



Cream of the Crop

June 2022

A harvest of ideas for educators

California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom

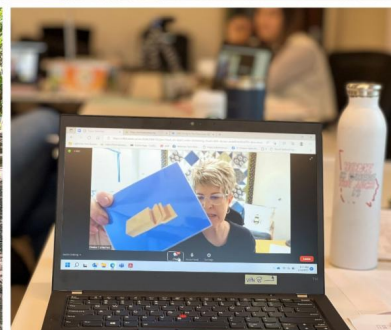
FANTASTIC FACT:

It takes 10 pounds of milk to make one pound of cheese!

SUPER SATURDAY WEBINAR IS UP!

What California commodity is found in sandpaper? Watch our Super Saturday webinar recording to find out! From hands-on activities to inspirational ideas, see unique, fun, and engaging ways to bring ag education into your classroom and your life!

WATCH HERE!



LearnAboutAg®



JOIN US!

It's been a minute, or two. We are excited to announce that our annual Ag in the Classroom Conference is in-person this year!

Join us in Ventura County, September 22-24.

Don't miss this opportunity to collaborate with educators who share your passion for agriculture. The conference is designed for K-12 educators, administrators, and volunteers to come together to learn and share how to incorporate food and fiber into all curricular areas.

REGISTER HERE!



Teacher Feature

Jassue Kutz
Grade taught: 9
Valley View High School
County: Riverside

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

I love almonds, as they go into my almond milk and almond coffee creamer! Avocados are also a favorite in my home.

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

I learned about Ag in the Classroom when I attended Texas A&M and earned my degree in biological sciences.



How long have you been teaching students about agriculture?

I have been teaching my students about agriculture for seven years.

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

I am grateful for the Literacy for Life Grant program. I started a school garden with the help and support of AITC. Having a garden to apply the science that students learn in the classroom is the best way to learn, in my opinion. I want to show my students that literacy is for life - what they learn in my class is not meant to go in one ear and out the other. I love how AITC programs see beyond what students learn in a textbook, they support experiences that students will remember!

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

Students in my class are learning through the new Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). NGSS is the new way of having science be connected to an anchoring phenomenon, using applied science, and looking at science as a process as opposed to facts that need to be memorized. We study soil ecosystems,

photosynthesis, biodiversity, and plant science. Next school year we'll study food production as we are just starting our garden, and I anticipate my students consuming food they have produced themselves!

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

Make it real. The hands-on nature of creating a garden teaches students where our food comes from, what plants need to grow, conditions in which plants grow, what variables plants need to grow, and why plant diversity is necessary for our earth. They get to watch plants grow in real-time and appreciate the miracle of life plants provide for us.

Any Ag-ha moments in your classroom?

Yes! I have a student who came from El Salvador mid-year. He was shy, didn't speak a lot of English, and was having a hard time making friends. One day he asked me why seeds and soil were sitting at the back of the classroom. I told him it was for the garden club and that they were creating a garden on campus. His eyes lit up and he said, "I know how to do that, I did that in my home country, and I was in agriculture." He told me about his practices, experiences, and journey. He timidly asked, "Is there any way I can join the club, even if it's for a small job or to watch?" I told him we would be honored to have him as a club member. He's been coming to every Wednesday meeting. He assists in weeding, tilling, digging the trenches for irrigation, planting, hosting club events for fundraising, and a lot more. His outlook on school, social life, and acceptance has completely changed. He smiles and uses his limited English to educate the club members with his stories from back home!

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

*Please send an interest email to jennifer@LearnAboutAg.org
Or reach us on social media, links below.*



Featured Resource

**FARM TO
SUMMER
CELEBRATION
WEEK
June 20-24**

**GET
OUR ONE-TIME
FREE
Ag in the Classroom
SPECIAL**

ORDER

HERE!

*Farm to Summer Celebration
Week is put on through the
California Department of
Education*



Grant Feature

CA Farm to School Incubator Grant Program NOW OPEN!

The California Department of Food and Agriculture Office of Farm to Fork (CDFA-F2F) California Farm to School Incubator Grant Program is open. Applications will be accepted until July 6, 2022, at 5 p.m. PST.

Learn more about the grant program **HERE!**



More Ways to LearnAboutAg

National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference

Join educators from all over the nation!
The National Ag in the Conference is in
Saratoga Springs, New York June 28-
July 1.

Get details and register **HERE!**



Community Events

For Educators

[California Agriculture in the Classroom Conference](#)

Ventura, California

REGISTRATION OPEN!
September 22-24, 2022

Collaborate with educators who share your passion for agriculture! The conference is designed for K-12 educators, administrators, and volunteers to come together to learn and share how to incorporate food and fiber into all curricular areas! More details and registration information found [HERE!](#)

[Farm to Summer Week](#) [California Department of Education](#) **June 20-24, 2022**

A week dedicated to celebrating farm-fresh foods and agricultural-based education activities. More information found [HERE!](#)

Order our one-time-only FREE Farm to Summer Week Rooted in Reading Resource [HERE!](#)

[Christina Sue Lilja Grants](#) **Deadline: June 30, 2022**

Christina Sue Lilja Resource Grants are made possible by the CSL Foundation. The CSL Foundation was established to carry on late American Farm Bureau Foundation director Christy Lilja's beliefs of helping others in need and to continue to advocate for educating K-12 teachers and students about the importance of agriculture. The purpose of these grants is to provide funds to educators to enable them to purchase accurate agricultural literacy materials from the AFBFA store for use in their classrooms. By providing this grant, AFBFA hopes to help students gain access to more accurate information about agriculture. [APPLY HERE!](#)

[2022 California STEAM Symposium](#)
October 1-2, 2022
Anaheim, CA

The Symposium will provide a space for exploring equity in STEAM learning, particularly for underrepresented populations the Symposium seeks to grow in STEAM. Register [HERE!](#)

For Students

[California Invasive Species Action Week](#)

June 4-12

California Department of Fish and Wildlife has organized California Invasive Species Action Week (CISAW)! Its goals are to increase public awareness of invasive species issues and promote public participation in the fight against California's invasive species and their impacts on our natural resource. Get more information and find events taking place [HERE!](#)

[Forestry Challenge](#)

Shasta: September 28 - October 1

Santa Cruz: October 12 - 15

El Dorado: October 26 - 29

San Bernardino: November 9 - 12

The Forestry Challenge is an academic event for high school students in technical forestry and current forestry topics. Participants spend four days in the forest learning about the ecology and management of the forested landscapes that provide communities with water, recreational opportunities, wood products, and wildlife habitat. Youth benefit by better understanding the relationship of the forested environment to their community, by exposure to natural resource management as a potential career option, and by undertaking a rigorous critical thinking exercise which is timely and addresses current forestry topics such as wildfire, insects, and forest health.

More information found [HERE!](#)

[The California Science Center Virtual Field Trips](#)

Dates: Ongoing

The California Science Center is offering free, NGSS-aligned, virtual field trips for K-5 grade students. They are available in English and Spanish and have free activity guides! More information [HERE!](#)



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



