



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
March 29, 2016

Contact: Liz Baskins
(916) 561-5625
Liz@LearnAboutAg.org

LOOK AT AGRICULTURE... *ORGANICALLY!* APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE APRIL 1

\$1,000 GRANTS TO SUPPORT ORGANIC K-8 CLASSROOM PROJECTS

SACRAMENTO, CA- The California Certified Organic Farmers (CCOF) Foundation in collaboration with the California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom (CFAITC) is pleased to announce the opening of the 2016 Look at Agriculture... *Organically!* grant applications. At least twenty two \$1,000 grants for organic classroom projects will be awarded to K-8 teachers nationwide through a partnership with CFAITC.

This is the third year CCOF and CFAITC will offer Look at Agriculture... *Organically!* grants. Twenty-four schools were awarded grants in 2015, fifteen of which were awarded to schools where at least 50% of the students qualify for free or reduced lunches. Classroom projects covered the gamut of organic themes from organic livestock rearing, to vermiculture, to organic orchard management and care. Teachers brought in organic farmers as guest speakers, taught students about rotational grazing, and helped students preserve organic food to share with a local youth center.

“We are proud to support teachers who provide opportunities for students to learn more about USDA certified organic—what it means and how organic food is produced,” said Cathy Calfo, Executive Director of CCOF. “It is important to develop an appreciation for agriculture and teach students where their food and fiber come from. We are excited to continue this partnership with CCOF and provide our nation’s educators with this opportunity.” said CFAITC Executive Director Judy Culbertson.

The Look at Agriculture...*Organically!* K-8 grants will open April 1 and remain open until May 15, 2016. Certified kindergarten through eighth grade teachers throughout the nation are eligible to apply.

This fund was made possible by the generous contributions of the UNFI Foundation, CCOF, Clif Bar Family Foundation, Driscoll’s, Duncan Family Farms Forager Project, Frontier Co-Op, Green Ox Pallets, Independent Natural Food Retailers Association (INFRA), National Co+op Grocers, and Organic Valley.

For more information about the application process please visit

<http://www.learnaboutag.org/grants/organic.cfm>.

To contribute to CCOF's fund, please visit www.ccof.org/foundation/fofgf.

About The CCOF Foundation

The CCOF Foundation is unique because of its direct connection to the CCOF Trade Association members as well as the diverse range of organic producers, processors, and retailers who are certified organic by CCOF Certification Services. The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) entity funded through private donations and public grants that receives in-kind management and staffing support from the CCOF Trade Association (CCOF, Inc., a 501(c)(5) entity). The CCOF Foundation's 2016 program priorities include providing direct financial support for future organic farmers, providing hardship assistance grants to organic producers, offering technical assistance to organic producers, and promoting public education about the benefits of organic food and agriculture.

About the California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom

The mission of the California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom (CFAITC) is to increase awareness and understanding of agriculture among California's educators and students. The Foundation's vision is an appreciation of agriculture by all. CFAITC develops accurate, teacher-tested and scientifically sound classroom materials to enhance the educational experience of K-12 students in any learning environment, provides programs and training opportunities to explore the sources of our food and other agricultural products, creates awareness in classrooms and communities about the significance of agriculture in our everyday lives, partners with like-minded organizations to share its appreciation of agriculture with a broad audience, recognizes teachers and students who work as advocates of agricultural literacy, and supports the pursuit of agricultural careers and continuing education.

#