



Cream of the Crop

A harvest of ideas for educators

July 2021



California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom

Fantastic Fact:

California produces 18% of all pears grown in the United States, ranking number three in the nation.

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



Literacy for Life Grant

Students from Foothill Middle School planted a vegetable garden with the help from their teacher and the Literacy for Life grant.

Interested in applying for a Literacy for Life grant? Applications open on August 1 for the 2021-2022 year.





Order this one-time
**FREE Sizzling
Summer Special
today!**

Order [HERE!](#)

Help your students, family and friends all learn about ag!

Teacher Feature

Laura Hatheway

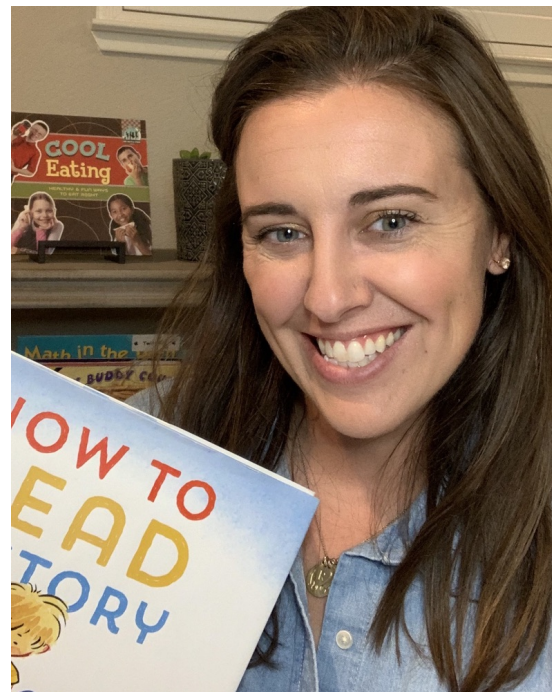
Grades taught: K-8
School: Learning with Laura
County: Sacramento

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

I first learned about Ag in the Classroom in 2018 from Judy Culbertson, the Executive Director.

How long have you been teaching students about agriculture?

My first-year teaching was in 2008. I had just accepted my first teaching position after earning my credential at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. Although I did not personally grow up farming, I come from a long family line of farmers and ranchers. Learning, talking, and reading about ag was built in. It was something that felt natural to teach my students about.



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

California Farm Day! This was the first year I participated, and it was great! Super easy to sign up for and materials were very valuable with the information they provided my students.

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

Through the Literacy for Life grant, my students had the opportunity to dive into a unit I created titled, "Where Does My Food Come From?" With my students, we worked to answer the question through a discovery and research-based approach. We performed read alouds in our virtual classroom. Three of these read alouds were also recreated and broadcasted on my Facebook channel in order to connect with more students.

In addition to the read alouds, we had two interviews and farm tours that were filmed and shown to all of the students. These were a big hit! To top it off, students were taught how to make sweet potato nachos and given supplies to make them at home too.

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

It's easier than you think! If you aren't sure where to start, begin with a discussion with your students. You will quickly learn how they see and define agriculture. You will be able to identify their schema and any misconceptions that they may have. Then, plan from there.

Are you an educator using California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom? Sign up to be a future Teacher Feature!

Please send an interest email to info@LearnAboutAg.org.

 **Featured Resources**



Great Reads About Agriculture!

Boost your agriculture library this summer to bring back to the classroom this fall! *Great Reads About Agriculture* has books for elementary, middle, and high school students to boost their agricultural literacy knowledge. Use our Great Reads [webpage](#) to read a short book description and to order your books online today!

Are you looking for a way to boost your teacher toolkit for next year?

Explore Journey 2050 for a sustainable agriculture online program for grades 6-12. This program allows students to make decisions through an interactive game that builds upon the classroom curriculum to witness their impact on society, the environment, and the economy at a local and global levels. Check out the lesson plans and extension activities to add to your classroom.

[Get started by making your teacher account today!](#)



Grant Feature

Literacy for Life Grant

The Literacy for Life grants, sponsored by the Oreggia Family Foundation, are designed to help initiate new projects or expand existing ones that promote agricultural literacy. Grants of up to \$500 are provided to California K-12 educators to support the integration of agriculture into regular classroom instruction.



Explore the list of project ideas and read how previous recipients have used this funding to improve agricultural learning opportunities on their campuses, [here](#). The applications are also used to select our Outstanding Educator of the Year.

Grant applications will open on **August 1, 2021** for the 2021-2022 year.



More Ways to LearnAboutAg®

**California Foundation for
Agriculture in the Classroom**

Virtual Conference

Save the Date for the Virtual 2021 California Agriculture in the Classroom Conference, September 24-25, 2021.

Check out previous conferences [here!](#)



Community Events

For Educators

Santa Barbara County Farm Day

Event Location: Santa Barbara County

Event Dates:

- September 18, 2021

Mark your calendars for Santa Barbara County Farm Day presented by [SEEAG!](#) A day full of self-guided tours through local farms throughout Santa Barbara county. More information coming soon, [here.](#)

Ventura County Farm Day

Event Location: Ventura County

Event Dates:

- November 6, 2021

Save the date for the ninth annual Ventura County Farm Day, presented by [SEEAG!](#) A day full of free activities and agricultural tours hosted at a variety of different farms, ranches, and agricultural organizations across the county. More information to come, [here.](#)

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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 **donation** today!

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