

# CREAM OF THE CROP

A Harvest of Ideas for Educators

***Fantastic Fact:***

*The pear is one of the few fruits that does not ripen on the tree. Growers pick the fruit when it is mature, but green, and not yet ripe.*

## **Agriculture in the Classroom Conference!** Ventura, CA

Two years in the making - you don't want to miss this! Join us in person in beautiful Ventura on September 22-24.

Experience hands-on learning, farm field trips, and collaborating with other educators who share a passion for bringing agriculture into the classroom.

**Want to share your expertise, experience, and educational resources? Sign up for the following opportunities:**

[Present a 1-hour workshop](#)

[Present a Make n' Take](#)

[Be an Exhibitor](#)

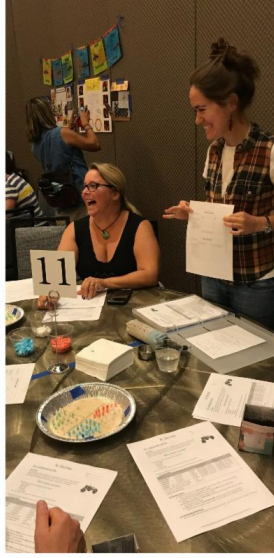
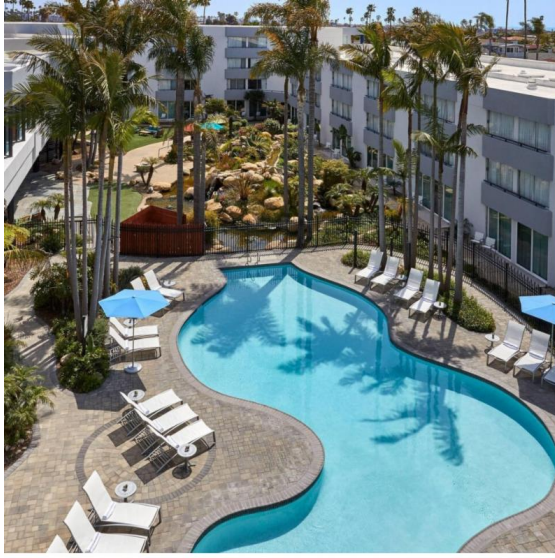
[Host a 'Taste of California' Table](#)



REGISTER FOR CONFERENCE HERE



LearnAboutAg<sup>®</sup>



## Stop Scrolling...Top Ten Reasons to Attend AITC Conference



1. It's in Ventura (hello beaches and cool temps)
2. Citrus and strawberries (top commodities here)
3. FREE swag and stuff
4. Resources, resources, resources!
5. Collaboration (read the

Teacher Feature below)

6. Good food
7. Meet farmers and agricultural experts
8. Hands-on activities to bring Ag into your Classroom!
9. Ag-ha moments - when you learn that Ventura County is known for nursery stock. What is that? Come find out!
10. A chance to rejuvenate, rest, relax and #LearnAboutAg



## Teacher Feature

### Dawn Phillips

**Grade Taught: 12**

**School: Jessie Baker School**

**County: Sacramento**

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

The forest is my happy place. It provides so much for us - oxygen, shade, a habitat for animals, timber for our

homes and businesses, and paper and pencils for our classrooms. Fun fact, California has some of the biggest trees on the planet!



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

I attended a workshop years ago where I received a copy of the *What's Growin' On?* newspaper. I have enjoyed looking through them with my class and am always surprised by how much information is packed in there! I give my students their own copy to share with their families.

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

I have taught students about nutrition since I first became a teacher in 2006, including the importance of eating a variety of fresh produce every day. Ever since I opened that first copy of the *What's Growin' On?* newspaper and found the Ag in the Classroom website, I have incorporated more information about California agriculture and all that our state has to offer the rest of our country and the world, into my teaching.

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

The Ag in the Classroom Conference is my absolute favorite thing! It is an amazing experience to interact with like-minded teachers, experts in the field, and the wonderful staff at Ag in the Classroom. I am always given tons of resources, have links for virtual field trips for my class to watch afterwards, eat delicious food in person, and have won several prizes. It is a nice getaway for busy teachers that rejuvenates and inspires us!

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

My students were able to grow their own flowers to bring home to their moms on Mother's Day! We are also growing some vegetables in wheelbarrows that are easy to move around so that my students in wheelchairs can help with the watering.

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

Start small with things that are familiar to the students and gradually expand your lessons with materials provided to you for free by Ag in the Classroom. Everything is easily adaptable for my students with disabilities, if it's not already at their level. Looking at the state and national Ag in the Classroom websites will give you plenty of ideas as well.

**Any Ag-ha moments in your classroom?**

I attended a forestry institute last summer and collaborated with another teacher in my group to do lessons over Zoom with his class. We were able to connect with students in the southern part of the state and all students were responsible for sharing what they learned during each lesson. My students were the only ones with disabilities and I was so happy to see them stand up in front of everyone and proudly share their part of the project. They truly learned a lot about trees and growing plants and I know the experience will always be a wonderful memory for them as it will be for me.

BE OR NOMINATE A TEACHER FEATURE: EMAIL US HERE!





### Ready to Dig Deeper and Learn About Soil?

Brought to you by UC Davis and USDA-NRCS, this newly-launched website includes an interactive and highly-visual introduction to

soil science concepts. [Soil Life](#) is more than just information, it also encourages visitors to find ways to promote and protect soil. Teachers and students alike will enjoy visiting the media hub—a comprehensive library of soil-related content—and viewing recently released videos, like “The Story of Soil and Food.” Don’t wait...dig in



CHECK OUT THE RESOURCE!



## Grant Feature

### California Native Garden Foundation Educational Garden Design Grants

The California Native Garden Foundation (CNGF) offers native garden design grants to schools, colleges, museums, and other public spaces and non-profit organizations across California. Through the School Garden Design Grant Program, CNGF offers grants for gardens that feature California native plants, including edible plants, ornamental horticulture or both.



APPLY FOR GRANT



## More Ways to Learn About Ag

### Resources Abound!

A platform of the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture, the Food and Agriculture Center for Science Education provides learning opportunities, high-quality instructional materials designed for the Next Generation Science Standards, and



**Food and Agriculture  
Center for  
Science Education**

VISIT WEBSITE



## Community Events

### For Educators

**[Nutrients for Life Professional Development Event - Fertilizer - Life's Main Ingredient Fueling Your Future](#)**

Bonner Springs, KS  
**July 27-28**

Two-day course focused on soil and why it is life's main ingredient. Using the Nutrients for Life Foundation curriculum, educators will learn the scientific reasoning behind soil, nutrients and the environment. Educators participating in the course will be provided free resources and experiences to take back to their classrooms.

Register [HERE!](#)

**[Virtual State of Agriculture One-day Virtual Conference National Agriculture in the Classroom](#)**

Virtual  
**July 28, 2022**  
**10:00 AM-5:45 PM EST**

Free, one-day virtual conference sponsored by National Ag in the Classroom and the CHS Foundation, featuring keynote address from the award-winning author Peggy Thomas. Two session tracks, one for elementary and one for secondary education.

Register [HERE!](#)

**[Rural Educators Digital Skills Summit](#)**

Virtual  
**July 28, 2022**  
**9:00 AM-12:30 PM EST**  
**1:00 PM-4:30 PM EST**

Geared for middle and high school educators, the Rural Educators Digital Skills Summit will include live trainings, workshops, and Q&A to learn how to implement digital skills training that can help your students succeed academically and prepare for the job market of tomorrow. Presented by Grow with Google and the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture.

Register [HERE.](#)

**[20-Mile Taste at Rainbow Orchards](#)**

El Dorado County  
**August 6, 2022**  
**4-7 PM**

Join El Dorado County Ag in the Classroom for 20 Mile Taste at Rainbow Orchards. Visitors will have the option to drive thru/take out the meal or to stay and picnic in the orchard. Event details found [HERE.](#)

**[Santa Barbara County Farm Day](#)**  
**September 17, 2022**

Santa Barbara County farms, ranches, and agricultural organizations will open their doors and invite the public to experience a day of agricultural activities and tours during the 4th Annual Santa Barbara County Farm Day, presented by [SEEAG](#). Register [HERE!](#)

**[California Agriculture in the](#)**

Collaborate with educators who share

### [Classroom Conference](#)

Ventura, California

**September 22-24, 2022**

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!](#)

### [2022 California STEAM Symposium](#)

Anaheim, CA

**October 1-2, 2022**

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

### [AgVentures! Learning Center](#)

Tulare, CA

**Year-round**

Learning Center and Ag Museum provide an educational experience for people to learn about agriculture through the interactive, hands-on exhibits, displays, and activities followed by an opportunity to learn about the history of agriculture. More information [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!](#)



### Show Your Support for Agricultural Literacy

Help us continue providing FREE programs and materials that create an awareness and understanding of agriculture among California's educators and students.

MAKE A  
GIFT  
TODAY!

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