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1. Teacher Feature - Sharla Ashburn

Teaches: Eighth Grade

School: Live Oak Middle School in Tulare, California

Sharla Ashburn's student, Tyce Griswold was a state-winner in the 2015 *Imagine this...* Story Writing Contest, for his story *The Calf Ranch*.



California Foundation for
Agriculture in the Classroom

DID YOU KNOW?!

Calves [gain 50-70% of their final weight](#) before they are weaned from their mother.

Why did you participate in *Imagine this...*?

I liked the way the contest incorporated Common Core, twenty-first century standards for creativity. I saw it as another way for students to engage and be creative and use the things I had taught them about narrative writing, whether it was something they researched or whether it was something personal. It's another way for them to engage themselves in that process and hopefully something that inspires them.

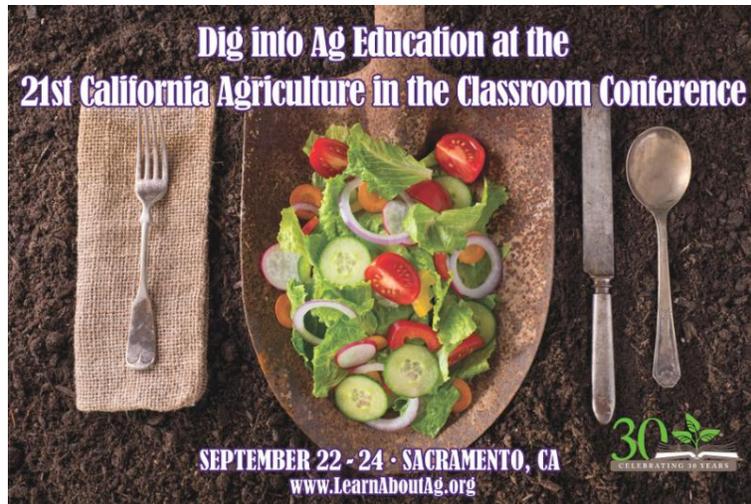
Why is it important for students to Learn About Ag?

In California, and especially in Tulare County, agriculture is our livelihood. It's really important for students to realize that you don't get milk from the store. There's a whole process, and a lot of people involved in that process, and they're doing some really important things so we can eat. I also want students to know it's our people, the people in Tulare County, that have a big part in that. It's a matter of being proud of who we are.

Watch this! Sharla and her student, Tyce, are [interviewed](#) about the contest. See the [entire collection of 2015 Imagine this... Story Writing Contest videos](#). Download the [entry form](#) for next year's contest. Every student who writes a story for the 2016 contest will receive a **free packet of seeds!**

2. Register Now!: California Agriculture in the Classroom Conference - Sacramento, September 22-24, 2016

Registration is now open for the 2016 Agriculture in the Classroom Conference! [Explore the list of tours and workshops, and register today](#). We are currently accepting applications to present Make 'n' Take sessions, exhibit at the conference, or host a *Taste of California* dinner table!



Workshops - Friday, September 23

- Careers in Agriculture: Think Outside the Farm
- Language, Math & Science of Watersheds
- Science/Agriculture is FUN
- Cooking up the Common Core
- Ag Bites + Ag Fact Sheets = Easy Ways to Integrate Ag



Farm Tours - Friday, September 23

- A Taste of Lodi
- UC Davis Experience
- Delta Grown
- From Farm to You



3. Conference Scholarships

We are pleased to offer a limited number of scholarships for California teachers to attend the 2016 California Agriculture in the Classroom Conference, September 22-24. The scholarships will cover the full conference registration fee of \$280. To apply for a scholarship, please [complete the application form](#) by July 29, 2016. All applicants will be notified the week of August 15, 2016.



4. Summer Kick-Off Survey - Complete the Survey for a Chance to Win!

We know you've worked hard this school year, and you deserve a break! That's why we're continuing to create and distribute free resources for you to use next year. We would love your input as we plan ahead!

By participating in our 5-7 minute online survey, you will automatically be entered into a drawing to win:

- \$25 Amazon gift card
- Pair of California State Fair tickets

- California almonds gift pack
- Print of California agriculture fine artwork by Kyle Lawson

The survey will close at 3:00 p.m. on Friday, June 10.

[Take the survey!](#)

5. California Fertilizer Foundation - School Garden Grant Program

The California Fertilizer Foundation (CFF) provides 24 grants of \$1,200 each to schools throughout California (12 awarded twice a year). At the end of each year, winning schools can re-apply for a progress grant of \$1,500 and a free agricultural field trip. Through the garden program, CFF provides direct funding to California schools for garden projects. For more information, please contact Callie Borrer at (916) 574-9744. The next deadline is June 15, 2016. [Apply today!](#)

Explore [more grant opportunities](#) in agricultural education!



6. Learn About Ag - this summer!



Just because it's summer break doesn't mean we have to stop learning about ag! You can have a field trip the next time you go to the store. Try the [MyPlate Grocery Store Treasure Hunt!](#) This is just one of many ways to keep learning with your family, community or students this summer. Share your ideas with us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [Pinterest](#).



7. Featured Resource - *What Do Plants Need to Grow?*

This 12-lesson unit is full of great activities for learning about plants and thinking critically about their role in our daily

lives. [Request a free print copy of the unit.](#) Explore the [complete collection](#) of resources for teaching K-12 students about plant nutrients.

8. Statewide/Nationwide Events, Competitions, & More!

Sacramento Floodplain Ecology Institute (6-12)

- **June 20-22, 2016**
- Free 3-day educator workshop in applied science, research, STEM careers and environmental science curriculum
- Located at the Yolo County Office of Education and field sites in Yolo and Sacramento counties
- Geared towards grades 6-12 teachers, but open to any grade. [See event details](#) and register

School Garden Teacher Training

- **June 20-24, 2016 and July 11-15, 2016**
- Five-day training in Sonoma, \$800-850 cost
- Designed for individuals or teams of teachers, garden educators, administrators and core parent volunteers
- [See event details](#) and register

Project Learning Tree in Schoolyard Habitats (K-12)

- **June 21-22, 2016**
- 2-day educator workshop, \$20 cost
- Learn to create schoolyard habitat for project-based learning at Soil Born Farms in Rancho Cordova
- Includes farm-fresh lunch, snacks, curriculum, and more. [See event details](#) and apply

Tuolumne River Institute (9-12)

- **July 12-14, 2016**
- 3-day educator workshop, \$50 cost
- Explore the river and associated habitats and rock formations with UC Davis scientists
- [See event details](#) and apply

Diggin' In Teacher Garden Training

- **July 11-15, 2016**
- Week-long, hands-on training, \$200 cost
- Learn the basics of gardening with children at Soil Born Farms in Rancho Cordova
- Sign up as a 3-person team for reduced fee
- [See event details](#) and register

LifeLab NGSS in the Garden Workshop

- **June, 2016**
- 2-day hands-on educator workshop, \$300-360 cost
- Located at your school or at UC Santa Cruz
- [See details](#) and register

LifeLab Summer Youth Camps, UC Santa Cruz

- **June, July and August, 2016**
- [Register for camps](#) for ages 4-18, camp prices vary

Camps for Teenagers

- [Range and Natural Resources Camp](#), Half Moon Bay
- [Farm-to-Fork Summer Academy](#), Sac State
- [Go With the Flow...Water Summer Academy](#), Sac State



9. County Ag Activities

June 6-9, 2016 - **San Joaquin County's** [Ag in the Classroom 4-Day Course](#)

June 13-16, 2016 and July 11-14, 2016 - **Kings' County's** Education & Agriculture Together (EAT) Foundation's [Summer Workshop](#)

July 18-20, 2016 - **Kern County's** [Teachers' Ag Seminar](#)

July 27-28, 2016 - **Colusa County's** [DIRT DAYS seminar for K-12 teachers](#)

10. More Ways to Learn About Ag

Plumas, Tuolumne, Shasta and Humboldt County

- The Forestry Institute for K-12 teachers will be held in four counties throughout **June and July**. [See event details](#).

Amador, El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo and Yuba County

- The Sacramento Valley Chapter of the California Women for Agriculture is offering two scholarships for high school seniors and undergraduate students from the area. The deadline is June 30, 2016. [See details](#) and apply.

Merced County - Hilmar Cheese Company offers free [educational tours](#).



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AITC

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Help us continue to provide programs and materials to create an awareness and understanding of agriculture among California's educators and students.

[Make a one-time or recurring donation.](#)

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