

CREAM OF THE CROP

A Harvest of Ideas for Educators

FANTASTIC FACT:

Half of the watermelons grown in California are seedless.



COUNTDOWN TO CONFERENCE

September 27-29, 2024

Orange County

Designed for PreK-12 educators, administrators, and volunteers, our annual conference is an exciting opportunity to collaborate with fellow educators and learn about incorporating food and fiber into all curricular areas.

With about ten weeks left to register, here are ten reasons to sign up now:

1. Receive two professional development units.
2. Field trips! Get behind the scenes farm-to-fork action. Stay tuned for where we are headed!
3. Exciting speakers. Check link below for updates.
4. Hands-on workshops.
5. New store swag, see photo above!
6. Readers to Eaters books sold in store, too.
7. Networking with other educators.
8. FREE resources for your classroom.
9. Tech panel. Is a robot picking your next apple? Experts discuss the future of agriculture.
10. A chance to rejuvenate, rest, relax and #LearnAboutAg

REGISTER FOR CONFERENCE



TASTE AND TEACH NOW OPEN

Exciting news! Classrooms just got tastier. Taste and teach your way through the school year with our Taste and Teach program.

Each month, educators and students explore a different California commodity. By applying for the special supplements, selected educators will receive a binder full of resources,

lessons, activities, and ideas centered around the month's specific commodity, and a one-time \$100 gift card to Raley's, Bel Air Markets, Nob Hill, or Stater Brother's grocery stores to purchase California-grown commodities for tasting. Resources, lessons, activities, and ideas through this program are FREE to all, year-round.

You can learn more about the Taste and Teach program and submit an application below.

Application closes July 23

APPLY FOR TASTE AND TEACH!

Teacher Feature



SANDY ROSE

Wilson Middle School
San Diego, CA

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

I love California avocados! My parents grew a huge avocado tree when I was a child. We had all-you-can-eat guacamole whenever we harvested directly from our beloved avocado tree.

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

I discovered the weather issue of [What's Growin' On?](#) at a professional development training. Additionally, a coworker emailed me about the [Literacy for Life grant opportunity](#) for my classroom. I was already cooking garden produce with my students and struggling to fund my program recipes. Ag in the Classroom upped our cooking game!

How long have you been teaching students about agriculture?

I piloted an Environmental Science course in the 2019-2020 academic school year. I packed 150 pots with seed kits to send home during Covid's online learning. Wow, we have come a long way since 2019!

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

My favorite AITC resource is [Ag Bites](#) because of its ease of use. With so many demands on the teaching professional, having the Ag Bites resource is useful. I also like the [Fact and Activity Sheets](#) and other valuable [STEM lesson plans](#).

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

I would suggest not looking at the big picture and becoming overwhelmed. Start small with planting seeds and allow the wonder of life to engage students with nature. I remember my online student yelling, "There's something green coming out of my seed!" I just loved how excited my student was to witness life sprouting.

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

I've had many ag-ha moments in my classroom! One student exclaimed that she never ate so many delicious vegetables in her life until she took my class, and another student told me he didn't want to come to school but he decided he must because he didn't want his strawberries to die. One student shared that he never thought he could care for anything living until he started growing plants while another student told me that she asked her grandmother for a garden for her birthday because of what she learned in my class and her classmate asked if she could learn to make broccoli fettuccini with the broccoli we grew. My students say working in the garden is a peaceful break from their otherwise stressful day. I hope my teaching experiences inspire other educators to embrace the value of agriculture in the classroom.

BE OR NOMINATE A TEACHER FEATURE: EMAIL US HERE!



Featured Resource



ADOPT A COW PROGRAM

Talk about a classroom pet! Discover Dairy's "Adopt a Cow" program lets students get up close and personal with the dairy industry.

Classrooms are paired with a calf from a dairy farm. Teachers and students then receive updates (photos and videos), information, and activity sheets throughout the school year to witness their calf grow!

Enrollment closes September 15, 2024



Grant Feature

GRANTS & AWARDS

**Christina Sue Lilja
Resource Grants**

Funding for educators to purchase accurate agricultural literacy materials from the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture store for use in their classroom.

**Application deadline:
July 19, 2024**

LEARN MORE AND
APPLY



Community Events

[Nutrients for Life Virtual Professional
Development](#)

July 22-26

Nutrients for Life will host the sixth annual Professional Development Event, Soil – Life's Main Ingredient, on July 22-26, 2024, virtually.

Each day includes a live event and time for independent study. Participants receive a resource package and materials needed for the workshop.

Register [HERE](#).

[California Agriculture in the Classroom
Conference](#)

September 27-29
Costa Mesa, CA

Join us for the 2024 California Agriculture in the Classroom Conference. For teachers PreK 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



California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom | 2600 River Plaza Drive, #220 | Sacramento, CA 95833 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!