



Fantastic Fact:

A healthy walnut tree can produce crops for approximately 100 years!

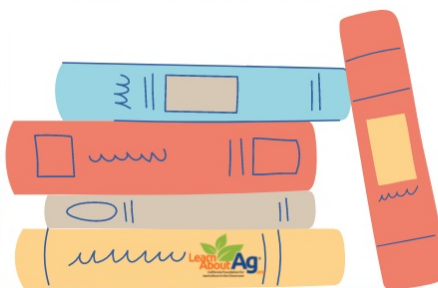
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CONGRATULATIONS

Imagine this...

2021-2022 STATE WINNERS



The Winners Are...

California students in grades 3-8 creatively explored where their food and fiber come from by writing narrative stories for our annual *Imagine this...* Story Writing Contest. The state-winning story from each grade level are being illustrated by high school art students and will be published in our annual book with a release date of March 2022.

Story topics this year range from cilantro to processing tomatoes (for your ketchup) to parasitic wasps and much more!

See who won [HERE!](#)





New Year but same goal...helping you #LearnaboutAg!

Above is a glimpse of how agriculture made its way into classrooms across California last year. We'd love to see your ag in action in 2022. Send photos to jennifer@learnaboutag.org.

Also, 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](#) for daily activities to incorporate agriculture into your classroom, in person or virtually!



Sarah Leon
Grade: TK-5
Jamul Elementary School
County: San Diego

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

My favorite California commodity is strawberries. I have always loved how they taste. They're fascinating to me because they are the only fruit that has seeds on the outside. Our school has an entire garden bed dedicated purely to strawberries and leeks. The leeks help to keep the pests away from the strawberries. The schoolchildren delight in looking for strawberries on their visits to our garden.



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

I learned about Ag in the Classroom through the nonprofit Sage Garden Project. It is so important to teach our children how to cultivate crops and prepare fresh food. We can ensure a lifetime of optimal health by bringing this agricultural knowledge to the classroom.

How long have you been teaching students about agriculture?

I am now in my third year of teaching gardening and nutritional science at Jamul Elementary.

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

Ag in the Classroom provides such a wealth of knowledge and teacher support in so many ways. I utilize their lesson plans for my classroom instruction, but also for our Garden Club activities.

I just received "*Imagine this...Stories Inspired by Agriculture.*" This publication is such a great resource to encourage literacy in the classroom. I would love to publish something like this at our school.

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

Our school is constantly undertaking agricultural projects. We just finished our winter in-ground planting of our 832 square foot garden. We planted leeks, fava beans, peas, sweet peas, lettuce, kale, spinach, broccoli, romanesco, and cauliflower. Our children partake in the entire growing process.

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

I would love to highlight the Sage Garden Project here. I am lucky to work under

their organization. Because my school is a Title I school, we are eligible for funding. It is because of their support and the support of Ag in the Classroom that our program can flourish. Our children learn to cultivate food from start to finish— soil amendment, planting techniques, companion planting, soil composition, watering techniques, rainwater collection, and harvesting practices. Then we take our harvest to the kitchen. I am so grateful for the financial backing of Ag in the Classroom so that we can augment our gardening and nutritional science library.

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

Students in grades 3-5 read and discuss a book about spinach. I let them all try to figure out which details are incorrect with respect to agriculture. Each class determined that the vegetables planted in the book were not planted according to the appropriate season. They also corrected me mid-read because we have learned that we plant in soil, not dirt. The book mentions that vegetables are planted in dirt. Our students have learned that soil is a complex ecosystem. I'm so happy that our kids are fledgling farmers, they are our future, that is undeniable. Our agricultural process is an integrated science that we must all understand so that we can secure our existence on this changing planet.

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.

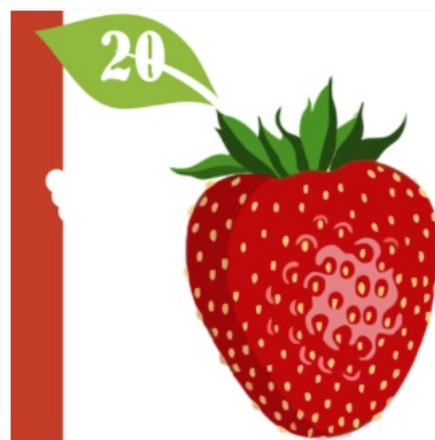
Featured Resources

New Ag-Bite!

Bring a bite-sized agriculture activity into your classroom in 2022 with our new Ag-bite!

Utilizing strawberries, which are grown year-round in California, students get a hands-on lesson on pH scales.

Find out more and get the Ag-bite [HERE](#).



Strawberry pHun (6-8)

Grant Feature

Grant Opportunity!

The GroMoreGood Grassroots Grant, brought to you by The Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation and KidsGardening,

is designed to bring the life-enhancing benefits of gardens to communities across the United States. In 2022, 150 programs will be awarded \$500 to start or expand their youth garden or greenspace.

Application deadline is February 4, 2022

More information found [HERE!](#)



Visit Farms Across the U.S.

Middle-School Virtual
field trip alert!

Take a trip across the
U.S. and see how
different farms operate

to provide you with the food and fiber that make your holidays and winter season
memorable.



Event date: February 4, 2022

Register your class [HERE!](#)



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.](#)

EPA Region 9 Environmental Youth and Teacher Awards

Application deadline:
February 18, 2022

Do you know any outstanding Kindergarten-12th grade teacher or youth working to promote environmental literacy and stewardship? If so, encourage them to apply to the US Environmental Protection Agency's youth and teacher awards.

Every year EPA Region 9 recognizes remarkable Kindergarten through 12th-grade teachers and youth through the Presidential Innovation Award for Environmental Educators (PIAEE) and the President's Environmental Youth Award (PEYA). There are 10 Regions within EPA.

EPA Region 9 serves California, Arizona, Nevada, Hawaii, the Pacific Islands, and 148 tribes.

Educator award information is found [here](#).

Youth award information is found [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

Best STEM Books for K-12 Students

The National Science Teaching Association, in conjunction with the Children's Book Council, has released its sixth annual list of "[Best STEM Books K-12](#)." The list provides recommendations about the best trade books with science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) content available for students in kindergarten through 12th grade. 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: Stockton, Ca
• January 19, 2022, 2022

Event Location: Lodi, Ca
• March 3, 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

Event Location: Tracy, Ca
• April 14, 2022

information contact
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

