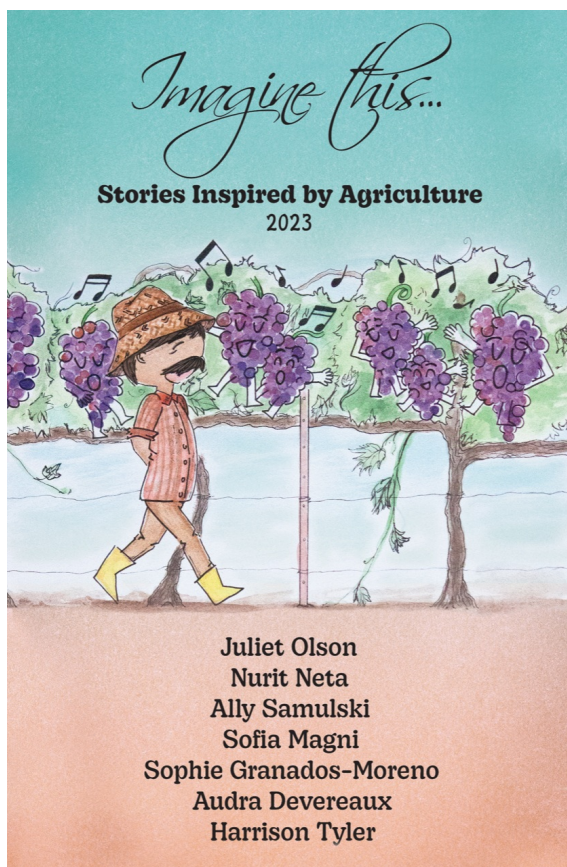


CREAM OF THE CROP

A Harvest of Ideas for Educators

Fantastic Fact:

Avocado trees can grow to be 35 to 50 feet tall!



NEW BOOK!

Hot off the press! Congratulations to our 2023 *Imagine this...* Story Writing Contest authors.

We were thrilled to welcome seven student to the California Capitol to publicly celebrate this outstanding achievement as part of the Ag Day at the Capitol festivities on the capitol steps.

This year's book features stories about grapes, a talking earthworm, a trip to the peach cannery, dairy farming, invasive species, bees, and generational farming.

Going on its twenty-fourth year, the *Imagine this...* Story Writing Contest gives students in grades 3-8 the opportunity to write agricultural narratives about real or imagined experiences or events based on California agriculture.

[ORDER THE BOOK!](#)



LearnAboutAg®

FREE WEBINAR

Join us for an exciting webinar to introduce California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom's new early childhood unit, Life on the Farm.

This webinar is perfect for directors, educators, and parents of children in preschool, transitional kindergarten, or kindergarten.

During the webinar, our team of educators will guide attendees through our new curriculum that will help introduce young learners to agriculture concepts in a developmentally appropriate, yet accurate way.

We will also visit (virtually, of course!) a few of California's family farms, and the webinar will conclude with a drawing for farm-themed educational toys.

Early Childhood Ag Education Webinar

INTRODUCING NEW PREK/TK CURRICULUM:

LIFE ON THE FARM

TWO SESSION OPTIONS:

Thursday, May 4 | 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 6 | 9:00-11:00 a.m.



free resources!



great prizes!



SCAN ME



REGISTER NOW!



LearnAboutAg®

JOIN US

California Farm Day!

MAY 12, 2023

9:30 AM-11:00 AM



VIRTUAL EVENT!

Did you know, raindrops aren't shaped like drops; they're shaped like a round ball or a flat button? Or that California gets an average of 11 tornadoes a year? Or that our state received a historic amount of snowfall this year?

Students throughout California will learn how weather impacts California agriculture on California Farm Day!

How do farmers and growers respond to the changes in our atmosphere with smart farming decisions that benefit crops, livestock, and our environment? Learn how rainfall can encourage growth or devastate crops, cool temperatures can hinder seed growth, and hot temperatures can scorch plants. The good news? Despite these risks and uncertainties, California farmers and

ranchers still produce more than 400 commodities – agriculture products that enrich each of our lives every day.

We plan to spend an hour and a half with your class and hope your students are as excited as we are! Last year, more than 16,000 students tuned in for the fun.

Students: Learn about becoming Weather Wise and every student will receive a copy of *What's Growin' On?* Weather Wise newspaper.

Teachers: Receive a free tote bag filled with nutritious snacks and classroom resources.

There is no cost to participate—register your class today!

JOIN US - REGISTER HERE!



Teacher Feature



Sara Oaks

Grades Taught: 4th-6th Life Skills

**School: Louis VanderMolen Fundamental
Elementary School**

County: Riverside

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

My favorite California commodities are strawberries and oranges.

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

I learned about Ag in the classroom in 2012 through my participation in the Schools' Agriculture and Nutrition Fair.

How long have you been teaching students about agriculture?

I have been teaching students about agriculture since 2012. As a Special Education teacher, I have my students for three years, so we have a different agricultural focus every year. Our participation in the Schools' Agriculture and Nutrition Program (agfair.org) over the years has enabled my students to be exposed to a variety of concepts related to agriculture.

We have been able to visit local farms to experience what it takes to raise various livestock and understand their different feed requirements. We have learned about different types of grain and which foods we eat contain which type of grain. Then, we baked our own bread! We have raised and released pollinators. We have visited restaurants to see food production in action. My students enjoy these real-world experiences and transfer them to important life skills. These tactile activities have also helped my visually impaired students make a personal connection to growing food and making healthy choices.

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

We enjoy our participation in the 48th District Agricultural Fair because it exposes us to many varied projects and topics. The students also enjoy seeing their work rewarded when they win a prize. The 48th DAF also provides us with resources, books, and materials to support our projects. We hope to continue our participation in this program now that it has become a part of the annual Los Angeles County Fair.

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

This year, we have set up a wheelchair-accessible set of raised garden beds in an underused section of our school grounds. In one, we are growing our own healthy food to develop an understanding of how plants grow and are harvested. In the second, we are growing flowers for the pollinators we have previously studied, and finally, we are native plants to observe the different water requirements for plants that grow naturally in our area.

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

Check out local resources. There is a lot available to schools and teachers who ask. Start small: projects such as baking bread, having pollinators (ladybugs, caterpillars) in the classroom, or studying farm animals are easy ways to start the agriculture conversation. Get parent support by asking for donations of resources or volunteering their time.

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

The students in my Special Education classroom are enrolled for three years (grades 4-6). For this reason, it is necessary to present agricultural lessons that build upon previous years' learning. Thus, we have completed units on bees as pollinators, bread making with lessons on various grains, and activities on farm life. We have raised and released butterflies and ladybugs. We have visited groves, restaurants, and farms, and we have participated in the Schools' Agriculture and Nutrition Fair for the past several years. The impact of all these concepts have been immediate and discernable since agriculture touches their lives every day.

I can see them making healthy choices in the food they eat! And their parents have remarked that this learning has transferred to the home as well.

Respect for living things - from the smallest caterpillar to huge dairy cows, has resulted in an expansion of respect for each other as well. Some students, particularly those with developmental struggles with human interaction, have truly benefitted from interaction with so many varied animal species. I believe all students could benefit from this kind of hands-on instruction for project-based learning.

BE OR NOMINATE A TEACHER FEATURE: EMAIL US HERE!



Featured Resource

Spring is here, and
there's no better time to
hatch some egg-citing
activities in your

classroom! Luckily, the California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom has already laid the groundwork for you with our existing resource for K-8 students, All About Eggs.

In this multi-disciplinary print-and-go activity pack, students will learn all about eggs. Students will explore egg sizing and weights, egg anatomy, egg folklore from around the world, and how an egg arrives at the grocery store. With some basic supplies and a carton of eggs, students will build and test a design to break an egg's fall in an egg gravity test.

So don't be a chicken, dive into All About Eggs and watch your students become egg-sperits in no time!



[DOWNLOAD OR ORDER THE RESOURCE!](#)



Grant Feature



Garden Grant Available

California Fertilizer Foundation is now accepting Garden Grant applications. Each year CFF awards 24 California schools with a \$1,200 Garden Grant to start or enhance a current garden program on the school's campus.

[LEARN MORE AND APPLY](#)



Community Events

For Educators

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

[Wilson Creek Winery & Vineyards](#)

Temecula, CA

April 13, 2023

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

Enjoy a tour of the winery, lunch, and a silent auction while supporting increasing awareness and understanding of CA agriculture among educators and students.

Find more information [HERE!](#)

[Sierra Harvest Farm to School Institute](#)

April 28-29, 2023

Nevada City, CA

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.](#)

[Early Childhood Ag Education Webinar](#)

May 4 or May 6

Virtual

Join us for an exciting webinar to introduce California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom's new early childhood unit, Life on the Farm.

This webinar is perfect for directors, educators, and parents of children in preschool, transitional kindergarten, or kindergarten. Register [HERE.](#)

[California Farm Day!](#)

May 12

9:30 am-11:30 am

Virtual

Join thousands of students across the state for California Farm Day! This year we explore the role weather plays in CA agriculture. Don't miss hearing from farmers and growers themselves! Register [HERE.](#)

SAVE THE DATE!

[School Garden Webinar](#)

May 20

Virtual

Registration opening soon.

[On the Farm STEM](#)

June 11-14, 2023

Denver, CO

Discover science brought to life by American farmers and ranchers, researchers, nutritionists 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.](#)

SAVE THE DATE!

[Ag in the Classroom Conference](#)

September 22-24

Sacramento, CA

From Farm to Fork Festival fun to incredible field trips and guest speakers—we are planning a conference to remember. Join us in the Golden State's capitol region in September!

Registration opening soon.

For Students

[Discover Water](#)

Online

DiscoverWater.org features activities in a digital, fun and interactive format. Developed for students aged 8-12, but fun for all ages, this digital resource includes water-related quizzes, science notebook pages, printable individual action posters, and resources for teachers. See resource [HERE](#).

[Hilmar Cheese Company](#)

Hilmar, CA
Merced County

Looking for a FREE STEM educational activity and tour? Hilmar Cheese Company offers activities and tours for transitional Kindergarten through High School. More details [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

