

California Department of Food and Agriculture 2014 CalAgPlate Program Project Abstracts

Ag in the Classroom – Teacher Seminar

\$10,700

San Joaquin Farm Bureau Federation

The San Joaquin Farm Bureau Federation is seeking a grant for *the* Ag in the Classroom program, with the objective of educating K-12 teachers on the significance of agriculture in our everyday lives. Educational learning will be hands on, with a series of tours of agricultural facilities and presentations throughout San Joaquin County (SJC). The objective is to educate teachers and give them the materials needed to ensure that their students are able to make connections between their lives and everyday foods, fibers and other agricultural products. Lesson plans that align with Common Core Standards as well as resources and materials will be given to each participating educator. Teachers will increase their overall knowledge of agriculture in SJC and agriculture's role in history and the local economy by 45-50 Percent. Funding in the amount of \$10,700 is requested for transportation costs, professional services and for materials to carry out this program.

Calaveras FFA Ag Mentorship Project – A Sustainable Farm to School Model

\$22,960

Gardens to Grow In

The Calaveras Future Farmers of America (FFA) Ag Mentorship Project will develop a school garden and farm-to-school program that is based on linking FFA members to local farmers and to elementary school garden and agriculture programs. It will focus on building a working relationship with a local farmer who will mentor the FFA members at Calaveras High School to revitalize and manage their campus farm as well as use his own farm as a working model to teach the students the skills and knowledge they will need to sustain their farm. These same students will then be part of a team that works one day a week at elementary schools in the district to support garden maintenance and management at those sites. They will pass on the knowledge and skills they have gained to 6th grade students, teachers and volunteers at each of the elementary school sites by helping them build and sustain their gardens.

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Centennial Farm Ag Education

\$25,000

Centennial Farm Foundation

The Centennial Farm has been educating Southern California youth about agriculture for over 25 years. The three acre, fully functioning farm at the Orange County Fair and Event Center demonstrates a wide variety of crops and livestock for children to interact with, supported by a common-core based curriculum delivered by trained docents. The curriculum focuses on where our food comes from, the important role agriculture has in our lives (including food and non-food products), and basics about the agriculture industry in California. Students learn important lessons about nutrition, California specialty crops, the environment, and potential agricultural career paths. Funds from the CalAgPlate program will support enhancing the curriculum and exhibits for further messaging, particularly related to career awareness. The Farm offers three school programs during the year, targeting elementary school children from urban areas in Southern California. These programs include the Junior Farmers Tours, Discovery Days and the Ranch After-School Program. Approximately 100,000 visitors participate in the year-round Farm programs. Over 18,000 youth and their families also visit the Farm's exhibits during the annual Youth Expo, and over a million visitors each year are exposed to the Farm and its critical message about agriculture through the annual Orange County Fair.

Increasing Agricultural Career Opportunities Awareness by Student Tours

\$7,010

Stanley W Strew Educational Funds

Nationally, there are twice as many career opportunities advertised as there are agriculture college graduates to fill them. With the retirement of baby boomers increasing, these opportunities will continue to outpace the supply of graduates. This program seeks to increase the awareness of teachers and students about the abundance of career opportunities in agriculture by showcasing these careers in tours. Two one-day tours will be conducted, one in the service area of Butte College and the other in the service area of Woodland College. Each tour will include three local farming and agribusiness stops in addition to speakers who will highlight the diversity and abundance of career opportunities in agriculture. By showing students and teachers instead of simply telling them, there is hope that the students and their peers will begin to consider taking college courses in agriculture, seeking agriculture majors and eventually pursuing related careers. This project is intended to be a pilot that can be repeated in additional areas and at a larger scale in the future.

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Leadership Continuum & Programmatic Support

\$162,607

California Association, FFA

The California Association, Future Farmers of America (FFA) is for students enrolled in agriculture education and natural resources programs in high schools throughout California. The programs mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agriculture education. California FFA has over 300 school chapters throughout the state that provide integral leadership instruction through use of the FFA student organization to over 76,000 students/members. In addition to daily classroom instruction, FFA delivers statewide programming that enhances the goals and outcome of the leadership continuum by increasing access, awareness and opportunities for students to engage in agriculture education, leadership development and career training. FFA strives to increase student access to information about career, leadership and programmatic opportunities.