

# CREAM OF THE CROP

A Harvest of Ideas for Educators

## FANTASTIC FACT:

The first commercial blueberry harvest occurred in 1916!



You asked, and we answered. Or tried! A whopping 400 student questions were submitted during our Virtual California Farm Day.

Through a mix of pre-recorded segments and live hosts, classrooms delved into the collaborative efforts of farmers, engineers, scientists, ranchers, builders, and computer programmers. Together, they discussed the challenge of sustainably producing over 400 different products to feed and clothe our ever-expanding world.

Did you miss the show? Don't worry. CA Farm Day is available on YouTube. Enjoy the 50-minute show in one watch or show it to your students in segments. Quizzes follow each segment to test newly gained agricultural knowledge.

[WATCH VIRTUAL CA FARM DAY](#)

## SAVE THE DATE

September 27-29, 2024

Join us in Orange County for our Annual Ag in the Classroom Conference.

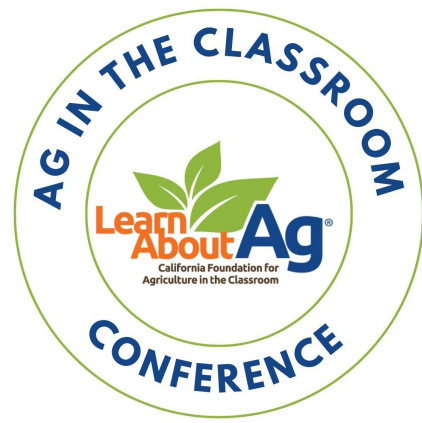
First Bell Registration: May 14 - June 30 - \$345

Early Bird Registration: July 1st - August 16 - \$365  
Registration after August 16 - \$385

Registration opens May 14!

Hotel and airport details will be shared on our website  
by May 14.

CONFERENCE INFORMATION



LearnAboutAg®

## CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY

Interested in ready-to-use lessons, ideas, and knowledge of why integrating agriculture into the content areas of curriculum leads to engaging and effective teaching and learning? This new course, offered through Fresno State University, is an excellent opportunity to increase awareness and understanding of using agriculture as a teaching tool in the classroom.

CI 180T

# INTEGRATING AGRICULTURE ACROSS THE CONTENT AREAS IN THE ELEMENTARY CLASSROOM



This course is designed to help elementary school teachers increase their awareness and understanding of agriculture and its value as the context in which to teach core content subjects.

Participants will learn how to access reliable, relevant, and accurate resources to help them integrate agriculture across the elementary curriculum while meeting California Content Standards.

- Hands-on Learning
- Demonstration Lessons
- Collaboration Time
- Digital Portfolio of Resources

**2024**

LOCATION: ED 400

The graphic collage features a grid of green and light green squares. Key elements include:

- Top left: Text '1 WEEK JUNE 10 -14, 9 AM - 4 PM'.
- Top middle: Barn icon.
- Top right: '2 UNITS' text.
- Middle left: Apple icon.
- Middle center: Photo of a field of young plants.
- Middle right: Photo of a man and a girl examining a plant, with 'FRESNO STATE' logo and 'Continuing and Global Education' text.
- Bottom left: Photo of hands holding a small plant.
- Bottom center: 'WATCH YOUR STUDENTS GROW' text with a tractor icon.
- Bottom right: Carrot icon.

GET INFORMATION HERE!



Teacher Feature

## ALLEN BEEN

7th and 8th grade Teacher  
Norris Middle School  
Bakersfield, CA

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

Tomatoes. I love the way the crop looks in the field, and what a yummy treat they can create.





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

I learned about Ag in the Classroom from my wife, a fellow teacher.

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

I have only been teaching for a year as a middle school teacher, and prior to that, I taught Junior College, in addition to being an ag professional (Pest Control Advisor), I have taught students and teachers alike for the last 25 years in different capacities.

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

I really like the [What's Growin On'?](#) publications. They have been a great resource for teaching many agriculture-related subjects and have great activities to go along with the subject.

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

Our leadership class and agriculture students recently hosted a TK field trip to our school garden. We set up a large field day with many agriculture-related activities including planting a seed and roping a calf! We hosted 160 TK students, their parents, and administrators. Nearly 300 people attended and learned about different facets of agriculture.

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

My biggest piece of advice is to make it as real as possible! It is okay to use books to teach but also allow time to get the kids' hands dirty.

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

My favorite moment was on a field trip to one of our local stockyards. Watching students when they saw the big bulls and cows get sold across the auction block was great!

BE OR NOMINATE A TEACHER FEATURE: EMAIL US HERE!



Lights, camera, action! Watch our [Farm to School resource](#) come to life on the small screen with *What's in Season with Michael Marks*, a Sacramento-based production.



The show highlights California's seasonal bounty while also incorporating some Ag in the Classroom activities that can make ag come alive in your classroom.

WATCH WHAT'S IN SEASON!

## Grant Feature



### LUNDBERG FAMILY FARMS SPROUTING HABITAT GRANT

In honor of Earth Month, Lundberg Family Farms is teaming up with the Sprouts Healthy Communities Foundation to bring wildlife habitats to life on school campuses.

With a shared commitment to increasing childhood connection to nature, outdoor education, and creating healthier green spaces, fifteen schools across the country will be awarded \$1,000 to build their school wildlife habitat.

**Application deadline: May 31, 2024**

LEARN MORE AND APPLY

## Community Events

### EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

[Nourishing Minds: Exploring Child Nutrition Policy in School Food Systems](#)

May 22, 2024

Virtual Event

Delve into the landscape of child nutrition policy in school food systems. We'll examine the impact of current policies, related challenges, and strategies to enhance child nutrition in schools.

Register [HERE](#).

[National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference](#)

June 24-27  
Salt Lake City, Utah

The 2024 National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference is a professional development event for teachers Pre-K through 12th grade.

Register [HERE](#).

[Forestry Institute for Teachers](#)

Forestry Institute for Teachers (FIT) is an immersive week-long Professional Learning Program providing interdisciplinary, hands-on experiences for California Educators.

Each year, FIT brings together formal and nonformal educators from across California to learn about current forestry issues and how they influence our everyday lives.

2024 Sessions now open for registration. More information [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](#).



**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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