



California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom

## Fantastic Fact:

One medium orange or grapefruit gives you 100% of your daily vitamin C needs.

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## **IMAGINE THIS... Story Writing Contest Regional WINNERS ANNOUNCED!**

They wrote, we read. Or our judges did. Congratulations to all our student authors who submitted stories for our *Imagine this...* Story Writing Contest. Find a list of all regional winners [HERE!](#)





## Got Pictures?

We'd love to see how you're bringing agriculture into your classroom!

The above photo came from teacher Lisa Liss whose 6th grade class made healthy veggie pizzas using school made sauce. "Most kids piled on the veggies," she was happy to report.

Are you doing garden projects? Taste tests? Farm field trips? Snap a few photos and send them our way. We want to feature your classroom! Send photos to [jennifer@learnaboutag.org](mailto:jennifer@learnaboutag.org).

Stop by our social media channels, below, where we dish about all things agriculture! While you are at it, be sure to visit our blog, [#LearnAboutAg@Home](https://www.learnaboutag.org/blog/) for daily activities to incorporate agriculture into your classroom, in person or virtually!



## Teacher Feature

**Jami Beck**  
**Outstanding Educator of the Year**  
**Grade: 2nd**  
**Three Rivers Elementary School**  
**County: Tulare**



### **Let's start with the basics: What is your favorite California commodity?**

Avocados and cotton are my two favorite California commodities. I couldn't pick just one. I chose avocados because it's a commodity that I eat every week. I love the taste and they are loaded with fiber and potassium. I just found out that it's California's state fruit.

Cotton is dear to my heart for two reasons. When I was dating my husband, he took me to Delano to meet his parents for the first time. As we were driving to Delano, I

noticed different crops along Highway 99. I had never seen cotton before. I only saw pictures of cotton in my 4th grade social studies book. My husband pulled off the highway so I could see it up close. That was my first real introduction to agriculture. My second reason for choosing cotton is that my mom was a seamstress. She collected fabric like I collect beads. She made a lot of my clothing when I was growing up, and was also a quilter. When she passed the only thing I wanted was some of her fabric. Cotton makes me feel close to my mom. It feels like home.

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

I learned about Ag in the Classroom from the Tulare County Farm Bureau. I attended one of their garden workshops and they mentioned that they were sponsoring two teachers to attend the California Ag in the Classroom Conference. I applied and was able to attend the 2016 Conference in Sacramento. Attending that conference made me an agricultural advocate for life.

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

For 13 years. However, I believe that I have made more of an impact teaching agriculture in the last five years. The more that I learn about agriculture the more I am able to teach my students.

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

I really like the AITC Conferences. I've attended two in person and one virtually. I learn so much at these events. I especially like the Farmer Panel. My favorite resource for my students is the fresh fruit and vegetable photo cards. The photos are amazing and the information on the back is very valuable. I also like the *What's Growin' On?* student newspaper, it's loaded with so much information that I can share with my young students little bits at a time.

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

Introducing and tasting different foods in the classroom. I learned about "Try It Tuesday" from a fellow teacher that I met at the AITC conference in Sacramento. Try It Tuesday is a way to get students to learn about different foods through taste. If I can't do a tasting on a Tuesday it becomes a Marvelous Monday, What Is It Wednesday?, Try It Thursday, or Favorite Friday. Students learn about the food, they draw and write about the food, and they then taste the food. They may also watch a video on how the food is grown. If they don't like the food it becomes a "No thank you," when they are offered that particular food again.

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

I do not have an agriculture background and was very intimidated by agriculture. My advice to teachers to bring ag in their classroom is to just do it. Students love hands-on projects. It doesn't have to be anything big. Plant a seed and watch it grow. If you're going to do a Try It Tuesday make sure to do it in the afternoon. Students are hungry and they will try anything you put in front of them. Reach out to your local Farm Bureau. Tulare County Farm Bureau sponsors a Calendar Art Contest every year. My students look forward to it. Also, don't forget community members. I have a gourd artist who supplies gourds for my students. This year we will be making snowmen out of gourds.

## Do you have an "Ag-ha" moment when a student learned something intriguing or interesting?

I've had many Ag-ha moments. One of my favorites is when I was making a video about attending an Ag in the Classroom Conference and one of my second graders said the school garden was a magical place.

My most recent Ag-ha moment was just this past month. I am the advisor for the student council at my school and we were meeting during lunch. As my second graders were returning to the classroom I asked the older students to tell my current students something that they remembered from second grade. Many students said, "Try It Tuesday." One student told us that she eats Brussels sprouts because of Try It Tuesday. You never know the seeds that you can plant in students' lives if you don't try. I am so grateful for the California Foundation For Agriculture in the Classroom.

## 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](mailto:info@LearnAboutAg.org).



## Featured Resources

### Holiday Hurrah!

Don't let your classroom go out to pasture – Beef it up with our Holiday Special!

From math and science to careers and by-products, this round-up of resources has you covered. Request your free set today! It's a deal!

Get yours today [HERE](#).



## Grant Feature

### Grant Opportunity!

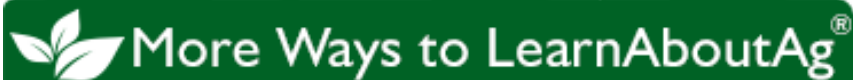
The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) 2022 Farm to School Grant Request Application is now open. The



USDA anticipates awarding \$12 million in competitive grants to eligible entities in the 2022 fiscal year. Each grant helps implement farm to school programs that include the following elements: increases access to local food in Child Nutrition Program (CNP) meals, connects children with agriculture for better health and inspires students to consider careers in agriculture.

**Application deadline is January 10, 2022.**

**[Apply HERE!](#)**



### **Know a Healthy Eating Advocate?**

Nominations for Dairy Council of California's Let's Eat Healthy Leadership Award are now open! Any person or organization who educates, inspires and empowers children, families and communities to develop lifelong healthy eating habits by using nutrition resources from [Healthyeating.org](http://Healthyeating.org) and/or Let's Eat Healthy is encouraged to apply and/or nominate their peers for this annual award.



The Let's Eat Healthy Leadership Award celebrates outstanding California leaders who go above and beyond to support community health through nutrition. It is a program of Let's Eat Healthy, a movement that brings together diverse individuals and organizations guided by the belief that all children and families deserve equitable access to healthy, culturally diverse foods and nutrition education that centers on people's unique lived experiences.

Learn more about the Let's Eat Healthy Leadership Award, past winners and how to submit a nomination at [HERE](#).

Please send questions directly to Morgan Carey, [mcarey@healthyeating.org](mailto:mcarey@healthyeating.org).

**Submissions are open through January 31, 2022**



### **For Educators**

#### **Cal Water H2O Challenge**

**Event Location:** Throughout Ca, Classrooms grades 4-6.

**Register by:**  
January 31, 2022

The Cal Water H2O Challenge is a project-based, environmentally-focused competition for classrooms. General registration is open until January 31, 2022. Register [here](#).

### **See Salmon!**

**Event Location:** Virtual tours of Nimbus Fish Hatchery, Sacramento County, Ca

**Event Dates:** Ongoing

Located in eastern Sacramento County, Nimbus Fish Hatchery raises Chinook salmon and steelhead for release into the American River. The facility, run by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, remains closed, but virtual tours are available.

**[Request a tour here!](#)**

### **The Soil & Water Conservation Virtual Field Trips (VFTs)**

**Event Location:** Virtual

**Event Dates:** Ongoing

The Soil & Water Conservation Virtual Field Trips (VFTs), focuses on the conservation benefits our researchers have developed with respect to water quality, irrigation water use, climate change, soil health, profitability and sustainability through their partnership with farmers on selected farms including some farmers involved in the Arkansas Discovery Farms Program.

Virtual field trips found **[here](#)**.

## **For Students**

### **Ice Cream Making Tour!**

**Event Location:** Hilmar, Ca

**Event Dates:** Throughout December

Hilmar Cheese Company offers ice cream making tours. See first hand how the popular dessert is made. More information **[here](#)**.

### **Grow Ag Leaders Scholarship Program**

**Application Deadline Date:** January 11, 2022

Grow Ag Leaders scholarship program, sponsored by Bayer Fund, in partnership with National FFA engages future generations in agriculture by raising awareness of the diverse career opportunities in the industry and by providing \$1,500 scholarships that enable students to further their education. See more information and apply **[here](#)**.

### **San Joaquin County AgVenture**

**Event Location:** Lodi, Ca

- March 3, 2022

**Event Location:** Tracy, Ca

- April 14, 2022

San Joaquin County AgVenture is an agriculture and nutrition education program for 3rd graders in San Joaquin County. Each student has the opportunity to attend one FREE AgVenture event 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](mailto:sjcagventure@yahoo.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**

