

# CREAM OF THE CROP

A Harvest of Ideas for Educators



## Fantastic Fact:

On average a dairy cow can produce 6-10 gallons of milk daily.  
That equals 96-160 glasses of milk per day.



## CALIFORNIA FARM DAY FUN

Did that plane plant your sushi rice?

More than 20,000 students "tuned in" to California Farm Day where they learned that yes, agriculture and airplanes go together. In this case, rice grown in the Sacramento Valley is often planted by plane, with seeds being dropped from the air into rice fields. What happens when the weather gets wonky?

Pilot, Justin Staas (left) joined agriculture experts, farmers, growers and abc10 Meteorologist, Rob Carlmark in an

engaging presentation on how weather impacts agriculture in the Golden State.

California Farm Day was centered around our latest *What's Growin' On?* Weather Wise newspaper. Catch the program below.

[WATCH FARM DAY HERE](#)



LearnAboutAg®

**CALIFORNIA**

# AG IN THE CLASSROOM CONFERENCE

September 22-24, 2023

We're hitting the Farm to Fork Capital! Join us in Sacramento for the California Agriculture in the Classroom Conference.

Our conference is designed for K-12 educators, administrators, and volunteers to come together to learn and exchange ideas on effectively integrating food and fiber into every facet of the curriculum.

Don't miss this opportunity to collaborate with educators who share your passion for agriculture. Join us for the Farm-to-Fork Festival, a Western BBQ, speakers, hands-on activities and more!

We have opportunities for Workshop and Make 'N' Take presenters, see registration link below for more information.



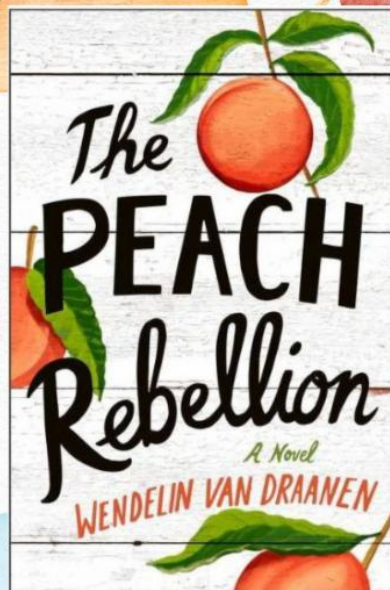
[REGISTER FOR CONFERENCE](#)



LearnAboutAg®

*New Book Alert!*

*Great Reads*



Summer is for reading, and what says summer more than a sweet California peach? How about a book centered around the popular fruit?

The Peach Rebellion is a captivating historical tale set in 1936 California. Through vivid depictions of labor-intensive agricultural work, it offers readers a greater appreciation for the toil and dedication required in food production. This moving story showcases the enduring power of friendship as two young girls navigate the complexities of their different backgrounds. A heartfelt narrative that illuminates the bonds that can form amidst the challenges of life in a California orchard.

Want more summer reading recommendations? Great Reads compiles excellent books that accurately depict agriculture for elementary, middle, and high school students. Happy reading.

GREAT READS RESOURCE



Teacher Feature

**Stephen Klatzke**

**Gardening & Nutrition Teacher,  
Wellness Coordinator**

**School: Bella Mente Academy**

**County: San Diego**

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





Pomegranates! They are a treat that kids generally love to eat. Their nutritional value is extraordinary and the trees are drought-tolerant and require little water.

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

I have been teaching students about agriculture and the sciences for the past 12 years.

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

This school year I started working at Bella Mente Academy in Vista, California to improve their School Garden and Garden Program. We tie the garden to nutrition instruction and created a food preparation area where students can bring their harvest from our garden and prepare delicious and nutritious dishes to share in class. Preparing and sharing food enables us to teach safe food handling, polite behavior, and teamwork as students prepare almost everything themselves under teacher supervision. Earlier in the year we also incubated and hatched fertilized chicken eggs. Raising chickens to harvest eggs is a major component of our program. Students are amazed by the experiences that we have had this school year. Teachers can use these natural processes, like hatching a baby chick, to captivate and engage students to further explore, discover and learn about many relevant topics pertaining to gardening, nutrition, math, science, and engineering.

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

Grow a small garden in or near your classroom and many teachable moments will present themselves. Entire lessons or units can be developed that keep students highly engaged with these projects on a daily basis. My students cannot wait to see how our animals or plants are doing each day. This sense of responsibility that they develop when tasked with caring for another living thing, whether it be a plant or animal, is a powerfully engaging exercise that crosses all cultural and academic lines. It connects students to their food sources, gives them a deeper understanding of their environment, and gets students talking, sharing, and working together for a common good.

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

Last week my students were tasked with making a root salad. They harvested large radishes, carrots, and beets. They were amazed to see how big these vegetables grew while underground. You could see the pride on their faces when it took several students to carry one giant beet plant! Once in the classroom, we washed and cut the plants to prepare our salad. We used the whole plants, including the leaves and flowers, which were delicious when mixed with the roots. Students questioned why they normally didn't eat the carrot, beet, and radish greens and flowers, realizing in an Ag-ha moment, that the best parts of the plants were often not even used! Going forward in their lives these students may now use the delicious and very nutritious leaves and flowers to complete their dishes, proudly. We dressed our root salads with an easily made balsamic and orange dressing and students again questioned why they have been eating store-bought salad dressing. Some students said their root salad tasted like candy with balsamic and orange dressing. I had to agree.

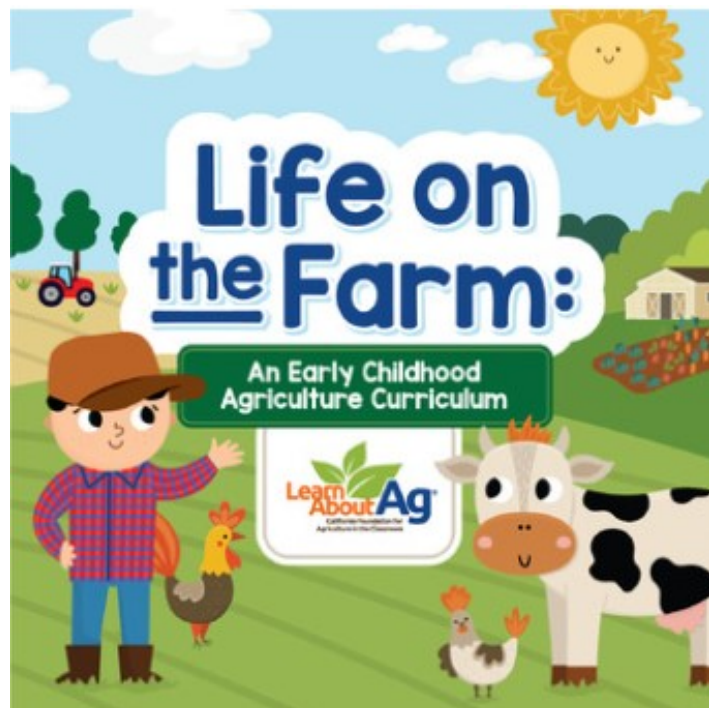
BE OR NOMINATE A TEACHER FEATURE: EMAIL US HERE!



## Featured Resource

Exciting news!  
Our brand-new unit, *Life on the Farm*, is now available on Teacher's Pay Teachers. And guess what? You don't have to pay a penny because it's completely FREE!

This early childhood agriculture curriculum is designed to make learning about our favorite subject, agriculture, an absolute blast for our littlest learners!



Visit our Teacher's Pay Teachers page now to download this fantastic resource for free and watch your students' excitement grow as they explore the wonders of agriculture!

ORDER THE FREE RESOURCE HERE!



## Grant Feature



The School Garden Network (SGN) announced its farm-to-school grant application for the 2023-2024 school year and is now open!

This opportunity aims to support garden development and revitalization at five schools. SGN will provide 90 hours of mentorship to each school and provide access to SGN professional development training, grow kits, and additional resources.

**Deadline: June 16, 2023**

LEARN MORE OR APPLY HERE



## Community Events

### [CA Ag in the Classroom Conference](#)

**September 22-24, 2023**

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! 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](#).

### [California Water Institute](#)

**June 12-14, 2023**

Galt, CA

The California Department of Water Resources, Cosumnes River Preserve, Galt Joint Union Elementary School District, and Water Education Foundation invite K-12 educators to join us this summer to learn about California water systems and human interactions - while enhancing your environmental literacy and gaining activities to engage students in exploring concepts and skills straight out of Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards. Register

[HERE.](#)

**[Farm to Summer Week](#)**

**June 19-23, 2023**

The California Department of Education (CDE) announced Farm to Summer (F2Summer) Week will be June 19-23, 2023! F2Summer Week is dedicated to celebrating local foods on the menu, offering a test taste sample in your meals, and providing opportunities for children to experience agricultural-based education activities. Find out more [HERE.](#)

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

**June 19-25, 2023**

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.](#)

**[Dairy Month-Celebrate with Dairy Council of California](#)**

**June**

Established in 1937, Dairy Month celebrates the role dairy plays in our lives and communities. Find Dairy Month resources [HERE.](#)

**[Forestry Institute For Teachers](#)**

**June-July**

Forestry Institute For Teachers is an opportunity for educators to spend a week with natural resource professionals gaining a deeper understanding of forestry and human use of natural resources. Educators will receive a high-quality, interdisciplinary professional development experience focused on content and practices at the heart of current forest issues – as well as Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards. Register [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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