



# Cream of the Crop

A harvest of ideas for educators

April 2021



California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom

## Fantastic Fact:

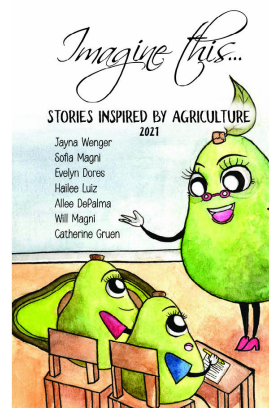
Avocado trees can grow to be 35 to 50 feet tall and avocados are harvested by hand, using special clippers.

## In this Issue...

- All About Eggs - Teachers Pay Teachers Exclusive!
- Christina Sue Lilja Resource Grants - Now Available!
- More ways to #LearnAboutAg®!

Visit our blog

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



The 2021 *Imagine this... Stories Inspired by Agriculture* book is now available! From avocados to cauliflower pizza and makeup to the many uses of wool, this year's book is full of creative stories about agriculture!

**[Purchase your copy today!](#)**



LearnAboutAg

**In Celebration of National Agriculture Week**  
**Thank you for your support!**

## California Farm Day

More than 5,000 3rd-6th grade students from throughout California learned about California's Top 10 commodities virtually during California Farm Day! If you missed it, you can watch a recording of [California Farm Day](#) on our website and download the [California Farm Day Workbook](#) to extend the lessons in your classroom!

## National Ag Week Gala at Silt Wine Company

Participants experienced a food and wine pairing with David Ogilvie, winemaker for Silt Wine Company and Patrick Mulvaney, award winning chef at Mulvaney's B&L in Sacramento. You can watch a recording of [National Ag Week Gala](#) on our website and download the [recipe cards](#) to cook and taste the wine. The [Ag in the Classroom Wine Flight](#) can still be purchased online and Silt Wine Company will donate 20% to California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom through April.

### ***Imagine this...* Student Author Ceremonies**

The state-winning student authors were recognized virtually for their achievements in the *Imagine this...* Story Writing Contest! Their [stories and ceremonies](#) are posted on our website and will inspire all to think creatively about agriculture!

**For more information about any of our March events, please visit:**  
[LearnAboutAg.org/specialevents](https://www.LearnAboutAg.org/specialevents)



## Teacher Feature

**Carrie Boyce**

**Grades taught:** 1st Grade

**School:** Bellevue Elementary School

**County:** Sonoma County



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

A few years ago I was searching for grants for my classroom and came across the California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom and I received a Taste and Teach Grant! Each year, I try to apply for another one and they make teaching more exciting for both my students and myself. The health of my students has always weighed heavily on my heart. I feel like I owe it to future generations to do my part. Luckily, focusing on agriculture is an easy stepping stone towards a healthier life for my students.

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

I have been teaching students about agriculture since my very first year of teaching in 1999. I have always loved living in Sonoma County and found it quite easy to teach about the agriculture we are surrounded by. Growing up in the wine country has made it easy to share my knowledge and passion for agriculture with my students. I love taking field trips to farms, parks, and the beach to help my students experience what our beautiful area has to offer.

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

My favorite resource is the Literacy For Life grant that I received this year. It provides teachers with flexibility to add agriculture into their curriculum. The \$500 helps provide supplies, field trips, pretty much any of the materials you will need to make your lessons happen. My students and I also enjoyed the Taste and Teach program a few years ago. I was able to shop at my local Raley's for foods my students would be trying. Every month we would have the opportunity to taste test various fruits and veggies. They LOVED it and I appreciated the curriculum that was provided.

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

Recently, my first grade classes studied and read stories about plants and how they grow. The students learned how to label different parts of the plant. We learned about how nearby farms grow food, like plants, fruits, and trees. We watched videos about farms and shared stories. One student even brought their baby goat on our zoom. Another showed us her incubator and we were able to see a chick hatch. That's the great part about teaching about agriculture, you can relate so many life experiences to what you want to focus on in the classroom. Then, we participated in a taste test of some very unfamiliar fruits. These weren't local so the students had mixed opinions on the taste. Finally, the students were each given some flowers to plant at their houses. I figured this was a safe step before we dive into growing vegetables next.

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

Teach what you have a passion about. Go explore, even if it's a virtual field trip. Find out what makes your students excited about agriculture, and then figure out a lesson to introduce it. This way, you will hopefully find it easier to make connections to your curriculum. Search and explore your new ideas and findings. If your lesson on how plants grow turns out to be a success, then take the next steps to teach the concepts in depth. So many resources are online nowadays, so the opportunities are endless. If you can spare a moment, look for grants to support your class if needed. Your community is a great place to start.

## Featured Resource

### **All About Eggs Activity Pack**

In this multi-disciplinary print-and-go resource, students will learn all about eggs. Students will explore egg sizing and weights, egg anatomy, egg folklore from around the world, and how an egg arrives at the grocery store. With some basic supplies and a carton of eggs, students will build and test a design to help "break" an egg's fall in an egg gravity test. There's something for every learner!



Download your copy exclusively on [Teachers Pay Teachers](#)! And, if you love it, give it a 5-star review so more teachers can continue to #LearnAboutAg!

## Grant Feature

### **Christina Sue Lilja Resource Grants**

**Deadline: June 30, 2021**

Applications are now available for the Christina Sue Lilja Resource Grants (formerly known as White-Reinhardt Resource Grants)! 50 teachers will receive \$100 credit to the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture's store to purchase materials for their classrooms.



The CSL Foundation was established to carry on late American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture director Christy Lilja's beliefs of helping others in need and to continue to advocate for educating K-12 teachers and students about the importance of agriculture.

Find out more [here!](#)

## More Ways to LearnAboutAg®

### **On the Farm STEM**

The American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture and NextGenScience are excited to announce the opening of the 2021 On The Farm STEM program application! This year's On the Farm (OTF) program brings together teams of high school educators together with experts in science education, agricultural science, and Beef Production to envision a model for high school science learning that will inspire today's students and make meaningful connections to agriculture.

Applications to participate close April 16, 2021.

Find out more [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.

Find out more [here!](#)



## For Educators

### **School Garden Support Organization**

**Event Location:** Virtual

**Event Dates:**

- April 14

Join the School Garden Support Organization for their best practices webinar series that focuses 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.

### **California Dairy Council**

**Event Location:** Virtual

**Event Dates:**

- Ongoing

The California Dairy Council is offering free Farm to You Virtual Field Trips on a California dairy farm. Field trips are available Monday-Friday at 9 am, 11am, and 1pm. Register today!

### **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

### **2021 Conservation Scholarship**

**Deadline:** April 12, 2021

High School seniors who live within the RCD of Greater San Diego and are interested in conservation, agriculture, environmental science, natural resources or biology are encouraged to apply for a \$1,000 Conservation Scholarship. Visit their website for more details and to complete the application.



## 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**



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