

Welcome to...

Food for Thought!

February 2011

...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 or review past issues at <http://ucanr.org/foodforthoughtnewsletter>

In this issue:

1. Farm Day, Thursday, May 5, 2011 --- Register Your Third Grade Class Today!
 2. Teacher Ag Summer Institute June 20-23, 2011 – Apply by February 15, 2011
 3. Funding for Herb Gardens at Schools – Gold Country Herb Society Grants
 4. California School Garden Survey
 5. American River Conservancy - Innovations in Environmental Education Fund
 6. Funds Available for Native Plant Projects
 7. Spring Educator Workshops from LifeLab/Santa Cruz
 8. Fresh Fruits and Vegetables --- Free Workshops for School Personnel
-

1. Farm Day May 5, 2011 - Third Grade Teachers Register Today!

Third grade students from around El Dorado County can attend Farm Day on Thursday, May 5, 2011 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://agintheclass-edc.org> . Registration is on a first come, first served basis and is set to close February 4th, but space is still available so register as soon as you can. Confirmation will be sent to teachers in mid-February.

2. Teacher's Summer Ag Institute, June 20-23, 2011

Available to K-12 Teachers from Amador, Placer and El Dorado Counties
Hosted by Ag in the Classroom – El Dorado County

The Teacher's Ag Summer Institute (TASI) links teachers with farmers, ranchers and other agricultural and natural resource specialists to gain a deeper understanding of the food and fiber production systems that sustain the health of people, society, and the environment. Teachers will explore real-world issues and acquire practical, easily transferable, standards-based instructional activities and resources to use daily in the classroom.

The TASI is FREE to local teachers --- only a \$25 registration fee is required at the time of acceptance into the program! Lodging and meals on the banks of the South Fork of the American River in Coloma, CA are included plus all resource materials. Teachers will receive a \$300 stipend upon attending the TASI and completing a lesson plan or class activity and presenting to the group at the "Back to the Farm" gathering on Thursday, July 14, 2011. Continuing education credits will be available. Additional info at: <http://agintheclass-edc.org/PDFs/TASlannounce2.pdf> .

Complete the on-line application available at the Ag in the Classroom website at: www.agintheclass-edc.org/teachersaginstitute.html. Applications will be accepted until February 15, 2011.

3. Funding Opportunity - Herb Gardens for Schools

Sponsored by Gold Country Herb Society

El Dorado County public schools now have an additional financial resource to help with their school gardens. The Gold Country Herb Society is pleased to announce the availability of V. Feagans Funds to help with the planning and maintenance of the herbal portion of the gardens.

Allocations in amounts not to exceed \$100.00 will be made and can be used for books, tools, speakers and field trips, plants, soil and amendments, and hardscape materials, all with an emphasis on herbs.

To be awarded the money simply write a letter to the Herb Society on your school stationery briefly describing your herb garden project with an itemization of your planned expenditures. Send the letter to Gold Country Herb Society, 3136 Gateway Drive, Cameron Park, CA. 95682. Each application will be reviewed by the Herb Society and awards will be made based on the relevancy of the application to herbs.

To be considered, your request must be postmarked no later than March 31, 2011. If your application is approved a check payable to your school will be sent to the school within 60 days of the receipt of your letter. Contact Jo Ann Perry 530.677.6776 for additional information.

4. California School Garden Survey

Life Lab, in collaboration with the California School Garden Network, is conducting a survey of California School Gardens. The information gathered from this survey will help those that are creating and supporting school garden projects across the state and nation.

The goal is for every school in California to respond to the survey. For schools that do not have gardens we want to know what the barriers are. For schools with gardens we want to know what makes them work and what resources are needed to sustain them.

Please complete and/or help spread the word of this survey via your school garden team and larger networks. Please complete the survey by 2/18/11 at:
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/caschoolgardens>

5. Innovations in Environmental Education Fund – American River Conservancy

The goal of Innovations in Environmental Education is to convince the community of El Dorado County of the importance of maintaining habitat, preserving our watershed and decreasing our impact on our environment. The mechanism for addressing this goal is to support El Dorado County teachers in developing new and innovative programs in environmental education.

The American River Conservancy (ARC) announces the first round of funding for the Innovations in Environmental Education (IEE) Fund. This program will favor innovative proposals that stress interaction with our human community, programs which are part of a continuing environmental educational continuum, and projects that are largely carried out outside of the classroom. Go to the ARC website for more information:

http://www.arconservancy.org/site/c.psKZL3PFLrF/b.5699439/k.B293/Just_for_Teachers.htm

6. Clark Youth Fund Grants to Support Native Plant Gardens and Activities for Schools

The El Dorado Chapter of the California Native Plant Society is pleased to announce that Clark Youth Fund grants for activities about California's native plants are being made to schools and other organizations supporting school-aged children in El Dorado County. The deadline for applying is February 24. The Clark Youth Fund was established by the El Dorado Chapter of CNPS in honor of George Clark, past president of California Native Plant Society and long-time supporter and enthusiast of the variety and beauty of California's native plants. Grants can be for up to \$500 and may be used for the purchase of books, wildflower posters, signage, gardening supplies or native plants.

For more information about requirements, and the simple application process, contact: Jinnah Benn (916) 508-2982 or jinnah@lotusvalleynatives.com

7. Spring 2011 Educator Workshops - Life Lab Garden/UC Santa Cruz

Great workshops this spring from our friends at Life Lab at the UC Santa Cruz Farm:
<http://www.lifelab.org/for-educators/workshops/gcworkshops>

8. Training: Fresh Fruits and Vegetables: A Centerpiece for a Healthy School Environment

This free two-day training is designed for school personnel and community partners. It provides tools to support an increase of fresh fruits and vegetables on school campuses through fun, interactive, and skill-building activities.

Register online at

<http://www.healthyschoolenvironment.org/workshop-registration>

Please pass this e-newsletter along to anyone that might be interest! If you would like to subscribe or view past issues of this e-newsletter go to: <http://ucanr.org/foodforthoughtnewsletter> Newsletter Contact: Wendy West at University of California Cooperative Extension at wkwest@ucdavis.edu (530) 621-5533.