



California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom

## Fantastic Fact:

Basil for blood clotting and bones?

Yep, this herb is a significant source of Vitamin K which helps make various proteins that are needed for blood clotting and building bones.

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## Got Greens?

This classroom does! First-grade students at Howard School in Madera, California grew their own greens. STEM Teacher Jill Standen used a hydroponic plant stand to grow lettuce while students helped add nutrients, checked water, and pH

balances. They also tracked plant growth by taking weekly measurements. Finally, students harvested the greens and enjoyed a great salad!

Bring greens and herbs into your own classroom with Taste and Teach activities found [HERE](#) and [HERE!](#)



## **Save the Date!** **Virtual California Farm Day!** **April 1, 2022, 9:30 am**

Join us to virtually celebrate agriculture while learning about the “99% Club!”

California produces 99% of specific commodities (garlic, olives, artichokes, kiwis...to name a few) that are then enjoyed throughout the United States and the world!

- Students: Learn about these 99% club commodities and receive a copy of *What's Growin' On? Leading the Nation* student newspaper.
- Teachers: Receive a free tote bag filled with nutritious snacks and classroom resources. California Farm Day will be streamed live through YouTube.
- There is no cost to participate—register your class today!

Register [HERE!](#)



**Breanna**



# Westenbroek

**Grade: TK-3**  
**Heartland Charter**  
**School**  
**County: Kern**

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

Milk! I grew up on a dairy farm and am very much involved in my family farm. I love animals and the opportunity to work with my family to care for our cows. As a mom of two young and active boys, I'm so thankful for the nutritional punch that milk packs. And of course, I can't say no to a good cheese charcuterie board or a yummy ice cream with my kids.



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

I first learned about Ag in the Classroom 7 years ago. I was teaching at an elementary school that valued health and wellness and had an edible schoolyard and learning kitchen for the students. I was using resources from the Dairy Council of California, and these resources pointed me to additional resources from Ag in the Classroom.

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

I peppered in lessons about agriculture when I first started teaching fourth grade in 2013, but I was teaching English Language Arts with rotating students instead of a self-contained classroom teaching all the subjects. It was tricky for me to incorporate consistently, as I had such a short amount of time with my students each day and I felt so much pressure to focus entirely on literacy skills when many of them were English Language Learners. I saw more connections with agriculture and math and science and social studies, but I wasn't teaching those subjects. I would say that I've most effectively taught students about agriculture for the last year. My eyes have been opened to lots of great read-alouds with an agriculture focus, I've realized that tastings provide a great journal prompt. I have had the opportunity to bring my students on more field trips than ever and have in-class presentations by partnering with local farmers.

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

I have a few! I appreciate the Taste and Teach program's ideas, and AITC's newsletter to see other teachers' ideas and learn about other opportunities to grow my teaching. I really enjoyed the California Farm Day recording and workbooks, which taught not only students but taught me too! I'm also thankful for the lesson plans and recommended read-alouds that help give me ideas to keep my lessons fresh.

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

This year my focus has really been on field trips and farmer presenters to expose students to the real experts. The local farmers in my area get all the credit for their willingness to share with students the agricultural product that they invest so much of themselves in. Their passion is both contagious and inspiring as we learn about the hard work that it takes, and the farmers' dedication to their crops or their animals. We have been able to visit a table grape grower, an FFA student with an egg business came and did a presentation, we went on a trip to a local dairy farm to learn about cows, and a beekeeper shared with us about honey bees and honey. For the spring, we have plans to visit various tree farms including citrus trees, almond trees, and pistachio trees.

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

If you're stuck on where to start, consider what your school is serving that day for breakfast or for lunch. Are eggs served for breakfast? Talk about chicken farmers and the nutritional value of eggs. Are orange slices part of the lunch line? Talk about citrus farms, vitamin C, and ideal growing conditions for a citrus tree. Is there a carton of milk offered with lunch? Discuss dairy farms, how farmers care for their cows, the anatomy of a cow, and the benefits of filling up on protein and calcium when you're a growing kid. Once you get going, your kids will become more interested in what they are eating and where it comes from... and they'll start asking questions that inspire new lessons! And you might even find a student expert on one of these (one of my students is from a beekeeping family). She is super shy, but it was so neat to see her come out of her shell to share with us something that she is an expert on. Tap into your students' potential for leading the lessons, and some of them will run with it!

**Are you an educator including agriculture in your classroom?  
Be a future Teacher Feature!**

*Please send an interest email to [info@LearnAboutAg.org](mailto:info@LearnAboutAg.org).*

*You can also reach us on social media, links below.*



**Featured Resources**



**Seed Survivor Classroom Kit**

Teach **Grades 2-5 students** about the importance of agriculture and growing healthy plants through this virtual presentation and hands-on sunflower planting activity!

Lesson plan and student activities available online.

**Sign up to request a FREE kit for your classroom!**

**seedsurvivor.com**

**Curriculum-based**

**Just add soil!**

**Learn About Ag**  
California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom

**Nutrien**  
Feeding the Future™

## Get a Box of Growing Goodness... Request a Free Kit for your Classroom!

Seed Survivor is a free, curriculum-based, agricultural program for elementary students with a focus on grades 2-5.

After participating in the Seed Survivor Program, students leave with an understanding of what it takes to grow plants and the fact that plants need water, light, healthy soil, and nutrients to survive. They also learn about where their food comes from and the importance of agriculture to their daily lives.

The kit includes:

- Seed Survivor cup and lids for up to 30 students
- Giganteus sunflower seeds
- Teacher poster thank you gift
- Printed media card to help with accessing the materials online

**All participants plant a sunflower seed to take home and watch the plant grow!**

Request the resource and find out more [HERE!](#)



## Grant Feature

### Grant Opportunity!

Whole Kids Foundation Garden Grant program provides a \$3,000 monetary grant to support a new or existing edible education garden at K-12. Schools or Non-profit organizations (501(c)(3) that serve children in the K-12 grade range eligible.

**Application period:**

**February 14- March 11 , 2022**

More information [HERE!](#)



**More Ways to LearnAboutAg®**



## Don't Miss This! May 14, 2022

Want a fun, engaging and interactive webinar that will provide participants with hands-on activities for teaching youth about agriculture?

Sign up [HERE!](#)

# SUPER SATURDAY

## A FREE ZOOM WEBINAR FOR EDUCATORS

MAY 14, 2022 | 12-5:00 PM



### WORKSHOP WILL INCLUDE:

- Virtual Field Trip
- Materials for 5 Hands-On Activities
- Registration Bag Full of Classroom Resources

The webinar sessions will provide participants with engaging hands-on activities for teaching youth about agriculture!

SPACE IS LIMITED - REGISTER TODAY!  
[WWW.LEARNABOUTAG.ORG/PROGRAMS/WEBINAR](http://WWW.LEARNABOUTAG.ORG/PROGRAMS/WEBINAR)



## Community Events

### For Educators

#### **On The Farm STEM 2022**

##### **Applications open:**

February through March 11, 2022

Discover an agricultural approach to science teaching and learning with the 2022 On the Farm STEM program. This year's program brings together teams of educators to meet with experts in science education, agricultural science, and Beef Production. Find the application [here.](#)

#### **EPA Region 9 Environmental Youth and Teacher Awards**

##### **Application deadline:**

February 18, 2022

Do you know any outstanding Kindergarten-12th grade teachers 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.

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

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

#### **Modesto's Almond Blossom Cruise**

**Event Location:** Modesto

**Event Dates:** Mid-February  
through Mid-March

Seventy-five percent of the world's almonds are harvested in California's Central Valley. Come mid-February, the almond trees are blooming, and thousands of pink

and white blossoms are an agricultural sight to see. The Modesto Almond Blossom Cruise is a self-guided drive-through tour of the region occurring from mid-February through mid-March. Find information [here](#).

## For Students

### **GROWMARK Foundation Announces 2022 Agricultural Scholarship Program**

**Application Deadline Date:**  
Midnight April 14, 2022

The GROWMARK Foundation is offering a \$1,500 scholarship program for students in the United States pursuing two-or four-year degrees or trade school certification in an agriculture-related field. Application found [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!

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