

# CREAM OF THE CROP

## A Harvest of Ideas for Educators

### Fantastic Fact:

During California's peak production, 72 million pounds of strawberries can be picked in one week!



SCAN ME



School Garden  
Webinar

Tuesday, May 16  
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.



Learn  
About Ag  
California Foundation for  
Agriculture in the Classroom



### FREE WEBINAR!

Ag in the Classroom's **NEW** School Garden Webinar is an excellent opportunity for educators, parents, and volunteers to learn practical strategies for establishing and maintaining school gardens and how to connect them to local agriculture.

During the webinar, you will have the chance to hear from an experienced UC Master Gardener who will share tips and tricks for getting the most out of your school garden.

Additionally, you will learn about free educational resources to help you

incorporate your school garden into your curriculum and get ideas for bringing the garden into your classroom. The event will culminate with a virtual school garden tour, followed by a Q&A session.

REGISTER HERE!



LearnAboutAg®

**BIG DAY OF  
GIVING!**



Food is the foundation of life.

Ag in the Classroom's mission is to increase awareness and understanding of agriculture among California's students and educators.

Through our resources, we reached 900.000 students last year, and we are hungry for more.

We hope to continue to provide **FREE** resources for teachers and students throughout the Golden State. Can you help us?



# Big Day of Giving



May 4 is the Big Day of Giving, but you can donate or schedule your donation now by tapping the donate button below. Please consider making a contribution that will help provide agriculture-related activities and resources for California students.

DONATE TO MAKE AG EDUCATION ACCESSIBLE TO ALL!



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 with your class and hope your students are as excited as we are! We have more than 20,000 students signed up for the event. Don't miss out.

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

[JOIN US - REGISTER HERE!](#)



## Teacher Feature



### **Shaun Rickerl**

**Grades Taught: Kindergarten**

**School: Sandia Academy**

**County: San Bernardino**

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

My favorite commodity is a tie between avocados and artichokes.

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

My first introduction was in 2017 when I attended the California Ag in the Classroom Conference. That was the beginning of everything I have done with agriculture.

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

I began teaching students about agriculture for six years, and at that time we began a poultry program at our school. Through this program, students have competed in the local county fair with some of the chickens they raised.

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

Although I have only been able to go one time, I love the Ag in the Classroom Conference. It is great to be able to get ideas and meet other teachers with similar interests!

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

I just finished doing Strawberry DNA extraction with my older students (2nd-8th grade) in our after-school program. We are also getting set up to begin hatching eggs from some of our school chickens.

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

## classrooms?

Start slow, pick one project that interests you. [Taste and Teach](#) as well as cooking in the classroom are great ways to excite students and incorporate writing and math into your day.

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

I love the excitement on my students' faces when they see our eggs begin to hatch. They become very knowledgeable about the chicks and love to share the knowledge when visitors come into our classroom.

BE OR NOMINATE A TEACHER FEATURE: EMAIL US HERE!



## Featured Resource

Spring is finally here, and it's time to get your hands dirty in the garden!

What's better than learning about the six basic plant parts—roots, stems, leaves, flowers, fruits, and seeds—in a hands-on way?

This free resource includes engaging activities that explore the functions of each plant part, the nutritional benefits of fruits and vegetables, and the importance of supporting California agriculture. Students can take ownership of their garden and observe the growth of their plants throughout the unit.



The unit is a fun and exciting way to promote healthy eating habits and inspire the next generation of farmers and gardeners.

Download the resource [HERE!](#)

ORDER THE FREE RESOURCE HERE!



## Grant Feature

## GET A SALAD BAR

Tailored just for you – resources and tools for getting a salad bar grant.



## SALAD BARS TO SCHOOLS

Research shows that children with access to salad bars consume 33% more fruits and vegetables. Want a salad bar in your school? Apply for a Salad Bars to Schools Grant below!

LEARN MORE AND APPLY



## Community Events

### For Educators

#### [Early Childhood Ag Education Webinar](#)

May 4

4:00-6:00 pm

May 6

9:00-11:00 am

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 free 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-11:00 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](#).

#### [School Garden Webinar](#)

May 16

4:00-6:00 pm

Virtual

Join us for the California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom's free School Garden Webinar. This two-hour webinar is an excellent opportunity for educators, parents, and volunteers to learn more about school gardens and how to connect them to local agriculture.

Register [HERE](#).

#### [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](#).

#### [Pollinator Week and Party 2023](#)

June 19-25th

Online

Pollinator Week is an annual celebration in support of pollinator health that was initiated and is managed by Pollinator Partnership. It is a time to raise awareness for pollinators and spread the word about what we can do to protect them. Participate and get more information [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**

### **Climate Video Challenge**

**Submissions due May 31**

Participate in the California Coastal Commission Climate Video Challenge. This contest is open to California middle and high school students. Get details and more information [HERE](#).

### **Discover Water**

**Online**

DiscoverWater.org features activities in a digital, fun and interactive format. Developed for students ages 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](#).



### **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**

