



# CREAM OF THE CROP

Your monthly roundup of new resources, grants, upcoming events, and inspiring teacher features.

**Join us for Ag Day at the California State Capitol as we celebrate California agriculture!**

Ag Day is an annual event that highlights the state's diverse crops and connects the agricultural community with leaders and the public through education.



[More Info Here](#)

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## **Strike Gold in Your Classroom: Teaching California Agriculture After the Gold Rush**

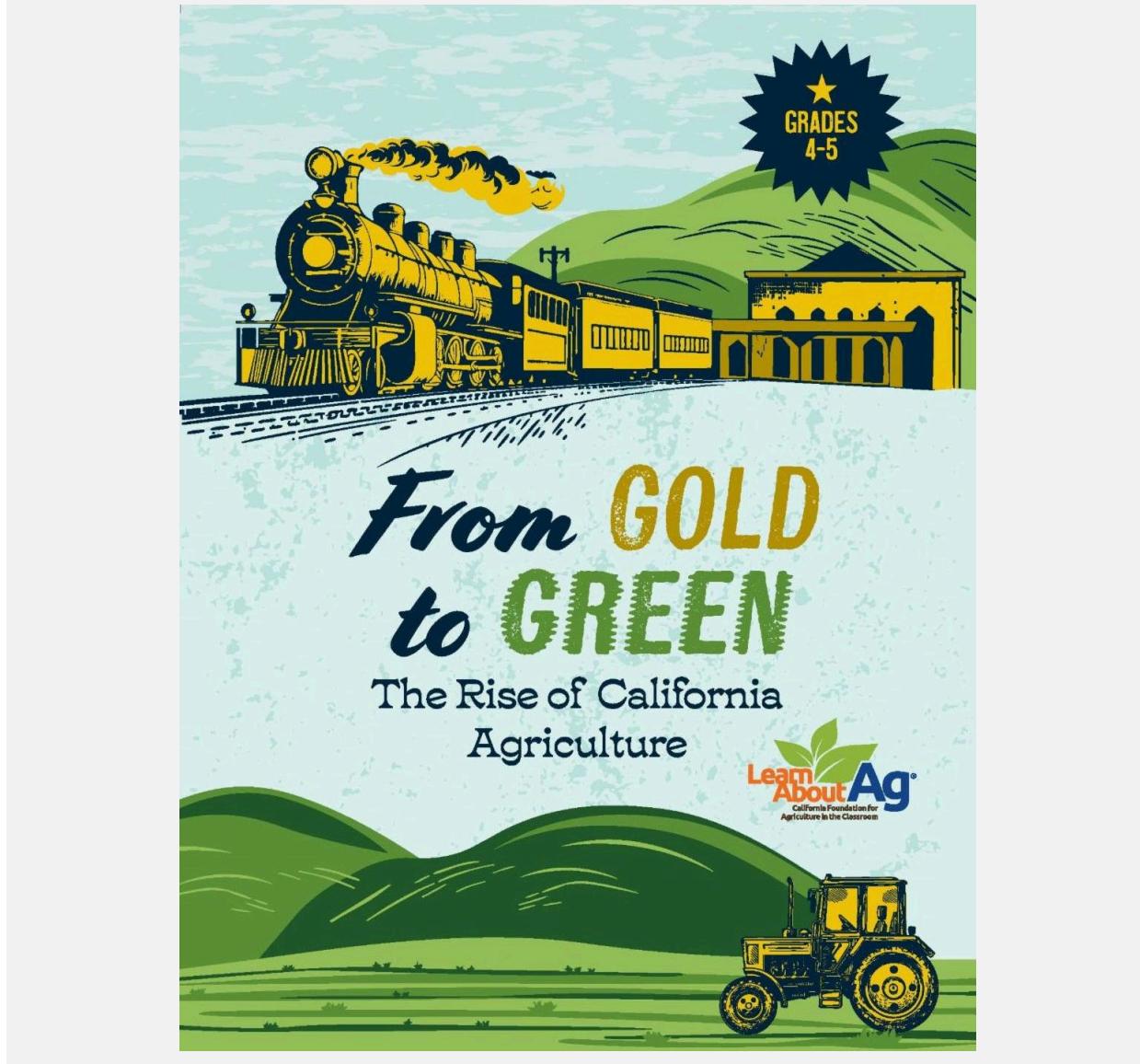
Looking for a fresh, engaging way to teach California history in grades 4–5? This interactive webinar will help you strike gold with From Gold to Green: The Rise of California Agriculture, Ag in the Classroom's newest standards-aligned curriculum.

Designed by educators, this three-lesson unit invites students to explore how farming replaced mining, how railroads connected farms to markets, and how innovation shaped California's agricultural future.

Join us to get classroom-ready tools, implementation tips, and a chance to win door prizes!

**February 25, 2026 from 4:00pm - 5:00pm**

[Register Here](#)



I'm Presenting!



Marjie Zarinelli

Curriculum Developer, CA Ag in the Classroom  
Register at [www.ccss.org/conference](http://www.ccss.org/conference)

**CCSS** California Council  
for the Social Studies

## CA Council for the Social Studies Conference

Attending the 2026 CA Council for the Social Studies Conference?

Don't miss our curriculum developer Marjie Zarinelli presenting Gold to Green: The Rise of California Agriculture. Join us to explore engaging activities and take home ready-to-use resources!

**Deadline to Register: February 20, 2026**

**Register Here**

# Forestry Institute for Teachers

## 2026 Summer Program

Ready to take your teaching beyond the classroom? Step into the forest with the Forestry Institute for Teachers this summer. FIT offers immersive in-woods professional learning experiences designed for both formal and nonformal educators. Registration is all-inclusive, covering on-site accommodations, meals and resources; you just have to get there!



### Forestry Institute for Teachers Summer 2026 Sessions



#### ***Where Environmental Literacy & Forest Stewardship Take Root***

Looking to grow your teaching practice beyond the classroom? Immerse yourself in California Forestry with a professional learning experience unlike any other! FIT blends engaging, field-based training alongside credentialed instructors with real-world insights from subject-matter experts to explore stewardship of our state's forest resources and expand your environmental education toolkit.



Learn more and apply at [forestryinstitute.org](http://forestryinstitute.org)

#### **Participants Receive**

- Certification in Project Learning Tree ([PLT](#)) & Project Water Education Today ([WET](#))
- Standards-aligned pedagogical support, curricula, and teaching resources
- Networking with peers and professionals
- 3 Continuing Education Units - eligible for purchase upon program completion
- \$200 curriculum project stipend post-session

*"I'm excited to engage students in meaningful forest discussions and open young minds to alternative points of view." - El Dorado Participant*

#### **Programming made possible with support from**



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#### **2026 Week-Long Sessions**

Session	Location	Date
El Dorado	Georgetown	June 14 - 20
Tuolumne	Sonora	June TBD
Humboldt	Arcata	July 11 - 17
Shasta	Shingletown	July 19 - 25

Registration covers room, board and materials  
Early bird discount ends Dec. 31st / \$150 after

#### **Who Can Attend?**

Past participants include TK-12+ credentialed educators, preservice teachers, nonformal educators, administrators, curriculum specialists, and program leads. Whether attending solo or as a team, build a rich community of learning with your session's cohort and grade-band breakout groups.



If returning as a FIT Graduate review FAQs

The University of California Division of Agriculture & Natural Resources (UC ANR) is an equal opportunity provider (complete nondiscrimination policy statement can be found at <http://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/files/169224.pdf>) inquiries regarding ANR's nondiscrimination policies may be directed to UC ANR, Affirmative Action Compliance Officer, University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources, 2801 second street, Davis, CA 95618, (530) 750-1343

**Register and Apply Here**



Ag in the Classroom will be at the conference!

Stop by our exhibit table to explore our newest **free** classroom resources. Come say hello and pick up materials for your classroom.

[Register Here](#)

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## January 2026 Teacher Feature

**"The CA economy depends on agriculture, and the fruits and vegetables grown in CA feed our nation and world. It's important for kids to know where their food comes from."**

**Becky Van Nest  
2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher  
Golden Empire Elementary School  
Sacramento, CA**

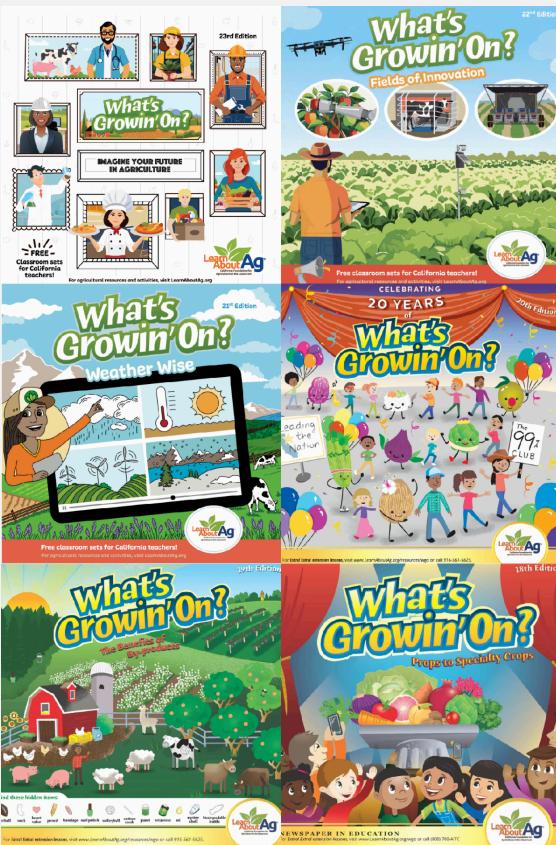


**What is your favorite AITC program, resource, or event, and why?**

I love the Taste and Teach program. My class gets the opportunity to learn about the health benefits of eating a diet rich in fruits and vegetables from the lessons. They also get the chance to sample/try the fruits and vegetables we learn about in class. They get very excited during the tasting portion of the lesson and get brave enough to try many commodities they may have never eaten at home before. I've noticed that kids who never eat vegetables in the cafeteria find the courage to try them during the taste and teach lessons.

**To read Mrs. Van Nest's full feature, click [HERE!](#)**

**NOMINATE OR BE A TEACHER FEATURE**



## Request Classroom Sets of *What's Growin' On?*

This **free** resource is a 16-page educational newspaper that highlights California's vibrant and diverse agricultural industry. Filled with engaging activities, trivia, graphics, and readings, it offers something for every learner.

[Request Free Set](#)

**Save the Date**

# VIRTUAL CA FARM DAY

March 18, 2026





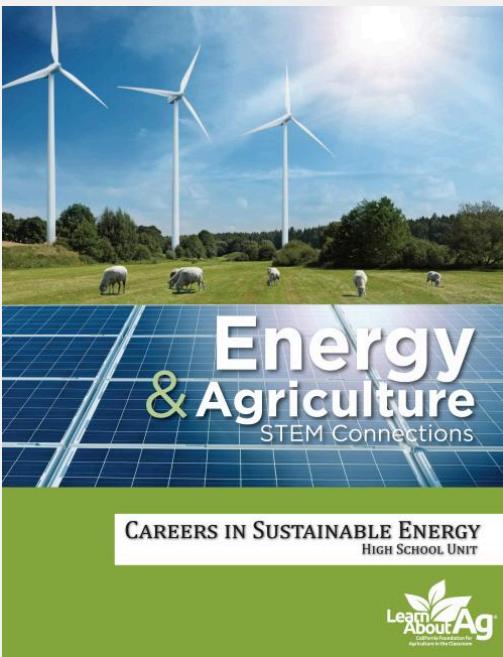


**Join us for an extraordinary virtual journey through California agriculture!**

Classrooms across the state are invited to explore the Farm to School theme through a dynamic mix of pre-recorded video segments and live interactive hosts. Discover firsthand how agriculture connects us all!

**Registration opens  
January 15, 2026**

[Learn More Here](#)



## Featured Resource: Energy & Agriculture STEM Connections

This five-lesson unit for grades 9–12 features inquiry-based labs and real-world challenges that connect energy concepts to food production.

[Request Here](#)

## Thank You Sponsors!



The James G. Boswell Foundation



ELIZABETH AND ROBERT RENIERS



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