



Calling all Educators!

California Agriculture in the Classroom Conference



September 26–28, 2025

Bring agriculture to life in your classroom with three days of inspiration, hands-on learning, and real-world connections!

Hear from experts leading the farm to school movement.

CAFETERIA TO CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS PANEL



Moderator:
Shannon Douglass
President, CA Farm Bureau



Michelle Drake
Director of Food and
Nutrition Services,
Elk Grove USD



Steve Hazelton
Chef, Leo A. Palmiter
Jr./Sr. High School



Lauren Krohn, MS, RDN
Founder, Sprout & Savor
Nutrition



Kat Taylor
Co-Founder,
TomKat Ranch Educational
Foundation

FARMER PANEL



Moderator:
Michael Marks
YOUR PRODUCE MAN



Jen Beretta
Beretta Family Dairy



Steven Filter
Farmer, Sutter County



Kim Gallagher
Farmer, Colusa County



Wynette Sills
Pleasant Grove Farms

REGISTER TODAY

Registration Closes September 10th!

Thank You to Our Conference Sponsors!

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



TOMKAT FOUNDATION



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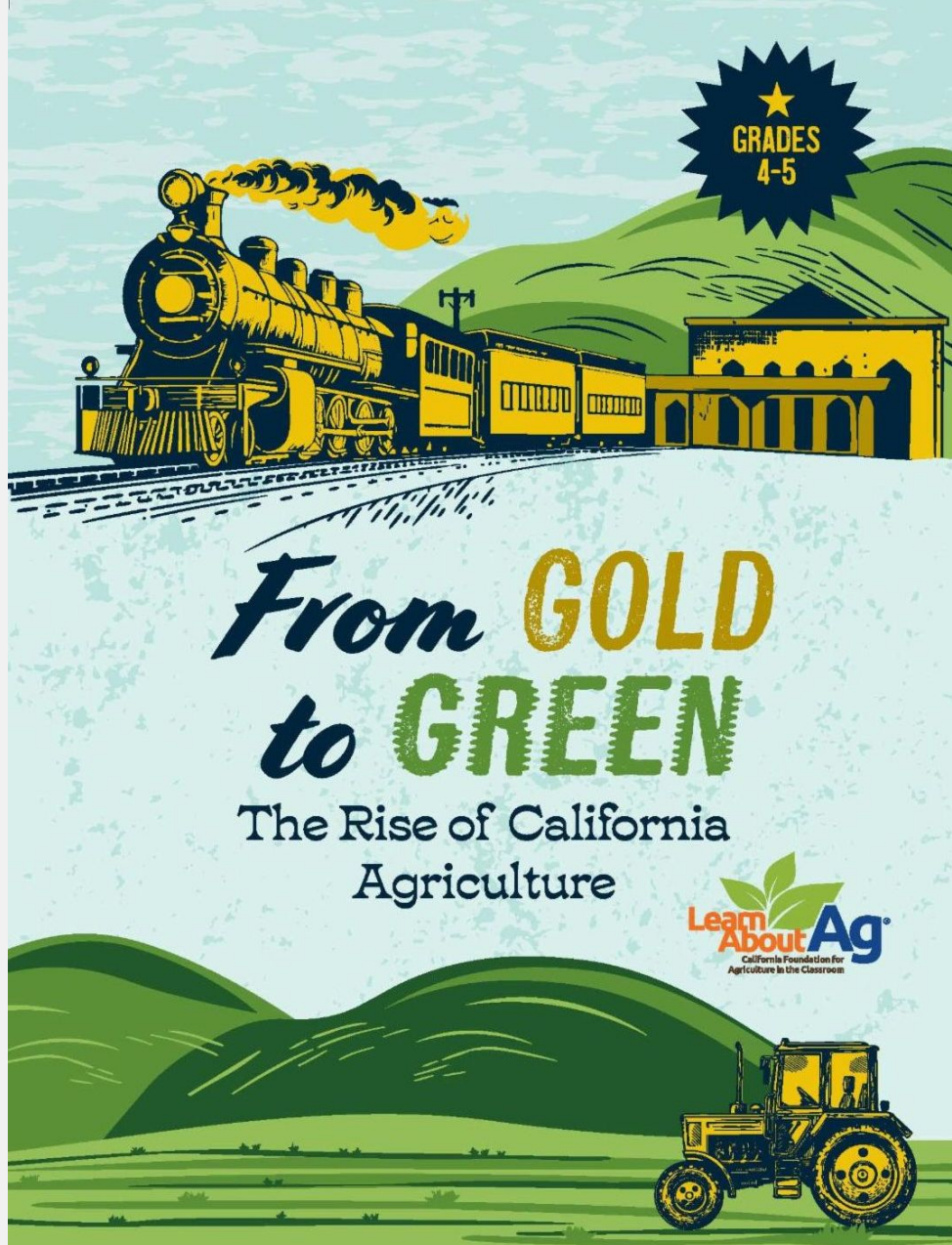


KAISER PERMANENTE®

**UC DAVIS
HEALTH**



Featured Resource



This three-lesson unit, designed for fourth and fifth grade students, focuses on the period of time following the California gold rush, and how the events during this time greatly impacted the agriculture economy we enjoy in California today.

The lessons feature immersive learning experiences that help deepen student understanding, while also increasing student engagement. These lessons can be used separately or together and may be taught in any order.

Download the full unit, below.

[SIGN UP HERE](#)



Grant Feature



Literacy for Life Grant Application is Open!



Applications for the Literacy for Life Grant, generously sponsored by the Oreggia Family Foundation, are now open! These \$750 grants support California K–12 educators in bringing agriculture into their classrooms through hands-on projects like gardens, farm days, taste tests, and field trips.

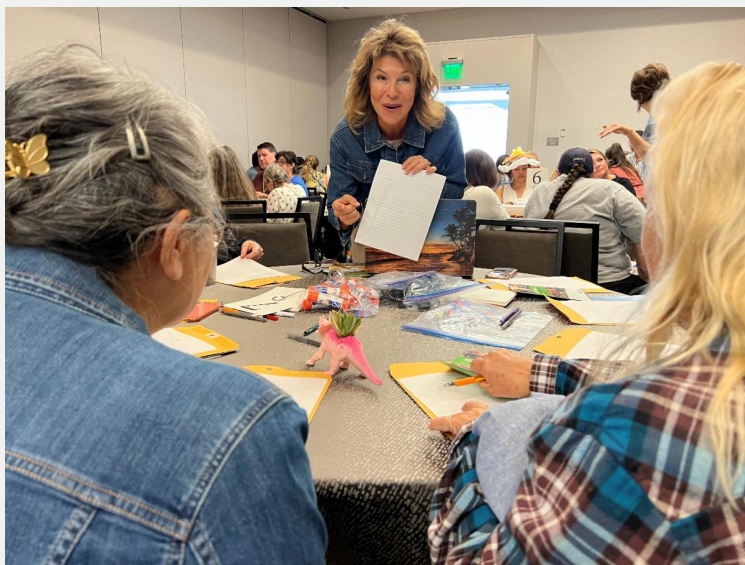
Need inspiration? [Explore](#) the list of project ideas and read how previous recipients have used this funding to improve agricultural learning opportunities on their campuses.

Deadline to apply: October 4, 2025

APPLY HERE



LearnAboutAg®



Growing Ag in YOUR Classroom

Calling all Ventura County educators!

Join us for a one-day professional development event designed to

equip educators with the tools, resources, and community connections needed to bring agricultural literacy into their classrooms.

The agenda will feature:

- A deep dive into Ag in the Classroom curriculum and programs including school gardens, Taste and Teach, and Seeds of Success!
- A Farm School Tour with turtles, turkeys, hoop houses, and more!
- Networking with other educators (maybe challenge them to a game on the giant chess board!)
- SEEAG and other local ag educators including hands on activities to inspire you in your classroom no matter how big or small!

This project is proudly supported by the **UC Thelma Hansen Fund**, whose commitment to fostering agricultural education and community engagement makes it possible to expand agricultural literacy across Ventura County schools. The scholarship is open to all teachers but in the case of a high number of applications, priority will be given to Ventura County teachers.

Who can apply: All educators

How many scholarships are available: 100 (Thank you Thelma Hansen!)

Event Details: All Day October 18th (specific time is coming)

Location: 1220 Fourth St Simi Valley, CA 93065

Lunch provided by [UC Thelma Hansen Fund](#) free of charge to scholarship awardees.

Questions? Contact Maureen McGuire at Maureen@farmbureauvc.com

SIGN UP HERE



Imagine this...
Story Writing Contest

Stories Due
November 1



**We Listened! *Imagine this...* Story Writing Contest
Deadline Extended to November 1
Deadline to Submit: November 1, 2025**

Calling all young California storytellers, grades 3–8!

Students in grades 3–8 are invited to submit original stories, real or imagined, based on accurate information about California agriculture.

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 book that celebrates the voices of California's next generation.

□ **Contest Timeline:**

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

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CONTEST



Bring Agriculture to Life in Your Classroom with Farm to Future!

Looking for a fun, engaging way to bring agriculture into your classroom? Sign up for a Farm to Future classroom visit from your local [Young Farmers & Ranchers \(YF&R\)](#) chapter!

The Farm to Future Literacy Project is a statewide outreach initiative connecting students with the people who grow their food, through interactive read-alouds, hands-on activities, and meaningful conversations about agriculture.

The best part is everything is ready to go, just sign up, and we'll match you with a trained YF&R member in your region!

SIGN UP HERE

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

Are you an educator who loves testing new classroom resources before they go public? Join our CFAITC pilot testing teacher list and help shape future ag literacy tools!



We're seeking Pre-K–12 teachers in all subjects to test lessons, units, and activities that connect students to agriculture. By signing up, you'll be added to our go-to list of trusted educators we reach out to throughout the year as new projects arise.

Every pilot project includes a stipend or gift card as compensation for your time and feedback.

[Join the List!](#)



Teacher Feature



"Students should engage with agriculture in as many ways as possible. Getting hands in the soil or food on a plate is often enough to spark that initial interest."

Meaghan Sands
Teaches: PreK - 6th grade
Crestview Preparatory School
La Canada Flintridge, CA



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

Honestly, it's tough to choose just one favorite, as California offers a wide variety of delicious options! If I had to decide, my current focus is on milk and dairy products. I've recently discovered cream-top whole milk and raw cultured butter, and I'm completely hooked. The quality of milk produced by some of our California dairies is exceptional, and having access to products like yogurt, butter, and cheese from these sources is a significant advantage.

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

I love the Taste and Teach program! We use it every year with our third-grade students, and it is always a success. We incorporate the program as a foundation to build hour-long lessons once a month. Students learn how different commodities are grown, harvested, and prepared right here in California. The program also provides an excellent opportunity for students to practice mindful eating, engaging all their senses to fully experience the food. Additionally, it's a great way to introduce students to new varieties of fruits and vegetables, as well as to explore how different processing techniques affect appearance, taste, smell, and texture.

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

My advice for teachers who want to incorporate agriculture into their classrooms is to start small. There are many activities suitable for elementary school students that don't require extensive time, planning, or long-term commitment. For instance, you could organize seasonal read-alouds, monthly tastings, or even grow simple plants like beans or turf grass in your windowsill. The key is to spark interest.

I also recommend finding at least one like-minded colleague. It can be easy to feel isolated, but many activities are more manageable and enjoyable when shared with others. I couldn't have achieved what I have with my students without the support, collaboration, and encouragement of my co-teacher Jamie.

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

Hands-On Learning! Students should engage with agriculture in as many ways as possible, and it doesn't need to be anything extravagant. Getting hands in the soil or food on a plate is often enough to spark that initial interest. Much of agriculture involves reaping the rewards of hard work put in season after season. Students can experience this same satisfaction through activities that allow them to achieve something meaningful. I can attest that even a failed cooking lesson or a ruined vegetable garden can leave students intrigued and motivated to learn more.

Why should teachers bring agriculture into their classrooms?

I believe it is essential for teachers to incorporate agriculture into their classrooms, as it enables students to reconnect with the land and their food. This is especially important for teachers in urban or suburban areas that do not have regular access to farmland. If we want students to make informed decisions about what they eat and to care about the world around them, then we need to provide them opportunities to experience it and take safe risks.

BE OR NOMINATE AT TEACHER FEATURE: EMAIL US HERE!



More Ways to Learn About Ag

Don't Miss Our Monthly

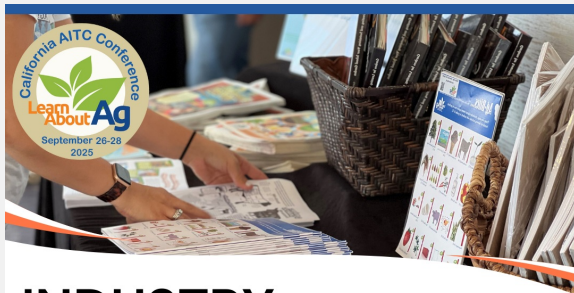


Feature on *What's in Season* with Michael Marks

Ag in the Classroom is featured every month on the streaming show *What's in Season with Michael Marks*! Each month, we team up to share fresh, hands-on ideas for connecting agriculture to classroom learning in fun and meaningful ways.

Thank you to Your Produce Man and CBS13 Sacramento for continuing to help us shine a spotlight on agricultural education. Tune in next month for another fresh take on food and farming!

WATCH THE LATEST
SEGMENT



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. Click the button below to learn more.

INDUSTRY RECEPTION
INFORMATION

DOWNLOAD AND PLAY FOR FREE



JOURNEY2050.COM
SCHOOL EDITION

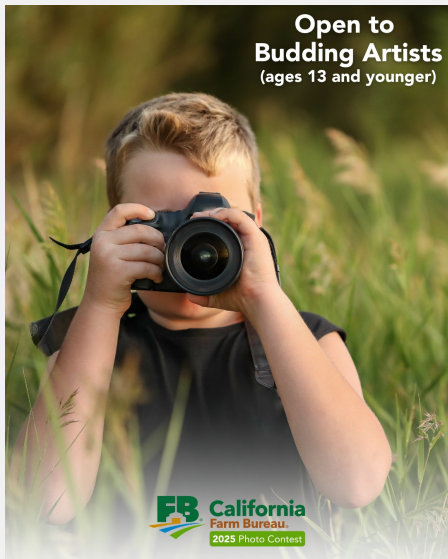


FARMERS2050.COM
HOME EDITION





Community Events



Do you know a young photographer?

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.

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



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!



Support LearnAboutAg®

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 agriculture.



The James G. Boswell Foundation

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Cobank | Calhoun-Green Farm Credit
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**In Memory of Jean
Landeem**

**Reniers Family
Charitable Fund**



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