



# Welcome to the California Agriculture in the Classroom Conference 2021

**V**irtual but Vital. We are so excited to collaborate and share California agriculture with all of you, virtually! This is our 34th annual conference for educators, and our second online. I hope you are ready to enjoy your time with us as we explore California agriculture together!

California agriculture is diverse—producing everything from vegetables, to milk, to fruits and nuts, and to field crops and livestock. Farming shapes the local landscape in each California county. We want to make sure your students learn about agriculture and how it contributes to each and every one of our lives, each and every day.

Teaching students about the journey their food and fiber undergoes from the farm to their everyday lives is an important message. Using Agriculture in the Classroom allows students to experience real life lessons that they will remember for the rest of their lives.

Although our conference lasts only two days, we hope you continue to LearnAboutAg® all year long! We continue to receive so many messages about how this conference has helped in your classroom and made a difference in the lives of your students and we are here to help you continue incorporating the theme of agriculture into your classroom, or for those of you new to our program, how to get started!

We look forward to “seeing” you on Zoom!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Judy Culbertson'.

Judy Culbertson  
Executive Director

Register and keep an eye out for an  
email with Zoom links!

**Date:** *Friday, Sept. 24*

**1:30 pm      Pre-Conference Virtual Tour Hosted by Dairy Council of California**

Explore first-hand the anatomy of a cow, see how dairy cows are fed, understand the journey of milk, and so much more! Bring agricultural literacy straight to your students by experiencing a Mobile Dairy Classroom Assembly. The Dairy Council of California will be exploring dairies in both Northern and Southern California.

**3:00 pm      Welcome and Introductions**

- **Judy Culbertson, Executive Director**  
*California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom*  
Welcome to the 2021 California Agriculture in the Classroom Conference
- **Karen Ross, Secretary**  
*California Department of Food and Agriculture*  
Importance of Agricultural Literacy for Teachers and Students
- **Jamie Johansson, President**  
*California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom*  
Thank you on Behalf of Agriculture

**3:30 pm      Live Virtual Tour: Tomato Harvesting**  
***Bruce Rominger, Rominger Brothers Farms***  
***Andy Russick, Pacific Coast Producers***

Hop on a harvester in the Sacramento Valley! California is the top producer of processing tomatoes in the country. See what farm to fork is all about by experiencing how processing tomatoes are harvested and then how they are canned into some of our favorite products within just a few hours.

**4:45 pm      Got Dirt? Safe Gardening and California Crops**  
***Carrie Robertson, Paul Revere Charter Middle School***

Explore ways to teach tool safety, managing groups outside, avoiding liability issues in the garden while developing unique projects that focus on California crops using the California Grows map. Whether online or in person, make this map the anchor of your agriculture instruction to create beautiful Open House worthy projects.

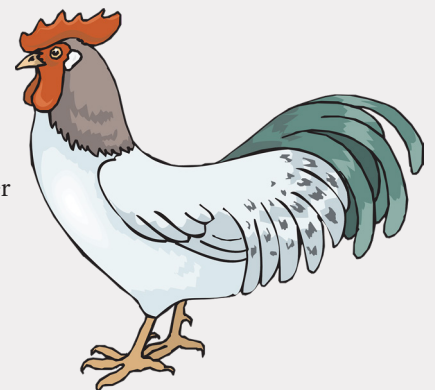
**5:35 pm      Ports - The Gateway of Trade and Transport**  
***Luana España, Port of Oakland***

Explore how ports are a critical key to imports and exports in agriculture. Through lessons and activities, students will create a scale model of a shipping container and learn about agricultural commodities that are shipped around the world!

**6:05 pm      Sip & See: Exhibitor Happy Hour**

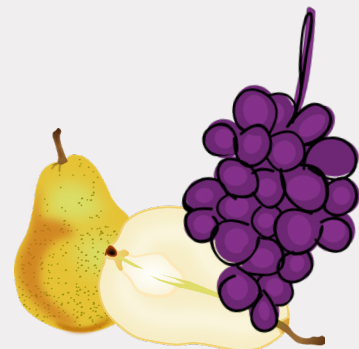
Grab your favorite beverage and join us to learn from other agricultural organizations that can help make agriculture come alive for your students. Each exhibitor has 5 minutes to share and a door prize to give away.

\*See list on last page of program.



**Date:** *Saturday, Sept. 25*

- 8:30 am**      **Making Agriculture Come Alive with Ag in the Classroom**  
*Christine Torosian-Klistoff*  
2020 California Foundation for Ag in the Classroom Outstanding Educator of the Year  
2021 National Excellence in Teaching About Agriculture Award Recipient  
**What's New With Ag in the Classroom?**  
*Judy Culbertson, Executive Director*  
California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom
- 9:15 am**      **Live Virtual Tour: Auburn Old Town Farmers' Market**  
*Carol Arnold, PlacerGROWN*  
Tour one of the oldest certified Farmers' Market in the state! What makes it tick? Find out the secret sauce to produce purchases, and the top three tips for YOUR next Farmers' Market adventure. Elementary school teacher Lisa Liss is meeting us at the market! Hear how she uses California fruits and vegetables in her classroom and how you can, too!
- 10:30 am**      **Source Sleuth – Finding Reliable Food News**  
*Mandi Bottoms, CA Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom*  
For many consumers, it's hard to determine whether an online source is credible or not. Since information on the internet can be created—or in some cases fabricated—by any user, it's easy to present false information as fact. So, how can we find credible sources, especially when it pertains to the food we eat? In this workshop, participants will get an in-depth look at new resources that help students learn strategies for identifying credible sources about food.
- 11:15 am**      **Harvesting Knowledge Through Reading**  
*Laura Hatheway, Learning with Laura and Sacramento State University*  
An engaging and read aloud based approach to infusing agriculture into your classroom. Read-alouds can be fun, enriching and engaging, and with the right book selection it can be all three! Strategic book choice can lead your students on a journey that sparks appreciation for agriculture. In this workshop, participants will learn how to implement read-aloud lessons based on agriculture and lead literacy based discussions.
- 11:45 am**      **Making Photosynthesis Fun for all Ages**  
*Christie Fuso, Joseph Kerr Middle School, Elk Grove*  
Photosynthesis is life's primary energy source! Discover innovative and science-based lessons and activities that will make learning about photosynthesis fun for all ages utilizing materials found around your school or house.
- 12:20 pm**      **Farmer Panel: Challenges Facing Agriculture**
  - Moderator: Gary Sack, California Farm Bureau
  - Mitchell Yerxa, River Vista Farms, Colusa County
  - Jennifer Beretta, Beretta Family Dairy, Sonoma County
  - Steven Filter, Filter Farms, Sutter County
- 1:30 pm**      **Closing**
- 1:45 pm**      **Replay of Pre-Conference Virtual Tour**  
**Hosted by Dairy Council of California**



# Acknowledgments

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Maureen Tolson

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## Exhibitors

Our virtual exhibitors are great partners and have great resources to help your students LearnAboutAg®!



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