

CREAM OF THE CROP

A Harvest of Ideas for Educators

Fantastic Fact:

More than 98% of the world's almonds and pistachios come from California!

Imagine this... **Story Writing** **Contest**

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 is being illustrated by high school art students to be published in our annual *Imagine this...* book with a release date of March 2023.

Story topics range from peaches and grapes to beekeeping, dairy farming, and more!

See who won [HERE!](#)



LearnAboutAg®

New Year... **New** ***What's Growin' On!***

Get Weather Wise with our newest (and 21st) edition of *What's Growin' On?*

Did you know...



Raindrops aren't shaped like a drop, they are actually more like a ball (round) or button (flat).

The highest California temperature on record was 134.1 degrees. Set in 1913!

The great flood of 1862 flooded Sacramento so severely that Governor Leland Stanford had to take a rowboat to his inaugural events!

Explore how the weather, weather events, and new technology used to predict the weather impacts the over 400 different commodities grown in the Golden State!

ORDER OR DOWNLOAD CLASSROOM SETS!

Teacher Feature



Mireya Arizmendi de Haddad

Grades Taught: 6 - 8

School: Patrick Henry Middle School

County: Los Angeles

Let's start with the basics: What are your favorite California commodities?

Grapes, apples, and strawberries.

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

I first learned about Ag in the classroom through the University of California Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Program in 2014.

How long have you been teaching students about agriculture?

This is my first year teaching Agriculture and Natural Sciences in Middle School. Before, I was teaching gardening, composting, and culinary arts for over eight years in various organizations and non-profits.

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

I really loved the California Agriculture in the Classroom Conference. I attended, for the first time, the 2022 conference that took place in Ventura County. I felt like a kid in a candy store. I received many resources and made new ag friends. I will for sure be attending every year.

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

I am currently working on composting all the organic waste from the school cafeteria at Patrick Henry Middle School. I am planning to teach about composting in my ornamental horticulture and Intervention and Enrichment classes.

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

My advice is to take a look at the free Ag in the Classroom online resources and curriculum. Everything is provided for you, and it is so easy to implement the lesson plans. Teachers can also call and ask for hard copies of the lesson plans. The delivery and service is free!

Any Ag-ha moments in your classroom? Where agriculture came alive for your students?

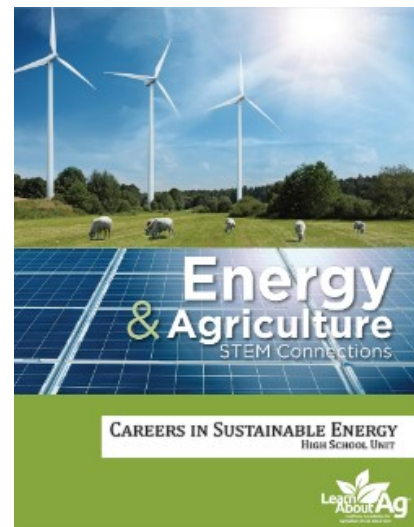
When a student told me that working the soil taught her to appreciate her ancestors, and the food on her table.

BE OR NOMINATE A TEACHER FEATURE: EMAIL US HERE!

Featured Resource

A Five lesson unit with a laboratory for grades 9-12 that promotes the development of STEM abilities and critical thinking skills, while fostering an appreciation for energy and its importance to food production.

The curriculum includes inquiry-based labs and real-life challenges for students to understand energy sources and their implications.



ORDER RESOURCE!

Grant Feature



KIDS TO PARKS DAY SCHOOL GRANTS PROGRAM

Explore California's Forests and Natural Resources!

National Park Trust invites kids and families across the country to participate in this nationwide grassroots movement to discover

and explore America's parks, historic sites, public lands, and waters, on Kids to Parks Day Saturday, May 20, 2023!

As a part of the celebration, National Park Trust is offering our Kids to Parks Day School Grants Program. Open to students from U.S./U.S. territories-based Title 1 schools (40% of students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch) in grades PreK through 12, this grant program provides classrooms with up to \$500 for distance learning experiences or up to \$1,000 for in-park experiences.

Funding can be used towards program fees, transportation costs, hands-on materials for remote learning activities, stewardship supplies, and any other materials needed for a robust learning experience.

Grant application deadline is February 17, 2023

[LEARN MORE](#)



Community Events

For Educators

[EPA Environmental Youth and Teacher Award Competition](#)
Deadline January 11, 2023

Do you know any outstanding Kindergarten through 12th grade teachers or youth working to promote environmental literacy and stewardship? If so, encourage them to apply to the U.S. 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). More Information [HERE](#).

[Life Lab Education Certification](#)

Life Lab's offers a 4-virtual course series

[Program](#)

Starting January 23, 2023

that guide and supports educators in becoming a Life Lab-Certified School Garden Educator. Upon completion of the full series of 4 courses, participants will receive a certificate and the distinction of being a Life Lab – Certified Garden Educator! More Information [HERE](#).

[Champions of Discovery Challenge](#)

Complete challenges by Wednesday, February 15, 2023

Champions of Discovery Challenge offers an opportunity for teachers and students to track their journey of science explorations and celebrate their accomplishments by the end of the year. Throughout the school year, teachers and students explore six unique science-related challenges. As they ask questions, collect data, and meet scientists from the community, sparks of curiosity lead to investigations, which lead to a greater understanding of the world. More information [HERE](#).

For Students

[Purple Plow Challenge](#)

Online

Students can help conserve natural resources locally and protect local ecosystems by addressing current and historical problems associated with the erosion of topsoil that limits the ability to grow food. After thoughtful research to evaluate how these challenges exist locally and globally, students will design, test, and demonstrate a solution that reduces topsoil erosion for their unique location or situation to help conserve productive soil. The final product will be a model which demonstrates a measurable reduction in soil erosion. More information [HERE](#).

[Grow Ag Leaders Scholarship Program](#)

Deadline: January 12, 2023

Bayer Fund is partnering with National FFA to offer ag students the opportunity to receive a \$1,500 Grow Ag Leaders scholarship. High school seniors through college juniors pursuing any ag-related field of study at a trade school, community college, or four-year college or university are eligible to apply. More information [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.

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DONATION
TODAY!**

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