

# CREAM OF THE CROP

## A Harvest of Ideas for Educators

### Fantastic Fact:

It takes five to seven years for a pear tree to produce fruit.

### LAST CHANCE! AITC CONFERENCE

Calling all foodies and agricultural literacy lovers, we're hitting the Farm to Fork capital, Sacramento, for our [California Agriculture in the Classroom Conference](#).

This year's event coincides with [Sacramento's Farm to Fork Festival](#), and we have new and exciting events surrounding this collaboration.

#### Highlights will include:

- Farmer panel
- Author panel
- Field trips to see agriculture in action
- Western BBQ
- Interactive Make 'N Take sessions
- Exciting guest speakers

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

Limited scholarships are still available.

**\*Hotel block closes today, September 5th!\***

REGISTER FOR CONFERENCE HERE



The graphic features a green and orange border. On the right is a circular logo for the "California AITC Conference" with the "Learn About Ag" logo in the center and the dates "September 22-24 2023". To the left of the logo is a testimonial in orange text: "One of the best conferences I've attended in my 32 years of teaching!". Below the text is a photo of three women walking outdoors, smiling. One woman is holding a blue tote bag with the "Learn About Ag" logo.

California AITC Conference  
Learn About Ag  
September 22-24 2023

"One of the best conferences I've attended in my 32 years of teaching!"

-Isabel Beltran  
6th-grade teacher  
Visalia, California



# WRITING CONTEST



[The Imagine this...Story Writing Contest](#) is open and it's awesome.

Here's why students in grades 3 through 8 should enter:

The opportunity to be a published author!

Their name in lights on the State Assembly floor and a tour of the capitol.

Winning students receive an e-reader!

All-transportation paid trip to the state capitol for the *Imagine this...* ceremony in March 2024. Parents and teachers included.

Want inspiration? Check out this [article](#)-about last year's winning authors.

Encourage your students to write stories based on California agriculture. Find out more [here](#) and submit stories with the click of a button, below.

**Deadline: November 1**  
**Online submissions**  
**are now accepted.**

SUBMIT STORIES HERE



## JOURNEY WITH US....

Introduce your class to the immersive virtual farming simulation, [Journey 2050](#)! Hold onto your hats because we've got some big news – say hello to the newest farming family, the Van Löben Sels from Northern California!

In Journey 2050, your students will cultivate virtual farms in Kenya, India, and

then opt for Canada or the US as their final farming destination. With the Van Löben Sels joining the Journey 2050 universe, students gain exposure to brand-new crops, investment opportunities, and farm management practices.

Play the game, access educational resources at [www.journey2050.com](http://www.journey2050.com), and let the learning begin!



**REAL FARMS.  
REAL FAMILIES.**

Agriculture looks different across the globe. Meet the Van Löben Sels, our newest Journey 2050 farming family from California, USA.



**JOURNEY2050.COM**

## JOURNEY 2050 RESOURCE



## Teacher Feature



### Melissa Cunha

**School: Elim Elementary**

**Grade: First**

**County: Merced**

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

Almonds, as they are my go-to, high-energy snack!

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

Agriculture is in the first-grade state standards, so I have been teaching about agriculture for twenty years. I have been using Ag in the Classroom resources for three years, I love

them.

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

I have enjoyed the [Taste and Teach program](#). I love the fact that I can purchase food and bring it into the classroom. The students look forward to those activities. They of course love it when their favorite fruit comes in!

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

Recently, Morgan Oliveira, our local dairy princess, came into the class to do a



presentation on agriculture in our community. The students were engaged and learned so much. She brought some hands-on activities that correlated with her discussion topic.

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

Just dive into it. Something such as Taste and Teach is easy to follow and very informative. I even learned so much about food and how it grows worldwide.

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

There have been some ag-ha moments when it comes to tasting foods through the Taste and Teach program. The texture of some of the foods can really throw some students off!

BE OR NOMINATE A TEACHER FEATURE: EMAIL US HERE!



## Featured Resource

Get ready for a buzz-worthy lesson all about honeybees and their magical world of wax!

In this NEW lesson from the [Honeybee Discovery Center](#), students learn about the fascinating role of honeybees in constructing their

hives using wax. Guess what? Just like how plants need energy for growth, bees need it too! To reinforce the concepts, students in grades TK-3 engage in a hands-on activity of rolling beeswax candles following an interactive video presentation.

Find it all [HERE!](#)

P.S. If your class is as excited as a bee in a field of flowers about this lesson, be sure to visit the Honeybee Discovery Center in Orland, CA! ☐☐ With interactive exhibits, buzzing bees, and sweet honey to taste, this is a field trip you won't want to miss.



FIND THE RESOURCE HERE!



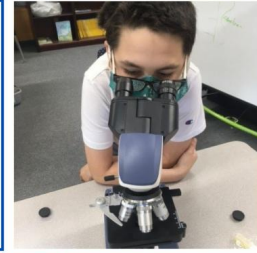
## Grant Feature

## LITERACY FOR LIFE GRANTS

Eager to start a new project-or expand on an existing one? Apply for the [Literacy for Life Grant](#).

Grants of up to \$500 are provided to California educators to support the integration of agriculture into regular classroom instruction.

**Deadline: October 2, 2023**



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](#).

### [2023 Conservation Speak-Off Competition](#)

**Submission Deadline: October 12, 2023**

The California Association of Resource Conservation Districts hosts an annual Conservation Education Speak-Off – a competition for high school students to address conservation topics. Students first compete at the regional level by submitting their speech via video, with the top speakers advancing to the state competition. There are cash prizes at both the regional and state levels. Students with an interest in public speaking and a passion for agriculture, resource conservation or the environment are encouraged to participate. Find out more: [HERE](#).

### [Imagine this... Story Writing Contest](#)

**Submission Deadline: November 1, 2023**

Could your student be our next published author? The Imagine this... Story Writing Contest is for students in grades 3-8 who

write stories (real or imagined) based on accurate information about California agriculture. More information [HERE](#).

### [Forestry Challenge](#)

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**

The Forestry Challenge is an academic 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. 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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DONATION  
TODAY!

Stay Connected! @LearnAboutAg

