



California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom

Fantastic Fact:

During peak season California tomato growers produce **2 BILLION** pounds of tomatoes weekly.

In this Issue...

- Join us: Virtual AITC Conference September 24-25
- Get Writing! *Imagine this...* Story Writing Contest
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Visit our blog [#LearnAboutAg@Home](https://www.learnaboutagathome.com) for daily activities to incorporate agriculture into your classroom, in person or virtually!



What's in Season???



Tomatoes are in season!

California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom has partnered with the Fresno Unified School District to help develop resources for students and teachers throughout the district to LearnAboutAg! This month's featured commodity is Tomatoes! Learn more using the poster and newsletter on our [website](https://www.learnaboutagathome.com)!



LearnAboutAg®

**California Agriculture in the Classroom Conference
September 24-25th**



Food and fiber are the foundation of life. Nowhere is that more apparent than in the golden state, where California alone grows over 400 commodities, two-thirds of our country's fruits and nuts and a third of the nation's vegetables!

How do you translate those numbers to the littlest of learners, your students?

You LearnAboutAg® at our upcoming conference! Agriculture comes alive through our dynamic speakers, farm field trips (hop on a harvester with us!) and so much more.

IT'S VIRTUAL BUT IT'S VITAL... HERE'S WHAT WE HAVE IN STORE ..

- **LIVE** Behind-the-scenes look at a tomato harvest
- **TOUR** one of California's oldest Certified Farmer's Markets
- **Free Registration Bag** (for the first 200 registrants)
- **Pre-Conference Tour** featuring Dairy Council of California

[Register HERE!](#)



STORY WRITING CONTEST OPEN

Imagine this...

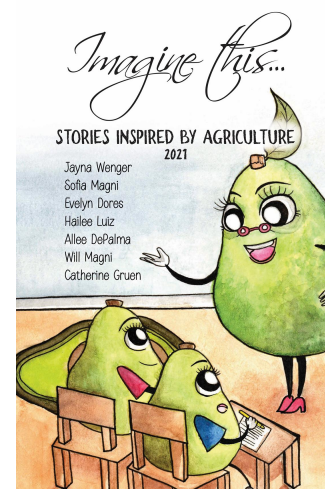
Getting published in grade school!

Encourage your students to pick up a pen, pencil or keyboard and write a fiction or nonfiction tale incorporating California agriculture.

The *Imagine this...* Story Writing Contest, can be used as an instructional tool, as a form of motivation to practice writing skills and as a way to use agricultural themes as a vehicle for teaching current California Education Standards.

Don't let writer's block get in your students' way, we have [resources](#) to help!

Let the storytelling begin!



Stacey Gonsalves
Grades taught: 3rd
School: Hart-Ransom
Elementary School
County: Stanislaus County



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

I first learned about Ag in the Classroom about 10 years ago. I contacted a few of our friends who are highly involved in California agriculture and they told me about Ag in the Classroom. My husband comes from an ag family and I wanted to find ways to teach my students about where their food comes from.

How long have you been teaching students about agriculture?

For 15 years! I started teaching about ranches and dairy farming. My husband would volunteer to do presentations for my grade level on cowboys and ranching lifestyle. We always dressed one of my students up as a cowboy. Even to this day, my former students would tell me that learning about agriculture was what they remembered the most about my class.

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

The *Imagine this...* story writing contest. I love this program because it allows students to choose a topic related to agriculture, research it, then develop their writing skills through stories.

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

Due to COVID, ag based projects have been kept to a minimum. My class did, however, continue to participate in the *Imagine this...* contest. On a typical year, my class would participate in "AG Day" at our school where different members from our community would set up booths and activities for a day filled with learning about agriculture. My class also participated in the Stanislaus County Fair classroom projects where we would learn and build a "featured" animal to be displayed at the fair.

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

Reach reach out to community and state organizations who are ag related. Many organizations have teaching materials that are free to schools. The students love learning about agriculture! The easiest project to do is to plant a seed and watch it grow. You will be amazed at how excited the students become. It is so important that we educate our students about where our food comes from. The more our young leaders know about agriculture the better off our future will be.

Are you an educator including agriculture in your

classroom? Sign up to be a future Teacher Feature!

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

Featured Resources

Nutrition Ag-Bites

Are you looking for quick nutrition-focused hands-on learning activities to get students up and moving in the classroom?

Check out these one-page bite sized activities to bring nutrition and agriculture into your classroom!

These Ag-Bite activities are geared for grades 3-6 and 9-12.



[Download Drive Through Nutrition!](#) (Grades 3-6)
[Download Track Your Nutrition!](#) (Grades 9-12)

Grant Feature

2021 CHS Foundation Classroom Grants

The CHS Foundation provides \$500 grants each year to Pre-K through 12th teachers who use agriculture to teach reading, writing, math, science, social studies, and more. Project ideas are endless and can include classroom and schoolyard gardens, embryology projects, aquaculture projects, and so much more. Applications are due September 15, 2021!



[Apply HERE!](#)

More Ways to LearnAboutAg®

Literacy for Life Grant

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](#).

Ag in the Classroom's Outstanding Educator of the Year is also selected from the applications.

Grant applications are due **October 1, 2021!** [Apply here](#).

Community Events

For Educators

Annual California Agriculture in the Classroom Conference

Event Location: Virtual

Event Dates:

- September 24-25

LearnAboutAg® at our upcoming FREE conference! Agriculture comes alive through our dynamic speakers, farm field trips (hop on a harvester with us!) and so much more. Register [HERE](#)

2021 Expanded Learning Opportunities with STEAM Back-To-School Pre-Conference/California STEAM Symposium

Event Location: Virtual

Event Dates:

- October 21-23, 2021

The California STEAM Symposium is co-hosting a virtual conference on October 21-23, 2021. This event will allow STEAM educators to collaborate with STEAM experts. Prior to this event, they are hosting a STEAM Back-To-School Pre-Conference, on September 1, that will explore opportunities for collaboration between community based organizations and the TK-16 system. More information can be found, [here](#).

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](#).

The California Science Education Experience

Event Location: Virtual

Event Dates:

- October 8-10, 2021

The California Association of Science Educators is hosting the California Science Education Experience. This virtual conference will provide professional learning for science educators to add to their classroom. More information and details can be found, [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](#).

For Students

Yuba-Sutter Farm Bureau's Farm Day

Event Location: Yuba-Sutter Fairgrounds

Event Dates:

- September 24, 2021

Farm Day is an annual event where more than 2,000 third and fourth grade students from throughout Yuba and Sutter counties will visit the Yuba-Sutter Fairgrounds for a fun-filled day to learn about agriculture and the important role agriculture plays in our lives. For more information, and to register, visit: ysfarmbureau.com

San Joaquin County AgVenture

Event Location: Manteca, Ca

Event Dates:

- November 4, 2021

San Joaquin County AgVenture is an agriculture and nutrition education program for the third graders in San Joaquin County. Each student has the opportunity to attend one of three FREE AgVenture events throughout San Joaquin County based on their school location where they will learn about local agriculture, nutrition, water and soil and so much more. For more information contact sjcagventure@yahoo.com.

Agribee™ Agricultural Spelling Bee

Event Location: Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Sutter, Tehama and Yuba Counties

Event Dates:

- November 19, 2021

Butte County Farm Bureau's Agribee™ Contest is back! The Agribee is a define and spell bee, using agriculturally related words, for fourth and fifth grade students. The program is currently available to schools in Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Sutter, Tehama, and Yuba Counties in California. Each participating school organizes a school-wide Agribee and identifies two finalists who compete in a Agribee Finals. The Agribee Final Contest first-place student will receive a laptop

computer and a special, agriculture focused field trip for the student's class. Each Agribee participant is commended for their hard work and receives a t-shirt and certificate. Agribee Finals will be held on Friday, November 19th. To register a class to participate in Agribee 2021 please visit: [Agribee - Butte County Farm Bureau \(buttefarmbureau.com\)](https://buttefarmbureau.com)



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

