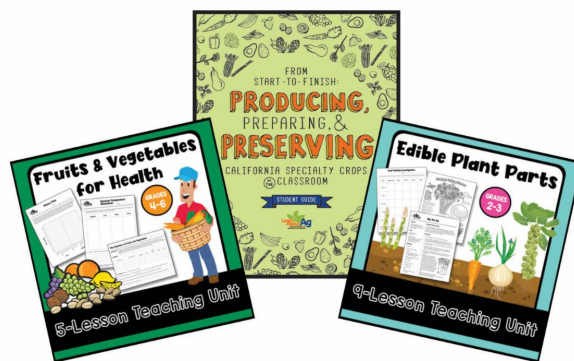
Green beans, also referred to as snap beans, were named because of the snapping sound produced when breaking off the end of the pod.

In this Issue...

- Last chance to register for California Farm Day and more March events celebrating National Ag Week!
- New Resource: Table Grape Farm to You!
- More ways to #LearnAboutAg®!

Visit our blog

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



Did you know that some of our most popular resources have been adapted for distance learning and are available on Teachers Pay Teachers?

[Download your free copy today!](#)



LearnAboutAg

JOIN US

In Celebration of National Agriculture Week March 2021 Events

Friday, March 19

California Farm Day
9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Friday, March 26

National Ag Week Gala, Silt Wine Company
4:00 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.

Week of March 29

Imagine this... Story Writing Contest Ceremonies

Register Today!

LearnAboutAg.org/specialevents



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

Last chance to register! Thousands of 3rd-6th grade students from throughout California are invited to learn about California's Top 10 commodities. All students registered will receive a digital 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 March 5! [Register today!](https://LearnAboutAg.org/specialevents)

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. You can purchase your wine flight for the virtual tasting today and Silt Wine Company will donate 20% to California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom. Check out our silent auction supporting agriculture and education that will be open March 23-31! From Yeti gear and wine tastings to jewelry and an overnight stay in Sonoma, you won't want to miss it!

Register Today!

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

Ann Jayne, Ed.D.

Grades taught: TK-8th Grade

Principal/Curriculum Coordinator

School: Banta School: An
Agriculture Science School
County: San Joaquin County



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

When I was interviewing with the Banta School District, I did some research on agriculture in elementary schools as the vision for Banta School was to create an agriculture science school to honor our community. I discovered the California Agriculture in the Classroom webpage and have utilized the resources in numerous ways. The classroom lessons and the annual conference have been instrumental in supporting our efforts towards a thematic school focused on agriculture. My Agriculture Science Lead Teachers have used the resources and knowledge gained from the conferences to offer additional professional development to the rest of our staff.

How long have you been teaching students about agriculture?

This is Banta School's first year. We are doing so through Distance Learning and are anxious for students to return to our newly developed AGriculture Center. Our AGriculture Center has raised garden beds, a learning center, storage barn, and historic tractor. Additionally, we have many of the supplies ready to be used by staff and students. Currently, in the classroom, teachers are using small demonstration growing containers, literary resources, and the agriculture lessons to provide agricultural instruction.

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

My AG Team and I rave about the annual conference we attended in 2019, and in 2020. We agree it was the best conference, of any kind, in which we have attended. The hands-on examples, the shared resources, the field trips to farms and dairies were all absolutely educational and enjoyable. We can't wait to enjoy this year's conference.

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

As the Principal and Curriculum Coordinator, I have been working closely with our maintenance department to make sure our AGriculture Center is ready for students. It has been enjoyable to watch it transform and become an exciting learning space for everyone. Additionally, being a recent recipient of a Literacy for Life Grant, it has been enjoyable searching and purchasing books about agriculture for our classrooms and library.

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

My advice is to read, research, ask questions, reach out to others who are doing this work. I did an initial internet search for schools who were doing this type of work in my county, and in California. Then I did a national search and have been able to talk with people who have successfully started an agriculture science school and program on their site. Additionally, I have created partnerships with local farmers and agriculture businesses.

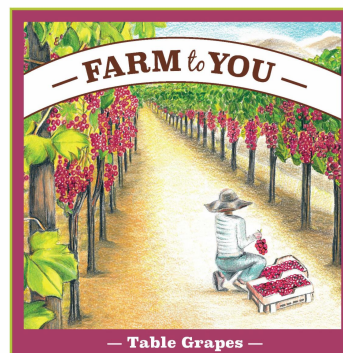
Featured Resource

Table Grapes - Farm to You

Explore the journey of Table Grapes from Farm to You with this newly-developed resource. Agriculture surrounds us in California and it all starts with the sun. Today, 99 percent of U.S. table grapes are produced in California's warm, dry climate that is ideal for grape growing.

This resource illustrates the Farm to You process while including two lesson plans about grape production.

Download your copy [here!](#)



Agriculture surrounds us in California and it all starts with the sun. Today, 99 percent of U.S. table grapes are produced in California's warm, dry climate that is ideal for grape growing. The energy from the sun captured by the vines is converted and used for growth and production. California table grapes are cultivated, picked, packed, and transported with the greatest care to ensure the berries you enjoy arrive in just-picked condition. There is much more to the story, but the sun is where it all begins on the journey from Farm to You!



Grant Feature

Whole Kids Foundation - Garden Grant Program

Deadline: March 31, 2021

Students are more likely to try fruits and vegetables if they have a role in growing the items! Through the Garden Grant Program, outdoor spaces can be turned into gardens that engage in hands-on learning opportunities and connect students to their food source.



The Whole Kids Foundation is awarding \$3,000 grants to K-12 schools or Non-Profit Organizations that serve K-12 students to support new or existing edible educational gardens.

Find out more [here!](#)

More Ways to LearnAboutAg®

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 is open with in-person and virtual options. Conference scholarship applications are available and due April 1, 2021.

Find out more [here!](#)

New Agricultural Biotechnology Curriculum for Middle and High School Students

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently released a new, free online curriculum, *Science and Our Food Supply: Exploring Food Agriculture and Biotechnology*. This curriculum for middle and high school students is the latest release in the FDA's curriculum series *Science and Our Food Supply*.

Download your copy [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!

Stay Connected! @LearnAboutAg



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

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