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 Carlmack 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
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.
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!
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**

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<th>Community Events</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CA Ag in the Classroom Conference</strong></td>
<td>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 <a href="#">HERE</a>.</td>
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<td><strong>On the Farm STEM</strong></td>
<td>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 <a href="#">HERE</a>.</td>
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<td><strong>California Water Institute</strong></td>
<td>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 <a href="#">HERE</a>.</td>
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<td>Event</td>
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<td><strong>Farm to Summer Week</strong></td>
<td>June 19-23, 2023</td>
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<td><strong>Pollinator Week and Party 2023</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Dairy Month-Celebrate with Dairy Council of California</strong></td>
<td>June</td>
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<td><strong>Forestry Institute For Teachers</strong></td>
<td>June-July</td>
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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*