



# Welcome to the fun of learning about California Agriculture!

We hope you enjoy the resources developed by Agriculture in the Classroom and find them helpful and exciting as your students LearnAboutAg®!



## What is Agriculture in the Classroom?

Agriculture in the Classroom is designed to help kindergarten through twelfth grade students acquire the knowledge necessary to understand where their food and fiber comes from. Through various programs and resources, educators are encouraged to incorporate agriculture into their lessons in all subject areas and to point out the important role agriculture plays in our economy, society, and daily lives.

California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom (CFAITC) is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing educators with free, quality resources, trainings, and information to enhance students' understanding of California agriculture.

## Why Teach About Agriculture?

Agriculture is everywhere. It is the food we eat, the clothes we wear, the houses we live in, and the plants we enjoy. A well-rounded education should include hands-on experiences and true-to-life learning at the most fundamental level. By exposing students to agriculture through engaging lessons and activities, we hope students will be inspired to continue to learn about food and fiber and, ultimately, gain an appreciation for all that agriculture provides.

## When to Teach About Agriculture?

You don't have to be an agriculture instructor to incorporate agriculture into your classroom. The time is right now! Ag in the Classroom creates resources that allows teachers to weave agriculture into all subject areas. We have simple activities that can be implemented in minutes, as well as units that can be used for a longer course of study. All our resources are aligned to California Education Standards.

## How Can You Teach About Agriculture?

Ag in the Classroom has developed hundreds of FREE resources for you to use in any educational environment. All resources are available online for download and most are available to order free of charge. Watch this video to see how a few teachers use agriculture in the classroom – [LearnAboutAg.org/LetsGetStarted](http://LearnAboutAg.org/LetsGetStarted).

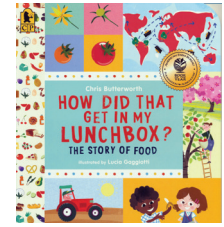
**Check out our favorites on the next page!**

# Where do I Start?

## LEVEL 1 – LET'S GET STARTED!

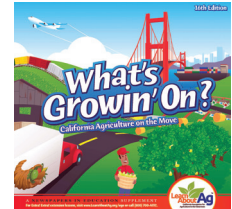
### Agriculturally-themed Books

Books are a great way to incorporate agriculture into your classroom! Use books to start the conversation about agriculture. Download our book list, Great Reads About Agriculture, at [LearnAboutAg.org](http://LearnAboutAg.org).



### What's Growin' On? Student Newspaper

This 16-page educational newspaper, aligned for grades 3-8, highlights California's vibrant and diverse agricultural industry with current and accurate information. A variety of activities, trivia, graphics and readings provide something for every learner. Activities are aligned to California Education Standards. Free classroom sets are available to California teachers.



### Agriculture Fact and Activity Sheets

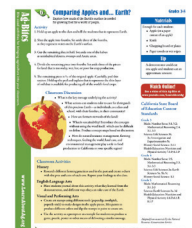
Each sheet in the Agricultural Fact and Activity Set introduces an agricultural commodity, plant nutrient, or topic providing basic information. The sheets provide ideas for using this information in a lesson or activity. Use as a resource for teacher education or share with your students for research and reporting or reading comprehension.



## LEVEL 2 – I'M WARMING UP!

### Ag-Bites

Ag-Bites are bite-sized activities to bring agriculture into your classroom. These one-page sheets explain how to perform hands-on learning activities with students in a variety of grade levels. Most activities can be completed in an hour or less.



### Taste and Teach

Taste Tests are a fun way to introduce agriculture into the classroom. Tasting fruits and vegetables in the classroom gives students access to new-found knowledge that will help them make improved food choices for lifelong health! Taste tests are also low-cost and easy to implement!



### Imagine this... Story Writing Contest

Third through eighth grade students write creative stories about their favorite agricultural topic for the *Imagine this...* Story Writing Contest for the chance to be selected as one of six state-winning authors! Stories are illustrated by high school art students and published into a book that is used throughout the state to teach students about agriculture.

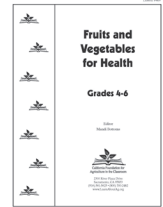


# Teaching About Ag is Easy!

## LEVEL 3 – I'M ALL IN!

### Lesson Plans and Units

Lesson plans and units for every grade level have been designed, field tested, and reviewed by educators. Cooperative learning, individual and group problem solving, and critical thinking activities encourage students to learn about California agriculture while developing skills in science, mathematics, reading, language arts, history-social science, health and nutrition, and the visual and performing arts. Each unit can be downloaded from [LearnAboutAg.org](http://LearnAboutAg.org).



### CA Agriculture in the Classroom Conference

Ag in the Classroom hosts an annual teacher conference that includes a wide range of exciting and informative roundtable sessions, workshops, exhibits, field trips, and more. This agriculturally-themed conference provides teachers with free, factually-accurate, teacher-tested curriculum, support for nutrition education, and agricultural awareness for every grade level. Conference attendees learn new skills, network with industry professionals, and discover exciting resources that connect California students to the industry that provides our daily needs. Scholarships are available to assist teachers in attending the California conference. Additionally, the National Agriculture in the Classroom Organization hosts a teacher conference in a different region of the United States each year.



### Grant Opportunities

Ag in the Classroom offers three grant opportunities that promote agricultural literacy within the classroom.

- **Literacy for Life** grants, sponsored by the Oreggia Family Foundation, are designed to help initiate new projects or expand existing ones that promote agricultural literacy. Grants of up to \$500 are provided to California K-12 educators to support the integration of agriculture into regular classroom instruction.
- **Look at agriculture...Organically!** grants, in collaboration with California Certified Organic Farmers Foundation, are designed to creatively enhance the understanding of organic agriculture for kindergarten through eighth grade students. Up to \$1,000 is provided to educators nationwide to support the integration of organic agriculture into the classroom.
- **Taste and Teach** grants provide selected teachers with a \$100 gift card to Raley's, Bel Air and Nob Hill or Stater Bros. grocery stores to purchase featured California-grown commodities (fruits, vegetables and nuts) each month. Participants also receive a binder full of helpful resources, including instructions on how to lead students in a taste test while meeting California Education Standards.

## STAY CONNECTED

@LearnAboutAg

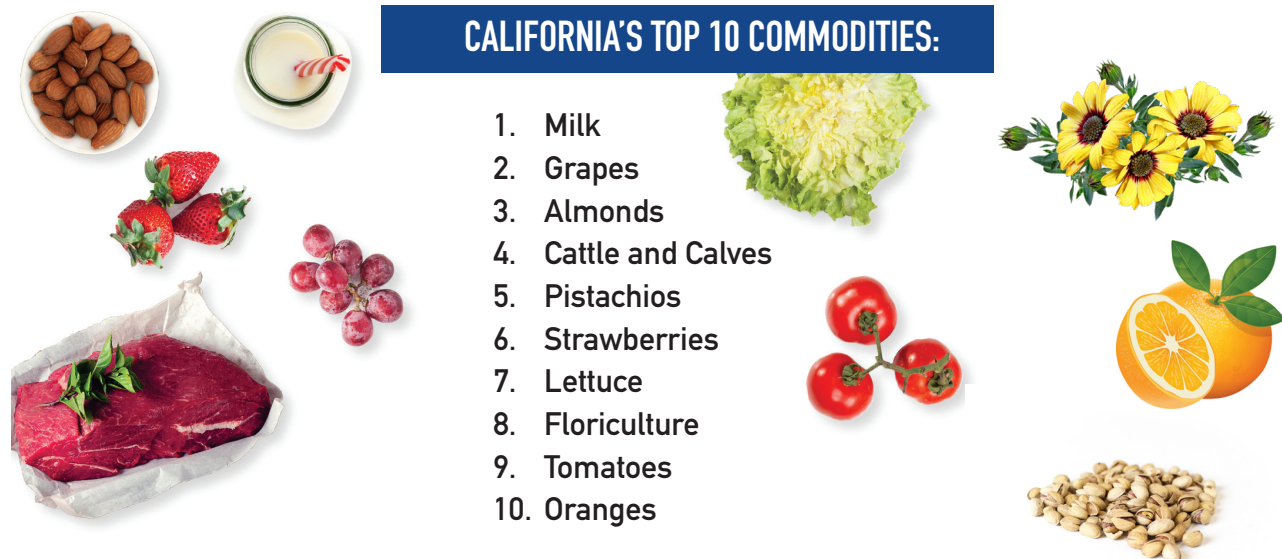


Subscribe to our Cream of the Crop monthly E-newsletter: [LearnAboutAg.org/about/newsletter.cfm](http://LearnAboutAg.org/about/newsletter.cfm)



# California Agriculture Overview

California is the top agriculture producing state in the country. What does that mean? It means we produce more food, fiber, flowers, forest, and fuel than any other state. The Top-Ten commodities all fall into these five categories—The five “F”s of Agriculture. Look around you, wherever you live, there are ranches and farms that grow these commodities. More than 400 different commodities grow right here in California.



## The Five F's of Agriculture:

1. **Food:** Farmers and ranchers grow many different types of food, from the strawberries growing in fields, to the hamburger and bacon on your dinner plate.
2. **Fiber:** Cotton from plants and wool from animals are types of textile fiber that we use and wear every day.
3. **Flowers:** Cut flowers, nursery plants, house plants and landscaping plants are all a part of agriculture.
4. **Forests:** Trees from forests are used to make more than 5,000 products we use every day, from paper to pencils to the furniture for your house.
5. **Fuel:** There are many uses of energy on the farm. Cow manure is made into fuel that can heat or cool buildings and ethanol from corn is used to fuel cars, trucks and tractors.

Download our “California Agriculture Farming is Everywhere” Coloring Book for more activities on the Five F’s of Agriculture.  
[LearnAboutAg.org/resources/teaching.cfm](http://LearnAboutAg.org/resources/teaching.cfm)

## Resources in Your Community:

- California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom: [LearnAboutAg.org](http://LearnAboutAg.org)
- National Agriculture in the Classroom Organization: [agclassroom.org](http://agclassroom.org)
- California Farm Bureau Federation and County Farm Bureaus: [cfbf.com/county-farm-bureaus](http://cfbf.com/county-farm-bureaus)
- UC Cooperative Extension: [ucanr.edu/county\\_offices](http://ucanr.edu/county_offices)
- California CattleWomen: [cattlewomen.org](http://cattlewomen.org)
- California Women for Agriculture: [cawomen4ag.com](http://cawomen4ag.com)
- Dairy Council of California: [healthyeating.org](http://healthyeating.org)

## Questions? Contact us!

916-561-5625 | [info@LearnAboutAg.org](mailto:info@LearnAboutAg.org) | [LearnAboutAg.org](http://LearnAboutAg.org)  
2600 River Plaza Dr. #220, Sacramento, CA 95833

