

# CREAM OF THE CROP

## A Harvest of Ideas for Educators

### Fantastic Fact:

Beets for heart health? Yep!

Research found that consuming beets can help lower blood pressure.



### Literacy for Life

San Diego County elementary school students grab agriculture-based books from their very own "Little Library" (nestled within their school garden).

Read more about this project, and get inspired by other agriculture-related projects at schools throughout the state [HERE](#).

Applications for next year's Literacy for Life Grants are due October 1, 2024.



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### Book of the Year

The American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture announced its 17th "Book of the Year" award to "My Grandpa, My Tree, and Me."

The story follows Grandpa as he cares for each tree in his orchard, including his favorite

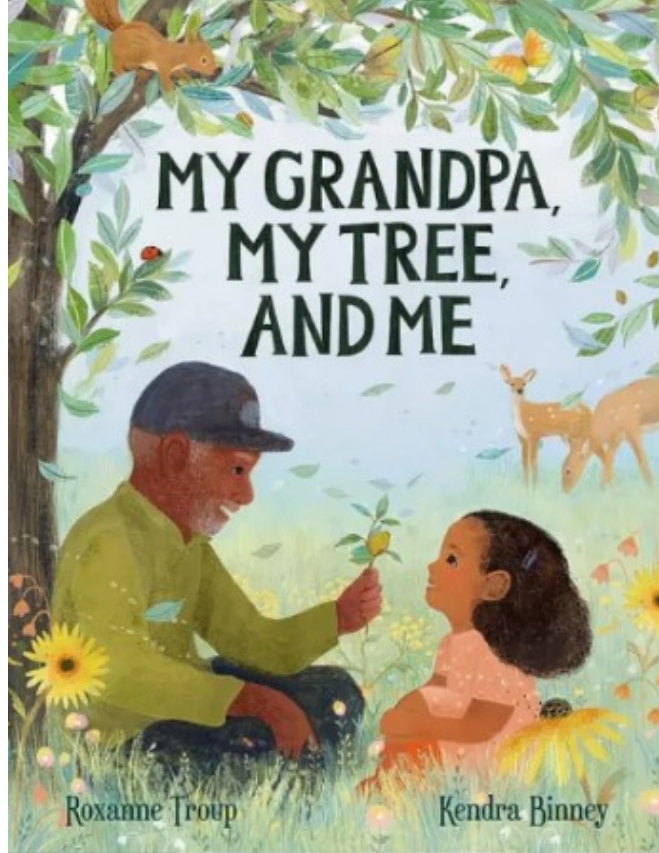


– a pecan tree, planted for his granddaughter on the day she was born.

Read more about this year's winning book [HERE](#).

Want a chance to win the *My Grandpa, My Tree & Me*, the educator guide, and the Tree Nut Ag Mag Mini? [Apply HERE for a chance to win!](#)

Deadline: February 19, 2024



LearnAboutAg®

## Join Us!

Ag in the Classroom's mission is an increased awareness of agriculture among California's students and educators.

Help support this goal by attending or supporting our exciting fundraising event in Sacramento, held at the beautiful and historic Tsakopoulos Library.

Enjoy a delicious dinner, hosted wine and beer bar, live music, and a silent auction.

Join us, along with Secretary of California Department of Food and Agriculture, Karen Ross, and others in the agriculture community for this exciting event.

## SAVE THE DATE

### NATIONAL AGRICULTURE WEEK

SPECIAL EVENT

FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 2024

5:30 P.M.

TSAKOPOULOS LIBRARY GALLERIA

828 I STREET, SACRAMENTO



To register/sponsor, scan the QR code  
or visit [LearnAboutAg.org/specialevents](https://LearnAboutAg.org/specialevents)



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Agriculture in the Classroom



## Teacher Feature



### Ramon Campos

**Grade Taught:** Kindergarten

**School:** New Joseph Bonnheim

**County:** Sacramento

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

Strawberries!

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

I learned about Ag in the Classroom via an email. Another teacher forwarded me information about [Ag in the Classroom's Taste and Teach program](#).

**How long have you been teaching students**

**about agriculture?**

I have been teaching students about agriculture for ten years, since our school opened.

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

My favorite program is the Taste and Teach program in which kids learn about different CA grown commodities and then sample the commodities in a variety of ways.

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

This year, we have been learning about apples. We picked apples from the orchard on our campus. The students created apple abstract art pieces and wrote narratives related to apples. The culminating event was a field trip to Abel's Acres, an apple orchard in Placerville, CA.

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

Weave agriculture instruction into your ELA, science, and health lessons. Art is a great way to explore agriculture. Also, as a Hispanic teacher, I use agriculture to teach about many migrant farm workers' experiences throughout CA history. We use it as a springboard to teach about peaceful protests, advocacy, and about important CA leaders like Delores Huerta and Cesar Chavez.



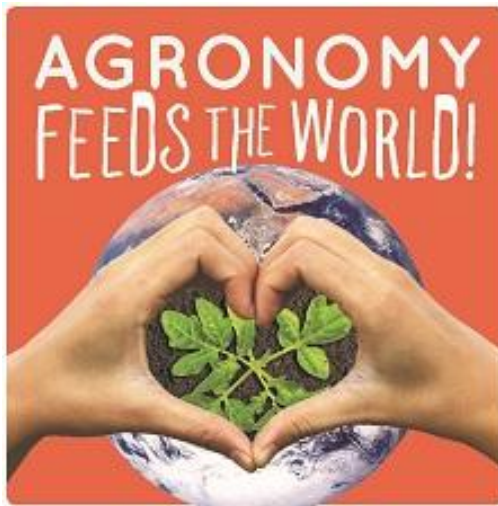
## Any Ag-ha moments in your classroom? Where agriculture came alive for your students?

Kids love trying new fruits and veggies. They oftentimes have never even tasted many of the commodities before our lesson, such as when we introduced figs. We also find that students learn and experience agriculture lessons in cross-age group activities where older kids help younger kids experience aspects of farming. Finally, parents who are usually reluctant to volunteer, love volunteering in classes when agriculture lessons are being taught!

BE OR NOMINATE A TEACHER FEATURE: EMAIL US HERE!



## Featured Resource



Agronomy is the science of soil management and crop production.

But it's much more than that!

According to [Agronomy4Me.org](https://Agronomy4Me.org) agronomy is the food you eat, the coffee you drink, the ethanol-based gas in your car, the grass on the golf course, the natural fibers of the clothing you wear. All these items are products of agronomy and the work of agronomists.

The online resource, created and peer-reviewed by scientist members of the American Society of Agronomy, has resources for grades K-12.

VISIT THE WEBSITE



## Grant Feature



## Garden Grant Available

The GroMoreGood Grassroots Grant, brought to you by The Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation and KidsGardening, is designed to bring the life-enhancing benefits of gardens to communities across the United States.

Deadline: February 9, 2024

LEARN MORE AND APPLY



## COMMUNITY EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

### [Forest Strategies and Innovations 2024 Conference](#)

February 26-27, 2024  
Sacramento, CA

Forest Strategies and Innovations brings together the state's forestry sector and key partners in an effort to engage in critical policy level conversations, to evaluate and improve best practices, to share important knowledge and innovations, and to invite key stakeholders to further the work of forest management and wildfire protection.

Registration closes February 11, 2024.  
Register [HERE](#).

### [National Agriculture Week Fundraiser](#)

March 22, 2024  
Sacramento, CA

This year's Ag in the Classroom Northern National Ag Week event is at the Tsakopoulos Library Galleria in downtown Sacramento.

The focus of this event is to support California ag literacy, a cause that is vital to ensure a prosperous future for our state. Enjoy a delicious dinner, hosted wine and beer bar, live music, and a silent auction.

Join us, along with the Secretary of California Department of Food and Agriculture, Karen Ross, and others in the agriculture community in supporting agriculture education.

Register [HERE](#).

### [FREE Mobile Dairy Classroom Assembly](#)

Bring agriculture to life with the Dairy Council's FREE Mobile Dairy Classroom Assembly. Find more information [HERE](#).

### [Soybean Science Challenge](#)

Eleven Ag Pathway video mini-lessons for science classrooms are available through the University of Arkansas Extension Program. Get more information [HERE](#).

### [Hilmar Cheese Company Educational Tours](#)

Hilmar, CA

Hands-on activities to explore the science and technology in dairy and cheese making in the Central Valley. Request a tour and find more information [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**



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