

CREAM OF THE CROP

A Harvest of Ideas for Educators

Fantastic Fact:

January sees the harvest of one of California's most well-known crops, the avocado!



Drumroll, please...

Introducing the 2024-2025
Imagine this... Story Writing Contest state winners.

California students in grades 3-8 creatively explored where their food and fiber come from by writing narrative stories. See who won [HERE.](#)

Each story is being illustrated by high school art students to be published in our annual *Imagine this...* book with a release date of March 2025.

New year, new Ag in the Classroom inspiration.

From free resources and programs to our annual conference and hands-on fun, we can help you make agriculture come alive for your students.

Step one, check out our recommended resolutions, mark your calendar, and get started!

2025 Resolutions

- ✦ Register for Virtual CA Farm Day February 27, 2025
- ✦ Attend the Ag in the Classroom Conference in Sacramento-September 26-28, 2025
- ✦ Apply for Literacy for Life Grant by October 1
- ✦ Have students submit stories to Imagine this Story Writing Contest by November 1
- ✦ Bring agriculture into my classroom by checking out FREE resources on LearnAboutAg.org



Registration is Open

Join us for an extraordinary virtual journey into California agriculture with California Farm Day.

Agriculture is more than tending crops and milking cows. Agriculture thrives on a diverse network of scientists, growers, mechanics, markets, educators...and many more who all play a role in getting California's 400 commodities from farm, field, or forest to you.

Through a mix of pre-recorded segments and live interactive hosts, classrooms will explore what it means to work in the wide and wonderful world of agriculture.

Our newest edition of the "What's Growin' On?" student newspaper with the theme of "Imagine your Future in Agriculture" will act as a guide for our Farm Day adventures.

Two programs, tailored to different grade levels, are available.

Register below:



Teacher Feature



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

Strawberries freshly picked!

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

When we started our school garden, I searched for resources and grant opportunities to help fund our program. That's when I discovered Ag in the Classroom and was grateful for all their resources.

How long have you been teaching students about agriculture?

I have been teaching students about agriculture for seven years.

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

The grants! Our program heavily relies on grants to keep it running. The Literacy for Life Grant allows us to bring literacy into our program and has awarded us with grants to support different projects, such as growing a blueberry patch and installing worm bins in a few of our garden beds.

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

Give students the opportunity to grow their own food!

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

Teach them how to prepare the food they grow. My students can't wait to make new recipes with the produce grown in our garden. While one of the top favorites is butternut squash mac and cheese, my students beg for seconds of our sauteed greens!

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

Harvesting potatoes! If you never had the chance to harvest potatoes, start growing them. Harvesting potatoes is so much fun! Kids are so surprised to find out how many potatoes they grew with just a few potato seeds!

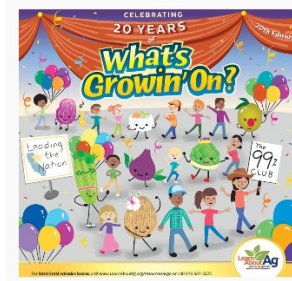
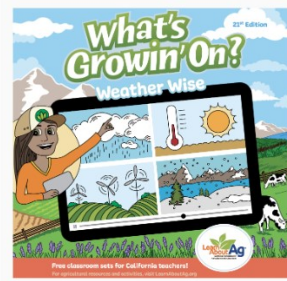
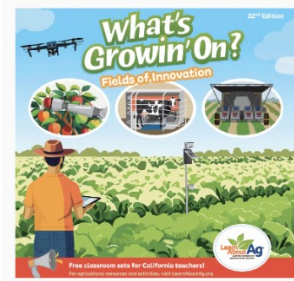
Why should teachers bring agriculture into their classrooms?

Most people are out of touch with where their food actually comes from. Understanding how much time and effort goes into growing our own food gives us a better appreciation for all the work our farmers do to get food to our tables.

BE OR NOMINATE A TEACHER FEATURE: EMAIL US HERE!

Featured Resource

Extra,
Extra...
Read All
About It!



The newest edition of our *What's Growin' On?* student newspaper is dropping soon. Until then, explore past issues, download, or order a class set today.

ORDER RESOURCE

Grow Kit Giveaway

Get growing! Ag in the Classroom received a supply of indoor, hydroponic grow kits, and we are offering them to California educators for FREE. Recipients simply have to pay the shipping charge.

The hydroponic gardens grow up to 9 of your favorite herbs, veggies, or flowers indoors and year-round, without soil.

One kit per California classroom, while supplies last.



ORDER RESOURCE



The California Fertilizer Foundation's (CFF) School Garden Program strives to increase the understanding and awareness of agriculture and plant nutrition in California's youth through school gardens.



Your School Could Receive a \$1,200 Grant!

Apply for a grant from the (CFF) to learn about plant nutrients and agriculture through a school garden!

California Fertilizer Foundation grant applications are accepted at any time and reviewed twice a year, March 30th and June 30th.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Celebrating Ag Education

California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom

MARCH 27, 2025 4 PM - 6 PM

THE BLINN HOUSE
160 N OAKLAND AVENUE
PASADENA, CA 91101

Join us for heavy hors d'oeuvres, drinks, a silent auction, and networking with industry leaders, supporters, and teachers who are implementing ag in their classrooms!

TICKET PRICE \$100

Purchase online at
learnaboutag.org/specialevents
or call (916) 561-5625

RSVP BY MARCH 6



EVENT REGISTRATION



**WE ARE
HIRING!**

OPEN POSITION: CURRICULUM DEVELOPER

Do you have a passion for agriculture literacy and education?

Be part of a team dedicated to increasing awareness and understanding of agriculture among California's educators and students. Ag in the Classroom is hiring a Curriculum Developer. The job description and application details are below.

APPLY HERE!

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

Burlingame, CA

The CTA Good Teaching Conferences support excellent teaching and learning practices for classroom teachers via peer-to-peer instruction. Find more information [HERE](#).

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

[CTA Good Teaching Conference-South](#)

March 22 - March 24, 2025

Garden Grove, CA

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

[Virtual Farm Day](#)

February 27, 2025

Join us as we explore the world of CA agriculture.

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

Register [HERE!](#)

[PreK-5th grade Program](#)

[Middle School-High School Program](#)

[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

4 pm - 6 pm

The Blinn House

160 N Oakland Avenue

Pasadena, CA 91101

Calling all southern California agriculture enthusiasts!

Join us for a fundraising event in support of Ag 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
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!