

Welcome to...

Food for Thought!

a quarterly e-newsletter to promote agricultural, environmental, and garden-based learning enrichment for youth and families in El Dorado County.

December 2007 - Please share this newsletter with anyone that might be interested! Subscribe by emailing Wendy West at University of California Cooperative Extension at wkwest@ucdavis.edu.

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1. California Instructional School Garden Program Grants – AB 1535

Fifteen (15) El Dorado County school districts, representing 41 local schools, have been notified by the California Department of Education that they will be receiving California Instructional School Garden Program funding. School sites will receive \$2500 per school for garden-based learning programs. It's great news that 72% of our local school sites will receive the grants!

Many schools are curious to know when the grant funds will arrive. Award checks were sent to district/county office of education point persons on November 30, 2007 to sites that have had their county or district contacts sign and send in their award letters. The actual date of when this money will make to your school will depend on how county/district offices process and distribute the award money.

2. FREE! School Garden Workshop January 30, 2008

"Planning Your School Garden Program"

An afterschool workshop is planned for Wednesday, January 30, 2008 in Placerville from 3:30-5:30 at the El Dorado County Office of Education. These two-hour mini-workshops will utilize several of the modules presented at the very popular workshop series held this past fall (attended by 27 local teachers!).

Bonus! Each attendee will receive an indoor "worm hotel" and curriculum materials to explore vermiculture and composting topics in the classroom!

This workshop is geared toward teachers, parent volunteer, community volunteers, school administrators or other garden supporters that are planning new school garden programs.

Topics will include:

- Curricular resources
- Building a support network and organizational structure for your program
- Year-round school garden guidelines and tasks
- Setting your garden goals and breaking down the steps

Reserve your space at the workshop at <http://ucanr.org/school-garden-workshop> or contact Wendy West at wkwest@ucdavis.edu (530) 621-5533. An additional workshop will be presented in the South Lake Tahoe area in April 2008 – watch for details soon!

3. El Dorado High School Natural Resource and Land Management Program

El Dorado High School has received funding and is moving full steam ahead to develop a Natural Resources and Land Management Program. Students, both job/career and college bound, will have the opportunity to delve into a variety of natural resource and land management topics and issues in a hands-on environment, utilizing field studies and activities across a variety of curriculum areas. EDHS has developed a proposed four-year course of study and an outline of two new classes --- California Natural Resources 1 and California Natural Resources 2. Area community members and agencies have been involved in development of the program. For more information, or to get involved in the planning of this exciting program, contact Mathew Barnes, EDHS Assistant Principal, at (530) 626-7124 or mfbarnes@eduhd.k12.ca.us.

4. Resource Area for Teaching (RAFT) Sacramento

RAFT supports educational excellence by enabling teachers to more effectively teach science, math, and technology. RAFT provides a continual supply of ideas and workshops plus a broad array of unique, very low-cost materials to implement them available at their warehouse in Sacramento. Removing barriers to hands-on teaching, RAFT leverages community resources to affordably improve education. Visit their website for teaching resources, materials and upcoming workshops at <http://www.raftsac.org>

5. Farm Day 2008 Set for El Dorado County Third Graders – May 8, 2008

Over 700 3rd grade students from around El Dorado County will be attending Farm Day on Thursday, May 8 at the El Dorado County Fairgrounds. Sponsored by El Dorado County Agriculture in the Classroom, this action packed day includes a variety of learning stations for local students, from milking a cow to making compost for the garden. Would you like to volunteer or more information? Visit <http://www.edcfb.com/site>, email info@edcfb.com or call (530) 622-7773 for more information.

6. Looking for Grants and Fundraising Ideas for Your School Garden Program?

The California School Garden Network website is a great resource for school garden volunteers and coordinators. Check out the grants and fundraising page at <http://www.csgn.org/page.php?id=30>.

7. Resources

Producepedia.com

Western Growers has created Producepedia.com to help connect consumers with their food. This website contains information on the history, nutrition, season and storage of California's top 50 commodities.

<http://www.producepedia.com>

Teach Beef Newsletter and Resources

Volume 1, issue 2 of this new biannual newsletter is now available at <http://www.calbeef.org> ; click on the "Teachers and Kids" section on the left. In the latest issue, the California Beef Council features resources include "Things We Can Learn from a Cow and a Worm" teaching kit and "Wow that Cow" brochure.

California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom Symposium Make 'n' Take Sessions Instructions

Free instructions for hands on activities for families and students at:

www.cfaitc.org/Conference/Conference.php?info=makentakes

8. Science Poem of the Season

Earth's Embroidery

By Solomon Ibn Gabirol

With the ink of its showers and rains
With the quill of its lightning, with the
Hand of its clouds, winter wrote a letter
Upon the garden, in purple and blue
No artist could conceive the like of that.
And this is why the earth, grown
Jealous of the sky, embroidered stars in
The folds of the flower beds.

Please pass this e-newsletter along to anyone that might be interest!

If you would like to be added or deleted from this e-newsletter list, please contact Wendy West at University of California Cooperative Extension at wkwest@ucdavis.edu or call (530)621-5533.