



Why do teachers join AITC?

Teachers know that Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) is committed to raising kids' awareness of where their food comes from, how it is grown and produced, and the vital role that agriculture plays in our everyday lives. AITC's unique resources are available to all who join us..

AITC supplies Napa County teachers with a FREE Teacher Resource Guide and lesson plans to enable teachers to teach interesting, informative curricula that meets Content Standards for California Public Schools. Lessons related to agriculture are important to all, from the food we eat to the clothes we wear: it's about us! And in Napa, we all benefit from living in one of the world's most beautiful agricultural communities.

We welcome Ambassadors (representatives) from every school. AITC monthly meetings are held at the Napa County Farm Bureau usually @ 4 p.m., call to check and join us! OR Send us your email to receive timely news and updates!

Please join Ag in the Classroom in our mission to educate young people in Napa County on agriculture: food, health, well-being!

Who doesn't love a contest?

Agriculture In The Classroom is hosting several classroom contests this year. Get with it, get involved! We welcome you!

AITC Resources

- Check out AITC's websites:
www.cfaitc.org
www.napafarmbureau.org
- Come check out AITC's **lending library**, with great books related to agriculture.
- AITC'S **Ambassador Program** is open to all educators and interested parties.
- School Garden Project Resources.



Imagine This... A statewide creative writing contest that meets Content Standards for **3rd-8th** grade students. Standards met include writing standard 1.0 writing strategies and 2.0 writing applications. Statewide winning stories will be illustrated and published, meeting another Content Standard (and giving kids a reason to feel very proud!) Check www.cfaitc.org or call us for details.

Entries to be postmarked by November 1, 2009 !



Crop Report Art Contest This is a local art contest co-sponsored by AITC and the Napa Ag Commissioner for **6th-12th grade students**. First place art will be printed on the cover of the 2009 Crop Report and will be awarded \$250. Second and Third place art will be displayed on the inside cover and receive \$150 and \$100! **Submit entries to the Napa Ag Commissioner's office by 12/31/09 at 4:30 p.m.**

Participants and schools will be recognized at the 2010 "Day at the Farm" event on March 19, 2010 at the Napa Expo Fairgrounds. For more information, please contact Craig Graffin at the Ag Commissioner's office at 707.253.4357 or Jennifer Roberts, AITC Program Manager, Napa County Farm Bureau, 707. 224. 5403 ext. 104



Jennifer Roberts
Ag In The Classroom
Program Manager
224.5403 x104

Ahhh! Fall is upon us! With the distinct chill in the morning air, schools are alive with the chatter of busy students. There is talk of Halloween and fall apples are abundant. What better way to celebrate the bounty of fall's produce than with a luscious Applesauce Cake? Can't you just smell the apples and cinnamon? While you are busy baking this easy cake think about how I can help you get Ag in the Classroom into *your* classroom. Then call me! Maybe you want to plant your very own apple trees?

Call me, I am here for you!

P.S. If you have a recipe using Napa's own bounty of crops please share it with me! Thank you!

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2009—2010 Calendar of Events & Fun information

AITC Committee Meeting: Monthly meetings are held during the school year at the Napa County Farm Bureau, come on over, get involved! Call for more information.

October– Halloween...where would we get our jack-o-lanterns without agriculture?

November 1– “Imagine This...” Creative writing contest entries due November 1, 2009

November 14– Napa County Farm Bureau BARN DANCE, children welcome, listen to the FBR Band, kick up your heels and help support the FFA, Vintage High School Farm & Napa County Farm Bureau. Call us for tickets.....224-5403.

December 31, 2009 – Crop Report Art Contest entries due @ 4:30 p.m.

February – Teacher Appreciation Celebration : TBA

March 14–20, 2010- National Ag Week

March 19, 2010- Friday, 7th Annual “Day at the Farm” at Napa Expo

April 13, 2010– Aldo Delfino Scholarship applications due

April 22, 2010– Earth Day

May 14, 2010– 7th Annual Meadow Muffin Ag Education Golf Tournament @ Eagle Vines Golf Club, Napa.

Applesauce Cake

3 Cups White Whole Wheat Flour
2 tsp. Baking Soda
1 tsp. Salt
1 1/2 tsp. Ground Cinnamon
1 1/4 tsp. Ground Cardamom
1 Cup Unsalted Butter, room temp.
2 Cups Lt. Brown Sugar, packed
1/4 Cup Honey
2 Large Eggs
2 Cups Homemade Applesauce or store bought, chunky Natural Applesauce

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

In a large bowl, whisk together flour, baking soda, salt cinnamon and cardamom, Set aside.

In another bowl, with an electric mixer, beat butter until light and fluffy, 2 min. Add brown sugar and honey and beat another 2 min. Add eggs, one at a time, beating until well combined. With the mixer on low speed, gradually add flour mixture; beat just until combined. Beat in applesauce.

Coat tube pan with butter. Spoon batter into pan; smooth top. Bake until a toothpick comes out with crumbs, 50—60 minutes.

Cool on wire rack 10 minutes. Turn out onto a baking pan, then invert onto a cooling rack. Cool completely. Dust with sifted powdered sugar if desired.



Enjoy!

Submitted by: Celeste Yoakum

Four Leaf Clovers 4-H Club Napa, CA

2010 Day at the Farm

Celebrate National Agriculture Week!

Ag in the Classroom and the Napa County Ag Commissioner are hosting Napa's seventh annual "Day at the Farm" event to celebrate National Agriculture Week. This is an exciting, fun field trip for ALL students and families in Napa County. We will have exhibits from all over the state of California. We want to show children what makes our state the number one agricultural economy in the USA!

Don't miss out on the mobile dairy unit (see where milk comes from and how!), sheep shearing demonstrations, Clo the cow, modern and antique tractors, Sharpie the glassy winged sharpshooter, livestock guardian dogs, herding demonstrations and much more!



Mark your calendars! March 19, 2010 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Napa Valley Expo.

This is a **FREE** event and there are **bus transportation scholarships** available. Bring parents! Bring students! Bring your sense of adventure...this is going to be a fun "Day at the Farm"! Call 224.5403 ext. 104 for questions

Aldo Delfino Scholarship Program

The **Aldo Delfino program** awards scholarships to college students or graduating high school seniors planning to attend a 2-year college, 4-year college or vocational school. The students must be majoring in an agriculturally-related field with plans to return to work in agriculture here in Napa County.



Last year's winners were *Samantha Aragon (Santa Rosa JC)*, *Clayton Boydston (Vintage High School)*, *Horacio Lopez-Segura (St. Helena High School)*, *Julian Rossi (Napa High School)* and *Laura White (St. Helena High School)*.

The scholarship honors Aldo Delfino, former Napa County Agricultural Commissioner. Applications will be sent to all area high schools in January. **Completed applications will be due at the Napa County Farm Bureau offices by Tuesday, April 13, 2010.**

Interested high school seniors should contact their counselors, agriculture teachers or Jennifer Roberts, 707.224.5403 ext. 104, or aitc@napafarmbureau.org

A Toast to Teachers! 2010 Teacher Appreciation Event

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn the more places you'll go"
- Dr. Seuss

Ag in the Classroom wants to toast you at our annual Teacher Appreciation Event! We are setting the date and place as this newsletter goes to press. Please do "stay tuned" for the announcement of a festive evening reception to celebrate our county's wonderful teachers. It will be in early February and at a very special location! Have I piqued your interest? Your own invitation will arrive in the school mail this winter.

This will be a great opportunity to get together with teachers from other schools, learn more about agricultural classroom resources, and enjoy an evening just for you!

Call 707.224.5403 x 104 or email aitc@napafarmbureau.org for more information



Want to plant veggies but don't know what to plant?

Get ready for Fall planting:

1. Snap Peas. Pole type, 'Sugar Snap'
2. Edible flowers
(calendulas, pansies, violas)
3. Cabbage, Ruby Perfection
4. Cauliflower, 'Amazing'
5. Spinach, 'Tyee'
6. Garlic, 'Chesnok Red'
7. Broccoli, 'Premium Crop'
8. Mustard, 'Giant Red'
9. Carrots, 'Babette' & 'Bolero'
10. Onions, 'Walla Walla Sweet'
11. Radishes, 'Cherry Belle' & 'Crimson Giant'
12. Swiss Chard, 'Rainbow'
13. Kale, 'Winterbor' or ornamental
14. Lettuce, 'Dark Lollo Rossa'

From Sunset Magazine

Plant your veggies now and have a veggie feast in the spring!

Sources. For unusual varieties and potato tubers try: The [Natural Gardening Company](#) (707/766-9303) sells certified organic seeds, potato tubers, and seedlings of eggplants, peppers, and tomatoes. [Seeds of Change](#) sells certified organic seeds, potato tubers, and seedlings of peppers and tomatoes. [Territorial Seed Company](#) sells seeds, potato tubers, and seedlings of eggplants, peppers, and tomatoes.

How about planting a container vegetable garden?

Growing vegetables can bring out the farmer in you. You till the soil and tend the plants, then reap the rewards when the plants bear fruit. All you need is a generous-size container, good potting soil, and a suitable spot that gets at least six hours of full sun a day

If you do have actual ground for growing, containers can still help you overcome problems like poorly drained soil, pests such as gophers, and soil-borne diseases. Also, since soil in pots warms up more quickly in spring than it does in the ground, you can get a tomato or pepper off to a faster start.

Soil preparation and plant care

Potting medium. Use a high-quality mix containing peat moss and perlite. Blend in a complete fertilizer, either a dry organic product — such as one containing alfalfa meal, bonemeal, kelp meal, or other natural nutrients — or a controlled-release type that supplies nutrients over a three- to six-month period. If you plan to water pots by hand, add soil polymers such as Broadleaf P4 (available at most garden centers) to the mix before planting to help alleviate the wet-dry cycle. **Feeding.** If you use an organic fertilizer at planting time, supplement it with weekly applications of fish emulsion or reapply dry organic fertilizer according to package directions. If you use controlled-release fertilizer, give vegetables a boost by applying fish emulsion every two to three weeks. **Watering.** The best way to water vegetables in containers is with drip irrigation operated by an automatic controller. For each container, install a circle of inline emitters over the soil or distribute three or four 1/2-gallon-per-hour emitters over the soil surface (use more for very large pots). Set the controller to water often enough to keep the soil moist (in hot climates, that might be daily or every other day). If you hand-water, never allow the soil to dry out completely. **Pests.** If aphids, mites, or whiteflies attack, spray them with insecticidal soap or horticultural oil. Handpick and destroy tomato hornworms.



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