

CREAM OF THE CROP

A Harvest of Ideas for Educators

FANTASTIC FACT

Apples are a member of the rose family!



NEW WEBSITE IDENTIFIES SPECIALTY CROPS

Call it a crop conundrum.

Have you ever asked, "What *is* that crop?" growing along California highways and byways?

We now have a mobile website for that!

Take a spin on this new site to discover what's growing, the crop's production practices, commodity, and nutritional value. The site is loaded with geo-specific crop information and kid-friendly recipes. While aimed at fourth-grade students, the information is suitable for students of any age and includes a teachers' guide aligned to California Teaching Standards.

Years in the making, the project is funded via a Specialty Crop Block Grant through the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

KNOWIN' WHAT'S GROWIN' WEBSITE



Congratulations

Jessica Eves

Darnall Charter School
San Diego County



2024-2025 Outstanding
Educator



Drum roll please...we are thrilled to announce our newest Outstanding Educator, Jessica Eves of southern California, who brings agriculture into her classroom as a garden and cooking educator.

Read more about Jessica and the twenty-four additional educators who received Literacy for Life Grants, made possible by the Oreggia Family Foundation, [HERE](#).

Shop Our Store



Just in time for the holidays, new Ag in the Classroom swag!

Scan the above QR code or visit our store website to purchase items. Scroll to the bottom for new merchandise.

AG IN THE CLASSROOM STORE

Teacher Feature

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

My favorite California Commodity is rice! We grew up eating a lot of

beans and rice. It's great because you can prepare it in a variety of ways.

What is your favorite way to eat/prepare that commodity?

One of my favorite ways to enjoy rice is in the form of [Arroz con Leche](#).

How long have you been teaching students about agriculture?

I have been teaching students about agriculture for six years.

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

There are so many! I love the Ag in the Classroom conference, it is great and offers many resources and people to connect with. I also utilize the [What's Growing On?](#) newspaper. I give it to all the students who visit our garden on field trips.

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

My advice is to start simple and make it fun! I always incorporate a fun art or craft activity with a planting lesson. I emphasize that you do not need a big yard or a fancy garden plot to grow things. You can grow something in your windowsill.

Any Ag-ha moments in your classroom?

I hosted a Bake and Take class where we made pizzas in the pizza oven and discussed the ingredients (wheat for flour to make pizza dough, tomatoes for sauce, etc.), and where these items came from. Students started to make the connection and name other pizza toppings and how they were grown or produced.

What's your secret sauce to make your students interested in agriculture?

My secret sauce is to make agriculture exciting and fun. We read stories, make art, get our hands in the dirt, plant seeds, and create fun games and activities to engage students.

Why should teachers bring agriculture into their classrooms?

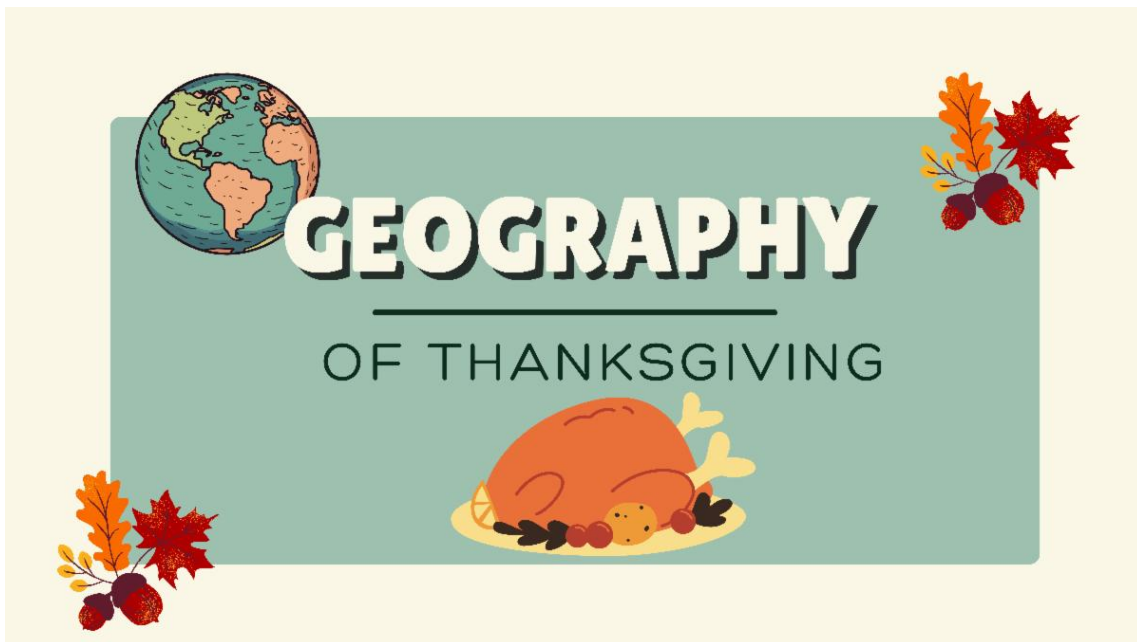
Teaching agriculture plants the seeds of curiosity. Children should know where their food comes from, and how it is grown. I hope someday one of my students returns and tells me they work with plants or animals in some way, shape or form!

GLORIA O'HARE



Grade Level: Preschool
School: Sprout and Blossom, LLC
Redlands, CA

BE OR NOMINATE A TEACHER FEATURE: EMAIL US HERE!



Where does your Thanksgiving meal come from? Students identify common Thanksgiving foods and their farm sources while exploring the origin of this holiday meal.

Free lesson plans for grades 6-8 and 9-12 on the National Ag in the Classroom Agricultural Literacy Curriculum Matrix.

CHECK OUT THE RESOURCE

Grant Feature

CoBank and the CHS Foundation are providing \$500 grants to 40 pre-kindergarten-12th grade teachers with classroom projects that use agricultural concepts to teach reading, writing, math, science, social studies, and more.

Deadline: November 15

COBANK
COOPERATIVE. CONNECTED. COMMITTED.

CHS CHS Foundation

GRANT PROPOSALS DUE NOVEMBER 15TH

Apply for a
\$500
Classroom Grant

Grants Will Be Awarded to:
PreK - 12th grade general education teachers whose classroom projects use agricultural concepts to teach reading, writing, math, nutrition, science, and/or social studies.


agclassroom.com/teacher/grants



Community Events

[California Science Education Conference](#)

November 8-10
Sacramento, CA

The California Science Foundation Education Conference aims to ignite curiosity, inspire discovery, and illuminate minds. From dynamic workshops to engaging presentations, this conference is your gateway to cutting-edge teaching strategies, hands-on activities, and invaluable networking opportunities.

Ag in the Classroom will be in attendance, be sure to visit our booth. More information [HERE](#).

[Ventura County Farm Day](#)

November 12, 2024

More than 15 Ventura County farms, ranches, and agricultural organizations will open their doors to invite the public to experience a day of agricultural activities and tours during the 12th Annual Ventura County Farm Day. More information [HERE](#).

[California School Nutrition Association Conference](#)

November 13-16, 2024
Sacramento, CA

The CSNA Annual Conference focuses on school nutrition education and personnel. More information [HERE](#).

[National Agriculture in the Classroom White-Reinhardt Scholarship](#)

Deadline: December 2, 2024

This scholarship program provides registration and travel expense funds for educators to attend the National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference, June 23-26, 2025, in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Formal and informal educators are welcome to apply! Apply [HERE](#).

[Virtual Farm Day](#)

February 26, 2025

Save the date for Virtual Farm Day!

This year's theme, "Imagine yourself in agriculture" will focus on exciting careers and opportunities within the industry.

We will have two programs for TK-5th grade and 6th-12th grade students.

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 GIFT
TODAY!

Stay Connected! @LearnAboutAg



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

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