

CREAM OF THE CROP

A Harvest of Ideas for Educators

Fantastic Fact:

Spinach typically takes 21-50 days to grow.

Lettuce takes 65-130 days to grow, depending on the time of year planted.



Mini Books for Major Learning!

Did you know our Farm Fresh commodity posters come with their own corresponding mini book?

Mini books offer valuable content in a student-friendly format. Each student receives their own book to keep. They can color, draw or annotate to their hearts' content.

Check out the different commodities we have available and download the free resource today!

FREE DOWNLOAD



LearnAboutAg®

**Request a Journey
2050 Guest Speaker
Presentation and
Receive a Free
"Proud to Teach Ag"
Shirt!**

The world population is 7 billion and counting! By 2050 there will be over 10 billion people on the planet. How do you feed a growing world?

Journey 2050 is a curriculum-based school program that takes students (in grades 7-12) on a virtual simulation which explores world food sustainability. In addition to the online program, educators can request a virtual guest speaker who will "visit" your classroom and introduce your students to a key aspect of agricultural sustainability in an interactive, one-hour presentation.



The first 25 educators to register online AND request a presentation will receive a FREE "proud to teach ag" t-shirt made from super soft cotton.

Presenters will contact you directly to coordinate the date and time, with multiple options available. Students must have access to an internet connected device (individual or shared). Educators that are already registered with Journey 2050 can still receive a t-shirt by requesting a presentation from their existing Journey 2050 account.

Exciting News!

A California farming family, representing farming in the United States, will be added to the Journey 2050 game soon!

[REGISTER HERE!](#)



Teacher Feature



Eron Truran

Grades Taught: K-3

School: East Palo Alto Charter School

County: San Mateo

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

Citrus! I love picking and eating all kinds of fresh citrus in the middle of winter. I grew up in the mid-west and northeast, so it's novel and exciting for me to have an abundance of citrus

in winter. I appreciate being able to have fresh fruit taste tests with my students year-round.

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

I learned about Ag in the Classroom while attending Life Lab's school garden training in Santa Cruz in 2012. The event had a table of school garden resources where I discovered

Ag in the Classroom's Fruit and Vegetable cards. It was love at first sight!

How long have you been teaching students about agriculture?

Thirteen years! I started teaching school-garden programs in 2008. However, in undergraduate school at Hampshire College, I had the opportunity to work, learn and teach at the school's working farm and host visiting school groups and overnight programs for other college students. I think that's when I fell in love with agriculture and teaching.

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

I especially like the Ag-Bites activities. I teach a variety of grades and really appreciate that these activities have California Teaching Standards mapped out for different grades. Ag-Bites also include clear directions, materials, and helpful tips and can be sized up or down, depending on the teaching time available.

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

In the fall, I enjoy teaching about apples. Our school garden has ten different apple varieties and a tree with several different grafts. Students learn about how apples form, the parts of an apple, taste test varieties of apples, and make apple products. This year we made applesauce, pressed apple cider, dehydrated apple chips, and grated apples into pancakes! I also take advantage of the apple theme to do the Ag-Bites activity that uses an apple to represent the earth and show the small amount of available arable land.

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

I have had the most success integrating agriculture into elementary classrooms with books, food, and family. Storybooks that have a link to food or gardening are always helpful to start a unit or to get ideas and questions flowing for students. Students love tasting things -- any time I can integrate a taste test (or a hands-on component), I see students' faces light up.

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

I love when I can get families involved. Asking students to interview a family member about their favorite fruits and vegetables helps start new conversations. Also, I have connected with families who farm or garden and are eager to share things that they grow or produce.

BE OR NOMINATE A TEACHER FEATURE: EMAIL US HERE!



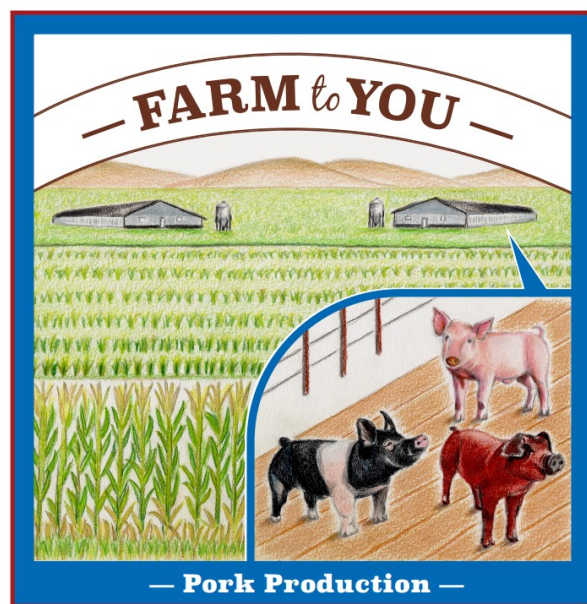
Featured Resource

The journey of food from the farm to our homes is complex, but it doesn't have to be a mystery!

It all starts with the sun, which brings energy to pastures and crops at the base of our food supply. These teaching resources include colorful illustrations, photos, and hands-on lesson plans and activities to help students understand

the people and processes involved from Farm to You.

Current resources include **beef**, **pork**, and **table grapes**. Download or order free print copies today!



ORDER RESOURCE!



Grant Feature



Garden Grant Applications Now Open!

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 are eligible.

Grant application deadline is March 1, 2023!

LEARN MORE



Community Events

For Educators

[Almond Blossom Cruise](#)

February
Modesto, CA

For just four weeks each year, Mother Nature delivers over 120,000 acres of white and pink almond blossoms in the Modesto area. Get orchard updates and the latest bloom report so you know

[National Ag Week Events supporting California Foundation for Ag in the Classroom!](#)

[Silt Wine Company](#)
Clarksburg, CA
March 24, 2023

[Wilson Creek Winery & Vineyards](#)
Temecula, CA
April 13, 2023

[Sierra Harvest Farm to School Institute](#)
April 28-29, 2023
Nevada City, CA

[On the Farm STEM](#)
June 11-14, 2023
Denver, CO

when to is the best time to view the blossoms [HERE.](#)

Raise a glass to support bringing agriculture education into the classroom!

Enjoy an evening of fun, festivities, and a silent auction while supporting increasing awareness and understanding of CA agriculture among educators and students.

Events in both Northern and Southern California. Find more information [HERE!](#)

Are you an educator, principal, community group, food service director, student or youth, farmer, or parent wanting to see farm-to-school programming in your school system? Join Sierra Harvest, for two days of experiential, hands-on learning from the classroom to the school garden to the cafeteria. At the Farm to School Institute Training, you can learn how to get started, and get tips on developing, evaluating, and sustaining your Farm to School program. Register [HERE.](#)

Discover science brought to life by American farmer and ranchers, researchers, nutritionist and veterinarians. The On the Farm STEM program was designed to equip educators with free lessons, activities, online learning tools and enriching professional development events. Get more information and apply for this FREE experience [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.](#)

[Moulton Museum](#)
Laguna Hills, CA

Moulton Museum works to keep the history of Orange County and its ranching era alive. The museum actively archives,

restores, and preserves Orange County historical agriculture related artifacts. 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.

MAKE A
DONATION
TODAY!

Stay Connected! @LearnAboutAg

