

CREAM OF THE CROP

A Harvest of Ideas for Educators

Fantastic Fact:

The first recorded California citrus orchard was planted in 1804.

Location: San Gabriel Mission, east of Los Angeles.



**REGIONAL
WINNERS ARE
IN!**

Imagine this...



Congratulations to the
2024-2025 *Imagine this...*
Story Writing Contest
Regional Winners.

Find a full listing of the
regional-winning student authors
[HERE!](#)

Stay tuned! State Winners will
be announced on January 1 on
our website and social media
channels.



Readers to Eaters

From our [Great Reads](#) collection, Bread Lab from [Readers to Eaters](#) is perfect for students aged 5 – 10. This picture book explores the science behind making bread.

Follow along as lead character Iris makes sourdough from scratch and is surprised that bread needs only four ingredients—flour, water, salt and starter.

Check out the [Explore the WSU Bread Lab](#) video. In this video, students will meet Kim Binczewski, co-author of Bread Lab as she and King Arthur Baking School Instructor Leah Starr demonstrate making bread and explore the bread lab, milling room, and seed library at Washington State University.



Teacher Feature



Erica Matter

**Teaches: 1st grade
New Joseph Bonnheim
Community Charter School
Sacramento, CA**

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

For me wine, for my students'
tomatoes!

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

I learned about Ag in the Classroom during my first year of teaching in California, 3 years ago. It showed up on my Facebook feed!

How long have you been teaching students about agriculture?

I have been teaching students about agriculture for the duration of my teaching career, with more of a focus now that I am at an agricultural school.

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

I like the Ag in the Classroom Conference, as it provides new products, resources, and exciting

things to bring back to our schools.

Do you have any advice for other teachers on implementing agriculture in their classrooms?

Don't overcomplicate it. Simple is better - progress not perfection and tap into your students' natural curiosity.

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

Putting planter boxes outside my room so we see the daily growth of our plants leads to many ag-ha moments. Thanks to Ag in the Classroom for the grant!

BE OR NOMINATE A TEACHER FEATURE: EMAIL US HERE!

Featured Resource

Make Recycled Paper

Did you know the word paper comes from the Latin word "papyrus" named after the Egyptian reed from which paper was first made?

Make your own paper with our Ag-Bite! Ag-Bites are small-sized ways to bring agriculture into your classroom. This one-page sheet explains how to perform hands-on learning activities with students in various grade levels (K-12).



DOWNLOAD RESOURCE

Grant Feature



The Patrick Leahy Farm to School Program

The fiscal year 2025 Patrick Leahy Farm to School [grant program requests for applications](#) (RFAs) are now open. To apply, visit Grants.gov and follow the instructions found in each FY 25 RFA. Visit the [applicant resources](#) for helpful information, including links to webinars that provide specific assistance on applying for a Farm to School Grant.

LEARN MORE

Community Events

Give on GIVING TUESDAY

- \$10 ships resources to teachers
- \$20 gets student newspaper into one classroom
- \$50 Sends a Starter Kit to a teacher
- \$100 Supports Story Writing Contest
- \$350 Sends a teacher to Annual Conference



In the giving mood? Please consider giving to CA Ag in the Classroom. Our FREE resources support bringing agriculture awareness and understanding to educators and students.

DONATE FOR GIVING TUESDAY!

Community Events

[California Kindergarten Conference](#)
January 17-19, 2025
Santa Clara, CA

The 2024 CA Kindergarten Conference in Santa Clara, CA.

AITC will present "Taste and Teach: Introducing Agriculture through Sensory Exploration" on Saturday, January 18 from 11:15 am to 12:30 pm. Find more information [HERE](#).

[CTA Good Teaching Conference-North](#)
January 31 - February 2, 2025

The CTA Good Teaching Conferences support excellent teaching and learning practices for

Burlingame, CA

[CTA Good Teaching Conference-South](#)

March 22 - March 24, 2025

Garden Grove, CA

classroom teachers via peer-to-peer instruction.
Find more information [HERE.](#)

AITC will have an exhibit booth at the Northern California location.

Find more information on the Southern California event [HERE.](#)

[Virtual Farm Day](#)

February 27, 2025

Save the date for Ag in the Classroom's 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. More information is forthcoming.

See last year's Virtual Farm Day [HERE.](#)

[Sonoma County Ag Days](#)

March 11- 12, 2025

Sonoma County educators, bring your class to Ag Days at the Sonoma County Event Center at the Fairgrounds. See "Agriculture in Action" through interactive exhibits and demonstrations.

Kindergarten through 6th-grade students will have the opportunity to utilize their five senses to learn about the source of their food and fiber, visit with farm animals, and experience life on a farm. Students, teachers, and parents can talk with farmers and ranchers and learn how to work with the environment and natural resources to raise plants and animals.

Find more information [HERE.](#)

[Kern County Farm Day in the City](#)

March 19, 2025

8:30 am - 1:00 pm

Kern County event aimed at bridging the farm-to-table gap for 2nd – 4th-grade students. Students will experience exhibits ranging from livestock, and farm machinery, to various crops. Exhibitors are comprised of local farmers, ranchers, agricultural organizations, and high school FFA students who have a passion for agriculture education.

Find more information [HERE](#)

[Celebrating Ag Education](#)

Southern California Event

March 27, 2025

Calling all southern California agriculture enthusiasts!

Join us for a fundraising event in support of Ag

4 pm - 6 pm
The Blinn House
160 N Oakland Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91101

in the Classroom. Come for the heavy hors
d'oeuvres, drinks, and a silent auction. Stay to
network with industry leaders, supporters, and
teachers implementing ag in their classrooms.
Register [HERE](#).



Thank You Sponsors!



The James G. Boswell Foundation



ELIZABETH AND ROBERT
RENIERS



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
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