



Cream of the Crop

A harvest of ideas for educators

May 2021



California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom

Fantastic Fact:

Did you know that blueberries grow on shrubs that live all year long and are America's favorite muffin flavor?

In this Issue...

- Big Day of Giving! Help Support Ag in the Classroom!
- Discover Ag Careers: a free lesson for 6th-8th grade students!
- More ways to #LearnAboutAg®!



Visit our blog

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

Are you interested in adding to your classroom rolodex of resources? You can order a unique set of retro *What's Growin' On?* student newspaper editions produced throughout the past 18 years!

Request your set by emailing us at info@LearnAboutAg.org!

Be sure to include your preferred mailing address in your request!



LearnAboutAg

Be a part of Big Day of Giving - May 6, 2021

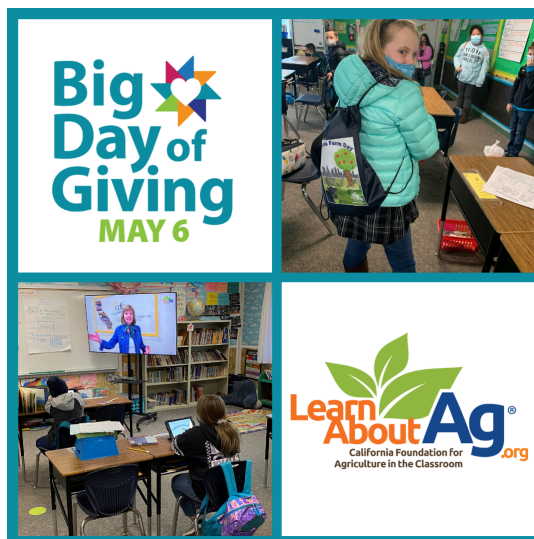
**Support Students Learning
About Agriculture!**

Did you know that 1.3 million students were reached by the California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom between October 2019 and September 2020? We do

this through events like California Farm Day where more than 5,000 students throughout California were able to #LearnAboutAg!

Give to California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom on Big Day of Giving and your contribution will help us continue providing these kinds of activities and resources to California students!

Consider scheduling a donation today!



Teacher Feature

Chauna Keels

Grades taught: 3rd Grade

School: Brookside Elementary School

County: Riverside County

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

I first learned about this program several years ago through another teacher.

How long have you been teaching students about agriculture?

I have taught my students about agriculture for the past 7 years. In 4th grade, I integrated the agriculture program when I taught about history and California's different regions. This is the first year that I used the program to teach 3rd graders virtually and I integrated agriculture with our NGSS 3rd grade plant life cycle unit, writing, area in math, and art.



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

I enjoy the entire Ag in the Classroom program. I like that the components are virtual. My students really enjoyed the *What's Growin' On?* newspaper and graphics.

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

Due to the virtual nature of our classes, I haven't really been able to have students participate in a project. In the future, I would like students to visit a community farm or create one in their neighborhood.

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

I would find a way to integrate the lessons into regular curriculum. Find opportunities to have students create, draw, and learn about agriculture. Looking at NGSS, regions, writing, or math standards would be the first step. Find opportunities to integrate!

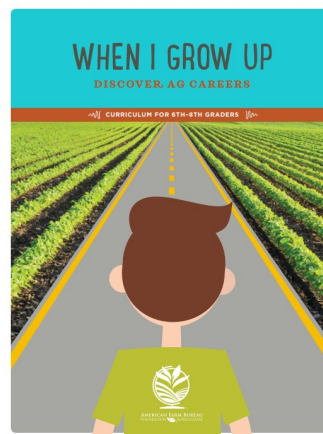


Featured Resource

Discover Ag Careers

The agriculture industry is currently one of the top employers of over 22.8 million jobs in multiple sectors such as education, environmental services, business, plant and animal production, biotechnology, and more!

The **Discovering Ag Careers** unit incorporates lesson plans, supplemental activities, and activity sheets standardized for grades 6-8 for each incorporated career pathway to help introduce and explore career pathways with students. Download your free copy at the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture [website](#), where they have numerous **free educational resources**.



Grant Feature

Whole Kids Foundation Salad Bar Grant

Deadline: Ongoing

Applications are now being accepted for the Whole Kids Foundation Salad Bar Grant. The CDC reports that students with access to a salad bar reportedly consume 33% more fruits and vegetables.



This grant provides schools with everything they need to get started with a salad bar! Applications are reviewed in the order they are received.

Find out more [here!](#)



More Ways to LearnAboutAg®

Farm to Summer Celebration Week

Farm to Summer week is celebrated in California, June 21-25, and is dedicated to highlighting local foods on the menu, offering taste tests and providing opportunities for students to participate in agriculturally-based education activities. For more ideas on ways to celebrate Farm to Summer Week visit [California Department of Education website](#).

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!](#)



Community Events

For Educators

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!

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 Science Center

Event Location: Virtual

Event Dates:

- Ongoing

The California Science Center is offering free, NGSS-aligned, virtual field trips for K-5 grade students. They are available in English and Spanish and have free activity guides!

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 agriculture industry.



Support LearnAboutAg®

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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