

CREAM OF THE CROP

A Harvest of Ideas for Educators

Fantastic Fact:

Watermelon is 92 percent water. Early explorers used them as canteens.

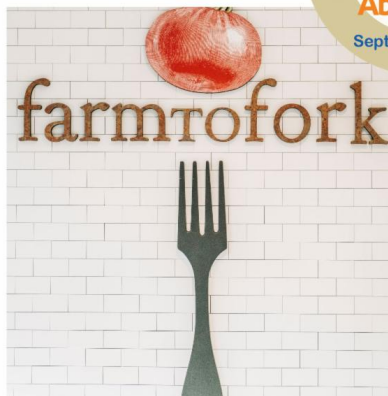
CALIFORNIA AG IN THE CLASSROOM CONFERENCE

September 22-24, 2023

"I think every teacher should attend this conference!"

We agree. Those eight words, spoken by an attendee at last year's conference, underscore the impact the annual AITC Conference can have on educators.

Join us in the Farm to Fork Capital, Sacramento, for the California Agriculture in the Classroom Conference.

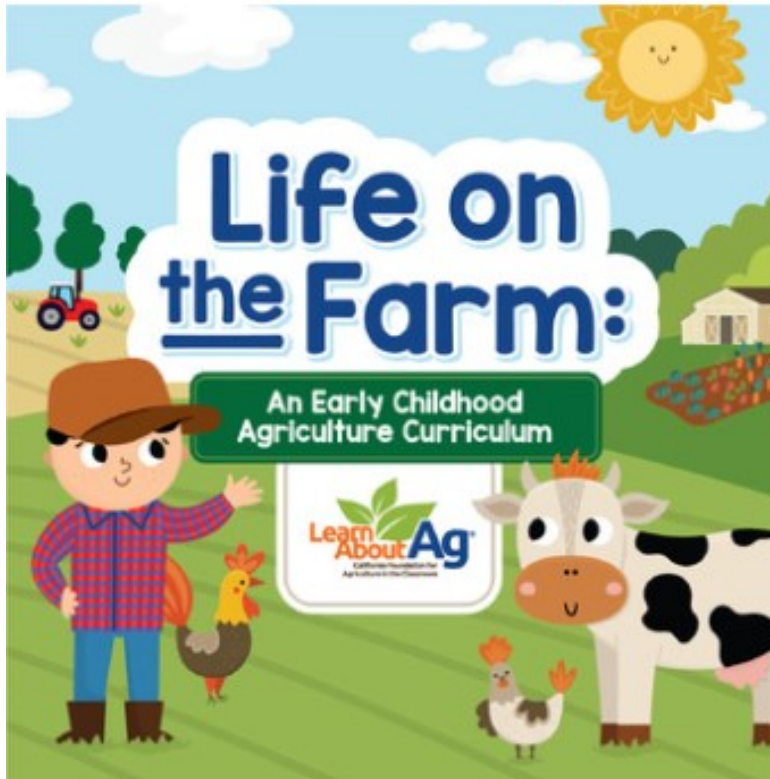


Our conference is designed for PreK-12 educators, administrators, and volunteers to come together to learn and exchange ideas on effectively integrating food and fiber into every facet of the curriculum.

Don't miss this opportunity to collaborate with educators who share your passion for agriculture. The conference will include the Farm-to-Fork Festival, a Western BBQ, the ever-popular Farmer Panel, an all-new Author Panel, speakers, hands-on activities and more!

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

Early Bird Special Registration: \$ 310
After August 15 Registration: \$ 350



resource for free and watch your students' excitement grow as they explore the wonders of agriculture!

CHECK US OUT ON TEACHERS PAY TEACHERS!

☐ Exciting news! Our brand-new unit, *Life on the Farm*, is now available on Teachers Pay Teachers! 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 Teachers Pay Teachers page now to download this fantastic

DOWNLOAD ON TEACHERS PAY TEACHERS



GET BERRY PATRIOTIC!

With only three ingredients and simple assembly, kids (and adults) of all ages can enjoy making a special tribute to our nation with this Fourth of July snack platter.

Featuring CA grown goodness; berries, which are a great source of vitamins and antioxidants, and sliced string cheese, which contains high levels of calcium, vitamin D, and protein, try this nutritious and festive way to ring in the celebration.

Originally featured in our Fresno Farm to School monthly newsletter, you



find the recipe [here](#) (see page 2), or watch it come alive on [our socials here](#), and finally, check out additional Independence Day ideas below.

MORE RED, WHITE AND BLUE RECIPES



Teacher Feature



Tina Nunes

School: Turlock High School
High School Agriculture Instructor
County: Stanislaus

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

My favorite California commodity is milk! Milk also holds a special place in my heart because it represents my family's business and way of life. Many families have been involved in dairy farming for generations, and the dedication and hard work put into producing milk is truly admirable. Milk

also has a delicious flavor and is a highly nutritious beverage. It is an excellent source of calcium, which is essential for strong bones and teeth. Milk serves as the base for numerous dairy products that we enjoy daily, such as cheese, butter, yogurt, ice cream, and various desserts.

How long have you been teaching students about agriculture?

I have been teaching for a total of twenty-seven years. I have spent thirteen of those years as a high school agriculture teacher. Throughout my entire teaching career, I have been a lifelong advocate for agriculture, promoting its importance and impact both in and out the classroom, actively engaged with organizations such as 4H and FFA to further support and educate students about the agricultural industry.

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

Recently, I recognized the need to expand the horizons for students in my FFA program, which led me to start a Nursery Landscape Career Development Event (CDE) judging team at my local chapter. This CDE team provides students with an avenue to explore and develop their knowledge and skills in the landscape industry. By participating in this CDE, students gain hands-on experience in various aspects of nursery and landscape operations. Through practical exercises and competitions, they develop a deeper understanding of plant biology, soil health, design principles, and customer service in the context of the nursery and landscape field. I provide guidance and resources to support their learning journey. The students actively engage in hands-on activities and participate in CDE competitions. Witnessing the passion for learning and the growth of knowledge within my students has been incredibly rewarding.

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

Teachers looking to implement agriculture into their classrooms can incorporate hands-on activities in various subject matters. Establishing a school garden where students can learn about plant growth, soil health, and sustainable farming practices is a great real life learning tool. In a garden, students can conduct experiments related to agriculture, such as investigating the impact of different fertilizers on plant growth or testing soil composition in different areas of the school grounds. In addition, in biology, students can engage in activities like studying the anatomy and physiology of plants and animals relevant to agriculture. They can explore topics such as pollination, plant breeding, or animal husbandry. In chemistry, students can investigate the composition of fertilizers, examine soil pH levels, or analyze the chemical reactions involved in food preservation. Math can be incorporated by analyzing farm data, calculating crop yields, or determining profit margins. History lessons can include examining the historical development of agricultural practices, studying the impact of agricultural innovations on civilizations, or analyzing the role of agriculture in shaping economies and societies over time. These subject-specific connections help students understand the interdisciplinary nature of agriculture and its relevance to various academic disciplines. By incorporating agriculture into different subject areas, teachers can provide students with a well-rounded educational experience that highlights the practical applications and how agriculture is a part of everyone's life.

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

It's inspiring to witness how agriculture came alive for one of my students on the nursery landscape team. A particular student has a love for plants that he has nurtured over the years, but we didn't realize how great his passion was. Once he

recognized how his knowledge and expertise could benefit his fellow students, his excitement and confidence skyrocketed. This revelation allowed him to flourish as he embraced his role as a valuable resource for his peers. As an educator, it brings me immense joy to know that I played a small part in his development. By creating an environment that fosters growth and encourages students to share their passions, I strive to help students discover their own potential and find fulfillment in their love for agriculture. This student's passion has made a tremendous impact on his fellow teammates.

BE OR NOMINATE A TEACHER FEATURE: EMAIL US HERE!



Featured Resource

THE WONDER OF SIMPLE AND COMPLEX MACHINES IN AGRICULTURE

With summer in full swing, students have a unique opportunity to witness the farm machines in action around them and connect their classroom learning to real-world applications.

Our engaging four-lesson unit, suitable for both traditional and nontraditional educational settings, invites students in **grades 2 to 5** to explore the fundamental concepts of six simple machines that make work easier.

Blending the marvels of farm machinery with science and math, this curriculum unveils the secrets of farming technology and fuels a sense of wonder and learning.



DOWNLOAD THE RESOURCE HERE!



Grant Feature



Now Open for Applications

The Pollinator Partnership, in collaboration with Toyota Motor North America, will be offering a native wildflower seed grant program this year.

Interested in FREE supplemental native wildflower seed to assist large-scale habitat

projects? Click on the button below for more information and to apply for this grant.

Deadline: July 20, 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](#).

[Climate Generation Summer Institute with California Cohort Day](#)

July 19, 2023

Virtual

The Teach Climate Network's three-day climate change education conference is built by educators and climate change professionals from across North America. Register [HERE](#).

[Forestry Institute for Teachers](#)

July 9-15

Cal Poly Humboldt, Arcata

July 16-22

Shasta, Camp McCumber, Shingletown

July 23-29

El Dorado, Blodgett Forest, Georgetown

Forestry Institute for Teachers is a week-long professional development program providing cross-curricular training in Next Generation Science Standards, STEAM, And Common Core through examination of current forestry issues. Register [HERE](#).

[Life Lab Growing Classroom Workshop](#)

August 24-25

Designed for K-6 classroom teachers and educators, Life Lab for The Growing Classroom Workshop on the UC Santa Cruz Campus registration is now open. Attendees learn how gardens breathe life into standards-based lessons, promote ecological literacy, inspire a love of nourishing foods, and support students' social development. Register [HERE](#).

[Forestry Challenge](#)

The Forestry Challenge is an academic

Shasta Forestry Challenge
September 27 to 30

Santa Cruz Forestry Challenge -
October 11 to 14

El Dorado Forestry Challenge
October 25 to 28

San Bernardino Forestry Challenge
Session 1 - November 8 to 11

San Bernardino Forestry Challenge
Session 2 - November 15 to 18

event for high school students in technical forestry and current forestry topics.

Participants spend four days in the forest learning about the ecology and management of the forested landscapes that provide communities with water, recreational opportunities, wood products, and wildlife habitat. Youth benefit by better understanding the relationship of the forested environment to their community, by exposure to natural resource management as a potential career option, and by undertaking a rigorous critical thinking exercise which is timely and addresses current forestry topics such as wildfire, insects, and forest health. Find out more [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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TODAY!

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