

Welcome to...

Food for Thought!

February 2010

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

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. Farm Day 2010 Set for El Dorado County Third Graders – May 6, 2010 Third Grade Teachers Register Today!

Third grade students from around El Dorado County can attend Farm Day on Thursday, May 8, 2010 at the El Dorado County Fairgrounds. Sponsored by El Dorado County Agriculture in the Classroom, this action packed day includes a variety of hands-on learning stations for students, from milking a cow to making compost for the garden. Third grade teachers should register online now for this popular field trip at: [http://ucanr.org/farm day registration](http://ucanr.org/farm%20day%20registration)

2. Local Non-Profit Group Receives Grant to Support Ag Educational Programs

El Dorado County Ag in the Classroom (EDCAITC) has been awarded a Specialty Crop Block Grant from the California Department of Food and Agriculture to expand specialty crop education and outreach to school age children and the public. Projects that will be expanded with funding from this grant include:

1) A *website portal* that provides a platform to reach local teachers, students, and agricultural organizations that are engaged in outreach and education. It will provide valuable links and access to resources to those interested in agricultural-based education activities.

2) A *summer teacher training institute*, scheduled for summer of 2011, will be offered to public and private instructors in El Dorado, Placer, and Amador counties, at all grade levels, with curriculum based on topics of interest to suit a wide range of instruction levels. Classroom instruction will be provided and off-

site visits to local agricultural operations will be included to increase literacy in regional challenges and issues.

3) A *"farm to school" pilot program* that focuses on building an ongoing relationship between a school and a local farm. The program includes at least three seasonal field trips and multiple in-class learning experiences. The pilot project will initially start with the first grade level and then will be structured to follow the same group of students through six grade levels of instruction. The template developed will be available to other schools that have an interest in this type of program for their students.

3. Workshops and Trainings:

- Fresh Fruits and Vegetables: A Centerpiece for a Healthy School Environment, information at: <http://www.healthyschoolenvironment.org/workshop-registration>
- Life Lab - Garden Based Workshops from Life Lab at UC Santa Cruz; more information at: <http://www.lifelab.org/workshops.php>

Saturday, March 27, 2010: Sowing the Seeds of Wonder: Discovering the Garden in Early Childhood Education - Cost: \$150/person. 1 semester unit of graduate education credit available for an additional \$60. Registration deadline, March 12.

Thursday and Friday, April 29-30, 2010: The Growing Classroom: Intro to Garden-Based Learning - Cost: \$300/person. 1 semester unit of graduate education credit available for an additional \$60 fee. Registration deadline, March 16.

Friday, May 14, 2010: Plant It, Grow It, Eat It: Garden-Enhanced Nutrition Education - Cost: \$150/person. 1 semester unit of graduate education credit available for an additional \$60. Registration deadline, April 30.

4. Funding Opportunities

- a. California School Garden Network – for up-to-date funding opportunities go to www.csgn.org --- go to the Resources tab, click on “Grants and Fundraising”

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.