



□ Taste & Teach Applications Close on July 25th! □

Do you want to bring agriculture to life in your classroom? Join the Taste & Teach fun!

Selected teachers will receive a **\$200 grocery gift card**, sponsored by [Raley's](#) in Northern California and [Stater Bros. Markets](#) in Southern California, along with a resource full of ready-to-use lessons and hands-on activities.

Each month explores a new California-grown commodity through taste tests, nutrition lessons, and ag literacy connections. Taste testing is a powerful tool that encourages students to try new foods, expand their palates, and develop healthy habits.

Raley's and Stater Bros. believe so strongly in the impact of this program that they've increased their support, doubling the amount provided to teachers this year!

Hurry! Applications are due by July 25.

□ And great news—even if you're not selected for the gift card, all Taste & Teach resources are available to download for free!

APPLY TO TASTE AND TEACH

Thank you to our amazing partners!

Raley's

STATER BROS.
charities



California Agriculture in the Classroom Conference

September 26–28, 2025 | Sacramento, CA

Get ready to grow your teaching toolkit at the 2025 Ag in the Classroom Conference, taking place in the heart of California's Farm to Fork Capital—Sacramento! This unique professional development opportunity is designed for PreK–12 educators, administrators, and volunteers who are passionate about connecting students to the world of agriculture.

Whether you're brand new to ag literacy or a seasoned advocate, you'll walk away with fresh ideas, ready-to-use resources, and meaningful connections that support student learning across all subjects.

Here's what makes this year's conference a must-attend:

☐ Farmer Panel: Real Talk from the Field

Back by popular demand! Hear directly from California farmers as they share their challenges, successes, and stories from the farm. Ever wonder how a crop is timed or what it's like navigating weather, pests, and markets? This interactive session is your chance to ask, learn, and be inspired.

☒ Hands-On Learning: Make 'N' Takes

Get crafty and creative in our Make 'N' Take workshops! These quick, engaging sessions provide ideas you can bring straight back to your classroom, perfect for incorporating agriculture into science, art, language arts, and more. You'll leave with classroom-ready activities and a few fun projects of your own.

☐ Classroom Connections at Every Turn

Every session is designed with educators in mind. Learn how to weave food, farming, nutrition, and sustainability into your curriculum with simple, standards-aligned strategies. From building literacy with agricultural stories to using data from real farms in your math lessons, there's something for every grade level and teaching style.

☐ Looking for an Ag-Venture?

For those wanting to go beyond the classroom, Friday field trips will explore farms, food hubs, and school-based ag programs across the region, offering real-world context you can bring back to your students.

☐ **Bonus Friday Night Event: Terra Madre Americas Festival**

Wrap up the day with a celebration of global cuisine, chef demos, and cultural exchange at the Terra Madre Americas Festival, a flavorful evening of food, fun, and sustainability.

☐ **Registration Info:**

- Early Bird (May 2–August 11): \$345
- Regular (August 12–September 10): \$385
- Last Day to Register: September 10

☐ Don't miss your chance to join an inspiring community of educators bringing agriculture to life in the classroom.

REGISTER TODAY



***Imagine this...* Story Writing Contest is BACK!**

Calling all young California storytellers, grades 3–8!

Get ready to dream big, write creatively, and celebrate agriculture—*Imagine this...* is back for another exciting year!

Starting August 1, students in grades 3–8 are invited to submit original stories, real or imagined, based on accurate information about California agriculture. This unique contest blends storytelling with science, creativity with curriculum, and offers an unforgettable opportunity for young authors to shine.

Each year, one statewide winner per grade is selected. Their story is professionally illustrated by talented high school art students and published in a beautiful hardcover book that celebrates the voices of California's next generation.

☐ **Contest Timeline:**

- October 1: Submission Deadline
- November 1: Regional Winners Announced on our Website & Social Media
- December 1: State Winners Announced on our Website & Social Media

☐ **What's in it for the winners?**

- ☐ Be recognized as a published author
- ☐ Travel to Sacramento to be honored at the State Capitol (travel expenses covered)
- ☐ See your story brought to life by high school illustrators

- ❑ Take home a giant poster of your story's illustrated cover

Whether you're a teacher looking to kick off the school year with a meaningful language arts activity, or a parent with a creative young writer at home, this is the perfect opportunity to highlight California agriculture through the power of student voice.

- ❑ Submissions open August 1 – start brainstorming now!

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CONTEST



Teacher Feature



"My students are interested in agriculture, because of the meaningful experiential hands-on learning that agriculture literacy lessons facilitate. Additionally they love being able to eat the plants that they grew."

Leah Spielmaker
Teaches: 5th grade
Beach Park Elementary
Foster City, CA



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

My favorite commodity from California is lettuce.

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

I enjoy preparing lettuce in salads and putting it on sandwiches.

How long have you been teaching students about agriculture?

I've been teaching students about agriculture for six years.

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

My favorite AITC resource is the Agricultural Literacy Curriculum Matrix. I love how the Matrix contextualizes national education standards in science, social studies, and nutrition education with relevant instructional resources linked to Common Core Standards. I've used lessons from the Matrix for six years and integrated them into my district's adopted ELA, science and social studies curriculums. The resources in the Curriculum Matrix bring meaning to the content students are learning in their district's adopted curriculums. My favorite event is the National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference that is held each summer. The conference provides opportunities to meet inspiring educators, hands on learning and builds my knowledge of spreading agricultural literacy to my students in an engaging way.

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

I recommend determining how to integrate agriculture into your district issued curriculums. Once I determined how to mix the Curriculum Matrix's lessons into my district's pacing guide and still stay on track it was amazing to see the students engaging in meaningful experiences while learning agricultural literacy.

Any Ag-ha moments in your classroom?

My fifth graders were enthralled with ginning cotton bolls while learning about the role of cotton in American history. One student found 53 seeds in one cotton boll! During the lesson students began asking "Where does cotton grow?" and "If I planted this at my house would it grow?" My students were surprised to learn that the California cotton production industry ranks second in cotton production in the United States.

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

My students are interested in agriculture, because of the meaningful experiential hands-on learning that agriculture literacy lessons facilitate. Additionally they love being able to eat the plants that they grew.

Why should teachers bring agriculture into their classrooms?

Teachers should bring agriculture into their classroom for the specific purpose of adding context to the curriculum. Not only does teaching about agriculture provide essential context to address educational standards, bringing agriculture into your classroom will also increase agricultural literacy. It is important for all students to have the ability to communicate where we all get our food, clothing and shelter.

BE OR NOMINATE A TEACHER FEATURE: EMAIL US HERE!



Featured Resource

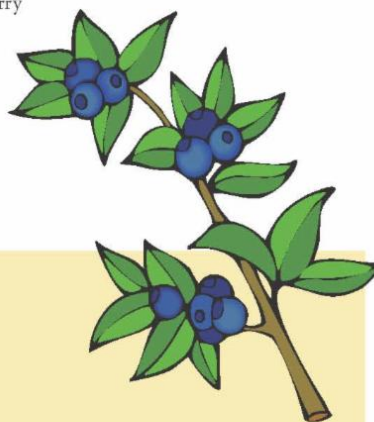
The Facts

Blueberries are one of the most versatile fruits that can be found in more than 4,000 different food products including pet food and cosmetics. A single serving, one cup, of fresh blueberries (approximately 75 to 80 berries) delivers a variety of vitamins and minerals, including 25% of the daily recommendation of Vitamin C. A serving of blueberries also offers the daily recommended amount of manganese, that plays an important role converting proteins, carbohydrates, and fats into energy. **Which blueberry snack fuels you with energy?**

Nutritious Blueberries Examination

1. Examine the 5 provided blueberry nutrition labels or use 5 labels from real blueberry products to analyze which snack option fuels you with energy.
 - a. Make sure to write down your initial claims in case they change.
2. Comparing the 5 blueberry nutrition labels, identify similarities and differences between the nutrition labels. Focus on the protein, fats, and carbohydrates.
3. Work with a partner to circle which food label you determine to be the healthiest choice for you and provides the body the most energy.
4. Write a Claim Evidence Reasoning (CER)* about why the selected blueberry food label provides a healthy snack option for a quick burst of energy and is the healthier option when compared to other choices.
5. Have students present their snack choice to the class and allow them to respond to feedback from their peers that may have chosen another blueberry food item.

* Claim Evidence Reasoning (CER): To do a proper CER make a claim, provide evidence that supports your claim. Then provide reasoning to defend your claim.



Materials

- Download a copy of the **Blueberry Nutrition Labels** for each group at LearnAboutAg.org/agbites. (Five real blueberry product labels can be used in place of the worksheets.)
- Download a copy of the CER worksheet for each student at LearnAboutAg.org/agbites.

Tip

When examining the nutritional label, always note the serving size per package or container.

Classroom Activities

- Determine which snack would provide the most energy using a conversion rate of carbohydrates, proteins, and fats.
- Research the pH level needed to grow blueberries and how it ties to where they are grown in California.
- Research the origin of blueberries using the Blueberry Fact and Activity Sheet at LearnAboutAg.org/resources/fact.
- Compare and contrast the appearance, growing methods, and market for organic and conventionally grown blueberries. Display the information in a graphic organizer.
- Use blueberries as a natural dye to make cloth art.
- Determine what percentage of the class likes each blueberry product provided. Create a graph with the class results.

California Standards

Grade 5

Health Education Content:
1.2.N, 1.6.N, 7.1.N

Grade 6

NGSS: MS-LS1-6
ELA CC: RST.6-8.1

Grades 7-8

Health Education Content:
1.2.N, 1.6.N, 5.1.N
ELA CC: RST.6-8.1



This is one in a series of Ag-Bites developed by CFAITC. Ag-Bites meet the standards of the California Department of Education, 2600 River Plaza Drive, Suite 220, Sacramento, CA 95833-3377 • (800) 700-AITC • info@LearnAboutAg.org • LearnAboutAg.org
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Resource Spotlight: Blueberries Ag-Bite

July is National Blueberry Month, making it the perfect time to feature our Blueberries Ag-Bite, a bite-sized, standards-aligned activity for grades 5–8 that brings nutrition and agriculture into the classroom! Students explore real-world nutrition labels from blueberry products and use critical thinking skills to determine which snack delivers the most energy. Through Claim-Evidence-Reasoning (CER) writing and classroom discussion, students sharpen their science, health, and ELA skills while learning about this antioxidant-packed fruit. The activity also includes fun science extensions like exploring blueberry pH levels and using blueberries as natural dye. Celebrate this superfruit with your students and dive into this deliciously educational lesson! Download the full activity at Learnaboutag.org/resources/bites/.



Grant Feature



AMERICAN FARM BUREAU
FOUNDATION
FOR AGRICULTURE

Christina Sue Lilja Resource Grant

Apply by July 21, 2025.

Applications are now open for the 2025 Christina Sue Lilja Resource Grants, a fantastic opportunity for educators to receive \$100 in store credit to purchase agricultural literacy materials from the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture (AFBFA) store. Formerly known as the White-Reinhardt Resource Grants, this program honors the legacy of Christy Lilja by supporting K–12 teachers in bringing accurate, engaging ag education resources into the classroom. Don't miss this chance to stock up on resources that help students understand the role of agriculture in their daily lives! Apply today at: agfoundation.org/grants-awards/christina-sue-lilja-resource-grants

APPLY FOR GRANT



LearnAboutAg®

☐ **Help Shape the Future of Ag Education – Join Our Pilot Testing List!**

Are you an educator who loves trying out new classroom resources before they go public? Want to make your voice heard and get compensated for your feedback? Join our CFAITC Pilot Testing Teacher List!

At California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom, we're constantly working to develop new, high-quality educational materials that connect students to the world of agriculture. A vital part of this process is partnering with real classroom teachers like you to test-drive our lessons, units, and activities.

By signing up, you'll be added to our go-to list of trusted educators that we can reach out to throughout the year as new projects arise. We're looking for teachers across all grades (Pre-K through 12) and all subjects who are passionate about hands-on learning, real-world connections, and helping shape future ag literacy tools.

☐ Yes, you'll be compensated for your time! Every pilot project comes with a stipend or gift card as a thank-you for your classroom testing and feedback.

☐ **Current Pilot Opportunities**

We're especially seeking teachers right now for:

- Middle School Science or Agriculture Classes
- Help test a new unit on Energy in Agriculture, exploring sustainability, innovation, and careers in the ag energy sector.
- Grades 3–5 Classrooms

- Try out a new hands-on lesson about Soil Health and how it impacts the food we eat and the planet we share.

Want In?

Sign up today to be added to our Pilot Testing Teacher List and be the first to know when new opportunities arise. You'll get early access to innovative resources, and your feedback will directly shape how we bring agriculture into classrooms across California.

Let's grow the future of education together—starting in your classroom!

[Join the List!](#)



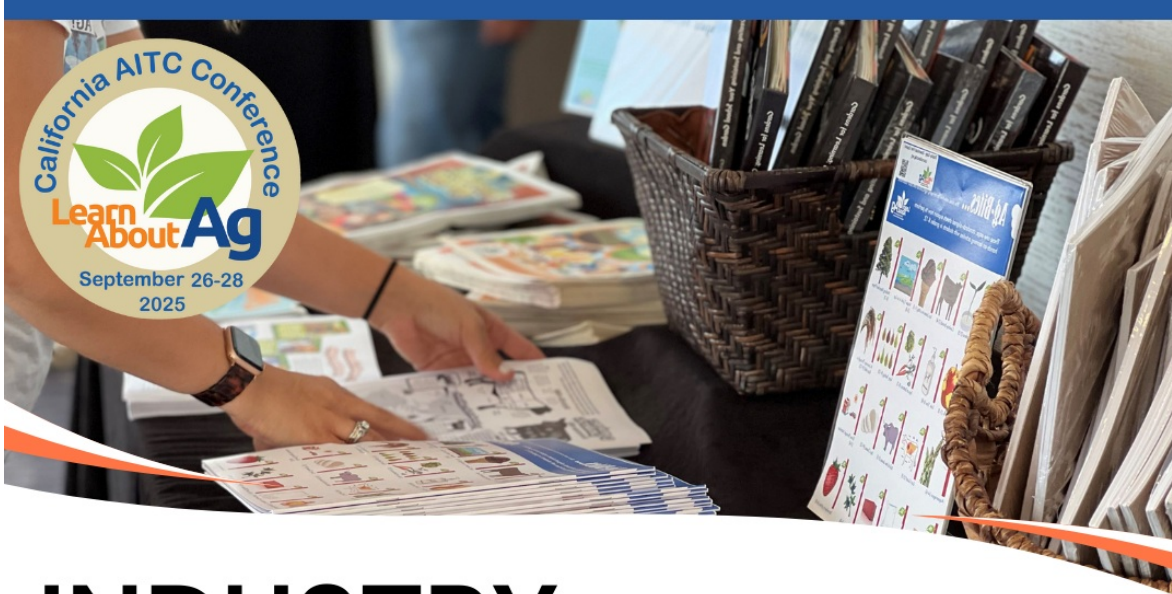
Calling All Presenters

Help others bring agriculture into the classroom by sharing your knowledge at the AITC Conference this fall in Sacramento.

We are accepting submittals for workshop presentations and Make 'N' Take presentations (short hands-on activities, where participants get to make, then take, their creations).

[Workshop Proposal Form](#)

[Make 'N' Take Proposal Form](#)



INDUSTRY RECEPTION

HILTON SACRAMENTO ARDEN WEST
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2025
5:00PM – 7:00PM

COST: \$250

1 table and 2 chairs will be provided

- Engage directly with 200–250 CA educators
- Showcase the resources, products, or services you have to offer
- Enjoy wine and heavy appetizers for up to 2 people

Agriculture industry organizations, partners and friends!

Join us for an exciting opportunity to showcase your organization and resources while networking with educators throughout the Golden State. See more information, below.

INDUSTRY RECEPTION INFORMATION



More Ways to LearnAboutAg



2025 VIRTUAL Conference

Free event!

THURSDAY,
JULY 17, 2025
9:00 A.M. CST

REGISTER NOW →



• BASF
We create chemistry

CHS



Visit the Purple
Plow Website

American Farm Bureau Foundation New Purple Plow Challenge

Start planning ahead for the fall with our newest Purple Plow Challenge- Water Wise Farms: Gravity in Action!

Challenge: How can we design better irrigation systems to use water wisely?

You can run a challenge with our week-long guide or our multi-week guide. Either one you select, you can enter to win a prize!

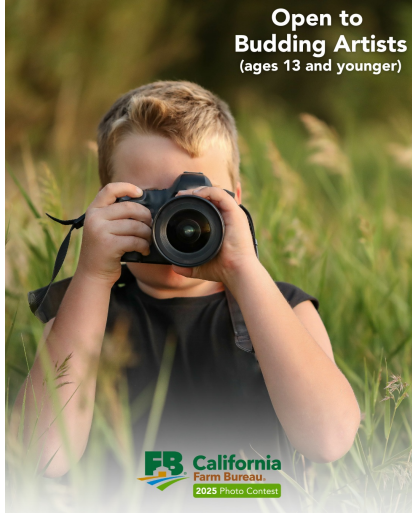


Community Events

Do you know a young photographer?



Children 13 and under can enter California Farm



Bureau's Photo Contest Budding Artists category for a chance to win up to \$250! Submit your best shots of farm life, food, harvests, animals, rural scenes and more.

Perfect for classrooms and young creatives at home.

Capture life on the farm and submit by Sept. 22
→ cfbf.com/photocontest

Not a member? Join today at cfbf.com/join.

Harvest Solutions Farm Youth Engagement Program

Come to Harvest Solutions Farm where the classroom comes to life!

12751 Lambert Rd, Irvine, CA 92618



Orientation and Check-in



Field Demonstration



Hands-on Farm Activities



Curriculum Discussion



We are welcoming 3rd-12th grade students to join us as we connect classroom lessons with hands-on activities! To inquire about available opportunities, please fill out our interest form using the QR code.

Harvest Solutions Farm Youth Engagement Program

About Harvest Solutions Farm:

Harvest Solutions Farm is a 40-acre farm program of Second Harvest Food Bank located at the University of California South Coast Research and Extension Center. The Youth Engagement Program (YEP) at Harvest Solutions Farm is designed to educate students about food and nutritional insecurity in their community and provide students with a service-learning opportunity in an urban agricultural setting.

What to Expect:

- **When:** Tuesday-Friday
- **Duration:** 2-3 hours
- **Where:** 12751 Lambert Rd,
Irvine, CA 92618



Field Trip Activities:

During their visit to the farm, students will have the opportunity to:

- **Plant, Weed, and Harvest:** Students will participate in hands-on activities such as planting crops, weeding fields, and harvesting produce on the farm, gaining a deeper understanding of agricultural processes.
- **Engage in Meaningful Discussions:** Through guided discussions, students will explore topics related to science, food systems, and farming, fostering critical thinking about sustainability and the impact of agriculture on the environment.

For more information, please reach out to the farm team via farmteam@feedoc.org. To inquire about available opportunities, fill out the interest request form using the QR code.





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Hours: Mon-Fri 7 AM to 6 PM | Sat 10 AM to 2 PM | CLOSED Sundays and National holidays



☐ **Have Something to Share?**

Do you have a community event or educational opportunity that would benefit the Ag in the Classroom network? We'd love to help spread the word!

Submit your event or resource for a chance to be featured in our next newsletter and connect with educators and ag advocates across California.

☐ Email details to: info@LearnAboutAg.org

Let's grow ag education together!

Thank You to Our Sponsors Who Help Agriculture Education Thrive!

We are grateful for our partners at every level, your support helps grow the future of ag.



The James G. Boswell Foundation

In Memory of Jean Landeen

Raley's

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FARM CREDIT

Agilent Farm Credit | American Ag Credit
Cibola | El Centro Valley Farm Credit
Herosa Modern Farms Credit
Golden State Farm Credit | Yosemite Farm Credit



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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!

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