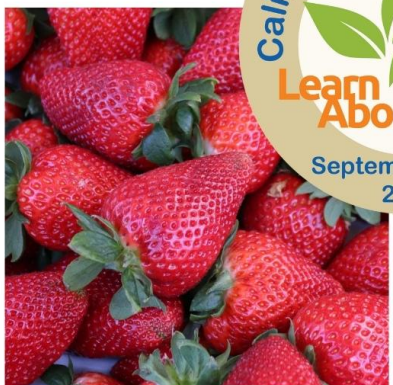


CREAM OF THE CROP

A Harvest of Ideas for Educators

Fantastic Fact:

California grows nearly 100% of the nation's supply of cling peaches!



California Ag in the Classroom Conference!

**Join us for AgVentura
September 22-24**

"This is the best conference and training I ever attended in all my years of teaching!"

Wow. What a compliment. This quote comes from 3rd grade Los Angeles County teacher Mary Mangold, who also happens to be our Teacher Feature this month! Read more about her below.

But first - register for our first in-person AITC Conference in three years! Experience hands-on learning, farm field trips, and collaboration with other educators who have 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 Make N' Take](#)

[Be an Exhibitor](#)

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

LEARN MORE & REGISTER FOR CONFERENCE HERE



Wait...there's more!

Let's dig deeper into AgVentura!
Here's just a partial sample of what's on the California AITC Conference agenda.

Field Trips: Limoneira Company (founded in Ventura County in 1893, a leader in citrus), Reiter Strawberries (the largest fresh, multi-berry producer in the world), school gardens, and more!

Dynamic Speakers: California Department of Food and Agriculture Undersecretary Christine Birdsong, farmers, and agriculture industry experts to name just a few!

Make N' Take Sessions: You get to make and yes, take agricultural lessons home and into your classroom!



Teacher Feature

Mary Mangold

Grade Taught: 3

School: Glazier Elementary School

County: Los Angeles

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

I have two favorite commodities, lettuce and sunflowers! These are my favorites because we have been growing them for years in our Glazier Garden with great success. Both of these are a real hook for grabbing students' attention in the garden and reeling them in to really love gardening and agriculture.



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

I learned about Ag in the Classroom over 30 years ago when our school first participated in the 48th DAA-Schools' Ag and Nutrition Fair. We would enter our garden projects in the Ag Fair each year and also receive amazing curriculum and teacher training.

How long have you been teaching students about agriculture?

I have been teaching students about agriculture for over 30 years through our Glazier Garden. As a long time teacher, I know the importance of hands-on activities in order to make learning successful for all students, especially those students who are challenged in a regular classroom setting. Just seeing the excitement on students' faces as we enter the garden each day says it all. They're so engaged in all aspects of agriculture, and it has been so easy and fun for me to incorporate reading, writing, math, science, and social studies in our garden daily lessons and hands-on activities.

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

My favorite AITC program is the conference! I attended the 2018 conference in Palm Springs. I have shared with my fellow teachers that it was the best conference and training I have ever attended in all my years of teaching! From the visits to the various farms and processing plants, to the sessions and activities, I have never gained so much new knowledge in one weekend (plus, so many freebies)! I was fascinated seeing the date farms and learning how dates were harvested. I couldn't wait to share all the fun materials, curriculum and knowledge that I learned with my students upon my return to school.

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

One agriculture project I have been involved in lately is expanding the Glazier Garden. Through a partnership with our local feeder middle school's garden teacher who has generously shared his resources and contacts with us, we were able to receive a generous soil donation from Kellogg to help jumpstart this expansion. The Glazier Garden has been around for over 30 years with 15 plots and a small orchard. We are now going to expand to over 25 plots with additional trees added to the orchard. Interest in our after-school Garden Club has exploded this year, and we are eager to get these new plots installed and planted to accommodate all the students on the Garden Club waiting list.

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

Just dive in! Kids will really love it! Teachers can first start small by simply planting bean seeds in baggies on the wall. Next, start planting sunflower seeds in a paper cup and watch how captivated your students will be by watching something they planted and watered start growing. Then, you can move on to gardening outside. Even if your school does not have a garden, you can simply purchase a "tub" and start your own garden right outside your classroom door. Start with radish seeds as they grow quickly, and you can harvest radishes in about three weeks. Once your students bite into a crunchy fresh radish dipped in ranch dressing that they personally grew, they will be hooked on growing their own food and learning more about agriculture.

Any Ag-ha moments in your classroom?

One ag-ha moment that really hit home for me was when one of my students came up to me after our salad bar party. That young man loudly exclaimed, "Mrs. Mangold this salad tastes so much better than my Hot Takis!" I knew then,

that although healthy eating may have never been the norm for this young man, after participating in planting, harvesting, and eating his own food a whole new world had been opened up to him. It is my hope that the healthy nutrition habits he learned from his 3rd grade garden experience will continue for his lifetime.

BE OR NOMINATE A TEACHER FEATURE: EMAIL US HERE!



Featured Resource

Produce Posters

Want to teach about agriculture all year long?

Featuring a different California commodity each month, this new resource includes an educational newsletter, beautifully-illustrated poster, and tasting guide. Highlights from the newsletter include grower interviews, virtual field trips, and engaging classroom activities. All content can be downloaded.

Originally developed to support Fresno Unified School District's CDFA Farm to School Incubator Grant project, these resources will help educators throughout the state bring California agriculture to life in their classrooms.



CHECK OUT THE RESOURCE!



Grant Feature

Taste and Teach

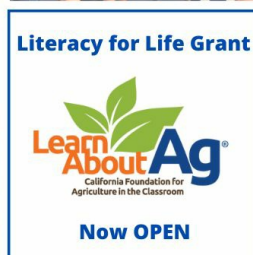
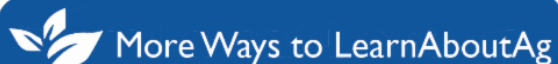
Bring agriculture into your classroom each

month and taste it too! Teachers from around the state, can apply to receive a binder of resources with lessons for teaching subjects around a different commodity each month and a \$100 gift card to Raley's, Bel Air Markets, Nob Hill or Stater Brother's grocery stores to purchase California-grown commodities for tasting. Learn more about the Taste and Teach grant program and to submit your application below. Applications open August 8.



Deadline: August 19!

LEARN MORE



Literacy for Life

Literacy for Life grants, sponsored by the Oreggia Family Foundation, are designed to initiate new projects or expand existing projects that promote agricultural literacy. Grants of up to \$500 are provided to California educators to support the integration of agriculture into regular classroom instruction. Explore the list of project ideas and read how recipients have used this grant in the past [HERE!](#)

Deadline: October 1!

APPLY FOR GRANT

For Educators

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

El Dorado County

August 6, 2022

4-7 PM

Join El Dorado County Ag in the Classroom for a 20-Mile Taste at Rainbow Orchards. Visitors will have the option to drive thru and 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 Classroom Conference](#)

Ventura, California

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](#).

[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 that the Symposium seeks to grow in STEAM. Register [HERE](#).

[San Diego Ag in the Classroom Teacher Resource Fair](#)

San Diego, CA

October 4, 2022

The 8th San Diego Ag In The Classroom Teacher Resource Fair, aka the Food and Flower Happy Hour is October 4, 2022 at the San Diego Botanic Garden. This is a fun and educational event geared toward teachers and adult volunteers who work with children. The main purpose is to share information with educators about the community impact and diversity of San Diego Agriculture, and how the teaching of agriculture can enrich children's educational experiences. Register [HERE](#).

For Students

[AgVentures! Learning Center](#)

Tulare, CA

Year-round

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

[Yuba-Sutter Farm Day](#)

Farm Day, sponsored by the Yuba-Sutter

Yuba Sutter Fairgrounds, Yuba City
September 30

Farm Bureau and Yuba-Sutter Fair is an annual event for third-grade students, teachers, and parents. Held at the Yuba-Sutter Fairgrounds, Farm Day provides educational exhibits (equipment, livestock, and crops) and demonstrations geared towards teaching students the importance 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!

Stay Connected! @LearnAboutAg

