



# From Farm Road

48th DAA Schools' Agriculture and Nutrition Program November/December 2010 [www.agfair.org](http://www.agfair.org)

Located at:  
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## Mission

To increase the understanding, appreciation and participation of urban teachers and students in agriculture and nutrition through cooperative involvements of the California agricultural industry, educational institutions and community partners.

## The Scarecrow- A Farmer's Friend

**Dawn Fuller, Los Angeles County  
4-H Program Coordinator  
Board Director, 48th DAA**



With the leaves changing colors, pumpkin patches, hayrides, fires blazing in the hearth, shorter days, and cooler nights approaching, we are reminded that Fall is here. One traditional image that can be seen during this time of year is the Scarecrow. The scarecrow is a farmer's

friend. Crows are notorious for eating up farmers' newly planted crops. Crows can destroy a whole year's work for farmers, making it next to impossible to obtain a good Fall harvest.

Typically, scarecrows are fashioned out of straw and made to look human, with extended extremities, wearing old pants, a shirt, and a hat. Scarecrows are usually hung on a wooden cross, which in years past symbolized religious "good luck" and were said to frighten away not only crows, but evil spirits. Some scarecrows look quite menacing, while some bring to mind our goofy friend in "The Wizard of Oz." Sometimes they smile at us with a knowing mischievous wink, and others look so villainous that they could take our heads off in one fell swoop!

Before scarecrows, farmers had children or farm workers stand around in the newly planted fields of crops and have them shoo away pesky crows with pitchforks and other farming implements. Farmers realized that if they fashioned a man out of straw who resembled a farmer, and placed it in their fields, they had a great result of tricking the crows, keeping them from destroying their crops, and saved the time of children and others who could be working the farms.

As early as 1592, scarecrows were put to use by farmers in fields around the world. The first recorded scarecrows were used in Egypt on the Nile River when quail were continually attacking

wheat fields. "Live" scarecrows (the farmers themselves) would jump out from hiding spots, shouting at birds, waving objects and trying to frighten them away. In Japan, scarecrows were hung on bamboo poles with burning slabs of rotten meat, rags, dog skins and fish bones to protect their rice crops to once again scare away annoying birds.

The scarecrow is quite a popular fellow the world over and has a different name, depending on where you live. In Scotland they are called "Tattie Boggles." In England they are called "Mommets." They are called "Kuebiko" in Japan. Scarecrows also go by the names: Scarebird, Jack-of Straw, Bogle, Flay-Crow, Mawpin, Moggy, Shay, Guy, Bogeyman, Kakashi, Shuft, Shoy Hoy, Yard Folk, Hodemedod, Crop Watcher and Rook Scarer.

The scarecrow has become a famous character over the years, used in many ways the farmer probably never intended! Scarecrows are honored throughout many countries in numerous cultural celebrations, international festivals, contests, displays, antique fairs, and special exhibits such as: Halloween (United States), Guy Fawkes Night (England), Jack-a-Lent (where they are burned to represent the coming of Easter and the ending of Lent all over), and in Bridlington, England; St. Charles, Illinois; Nashville, Tennessee; Columbia, South Carolina; Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia; Kurrajong, Australia; and Sherrifhales, England.

Scarecrows have been the subject of famous writers and featured in stories by William Shakespeare, Walter de le Mare, Matthew Reilly, Khalil Gibran, Michael Connelly and in *Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel Defoe and *Feathertop* by Nathaniel Hawthorne. *The Scarecrow* is even an arch-nemesis in Batman comics. Scarecrows are everywhere! They are even long-celebrated movie characters in *The Wizard of Oz*, a Disney Film called *Dr. Syn: The Scarecrow of Romney Marsh*, the 1973 film *The Scarecrow* (starring Gene Hackman and Al Pacino) and a 1920s short comedy film of the same title starring Buster Keaton. The rock band *Pink Floyd* even has a song called *Scarecrow*.

After World War II, pesticides and chemicals replaced many scarecrows. In some places, scarecrows are now replaced by "Automated

# Major sponsors

State of California,  
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## Join SCAN!

**The Southern California Agriculture and Nutrition Foundation (SCAN) was established to provide support to the Schools' Agriculture and Nutrition Program — 48th DAA. Friends of SCAN receive our newsletter, invitations to our events and annual meeting. Call 48th office for an application and join today!**

## and

**Join the Albertsons/ Sav-On Drugs Community Partners Program and your eligible purchases on your Preferred Savings Card will result in a donation to our program. Details are on our web site.**

Bird Scaring Machines," Bird Netting, motion sensors attached to sprinkler systems, automatic noise guns, pie tins hung in trees, reflective Pet Film Ribbon, and recordings of crow warning signals and crows in distress played at a high decibel. It is also interesting to note that scientific studies have shown that the main reason that scarecrows worked in fields was not only because of the scary effigy, but the smell emitted from the human clothes on the dummy that kept the pests away. I was surprised to find that traditional scarecrows are still in use in many countries.

Whether you pass a scarecrow waving to you on a festive family holiday porch, get spooked by one on Halloween, or see one guarding a local farm, I do hope that the next time you see one, you will remember these famous chaps have a long and interesting history around the world!

## Be a Guest Chef

Be a Guest Chef for the Fabulous Baldwin Park Fourth Graders at *The Moveable Feast's "Nutrition in the Community Garden" Program*, located at 13067 Bess Avenue, Baldwin Park, CA 91706.

It's So Easy! You Don't Even Have to Know How to Cook!

### Choose One Friday:

December 3 (2010)	March 11, 18 (2011)
January 21, 28 (2011)	April 8, 15 (2011)
February 18, 25 (2011)	

### Choose One Time:

9:00 or 10:00 AM

RSVP to Linda Hahn, Program Director, "The Moveable Feast" at [lamhahn@earthlink.net](mailto:lamhahn@earthlink.net)



or call **626-281-1919** to reserve your one-hour time slot. You will duplicate a healthy recipe alongside Linda Hahn and then briefly explain to our fourth graders what your career entails.

By accepting this opportunity, you will serve as a **powerful role model** for healthy eating and help make a **positive difference** in reducing the incidence of childhood obesity in our youth. Please RSVP at your earliest convenience, as slots fill up quickly!

"The Moveable Feast" (a nutrition education and food preparation program) addresses the current epidemic of obesity among our youth and adults by providing students with the necessary food preparation skills, hands-on practice, and nutrition knowledge to choose and prepare healthful alternatives to high fat, high sugar, and high calorie food on their own.

In the 2001-2002 school year "The Moveable Feast," provided presentations to over 600 seventh grade middle students at Jefferson Middle School in San Gabriel. Each lesson incorporated nutrition concepts for healthy eating with students making and tasting healthy food from the 5-a-Day Power Play...**Kids Get Cookin'** cookbook. "The Moveable Feast Showcase," a media event with over 100 guests present, occurred on March 21, 2002, highlighting students making healthy blender drinks for the audience and unveiling the centerpiece of this program, a "portable kitchen" demonstration cart funded by Kaiser Permanente, Baldwin Park.

## Save the Dates!

### Holiday Schedule – Office Closures

**November 11 – 12, 2010:** Veteran's Day

**November 25 – 26, 2010:** Thanksgiving

**December 18 – 31, 2010:** Will reopen Monday, January 3

## 2011 Fair Workshop

### Saturday January 22 & 29, 2011

The 48th DAA office will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for teachers to come in for assistance with entry forms and to pick up supplies. Please let us know if you will be attending; email to [daa48th@aol.com](mailto:daa48th@aol.com) or call **909-468-4433**.

**During the School Garden Workshop at the 48th DAA office recently, attendee Jim Hale plants his seedlings with care.**

# Important Dates

## November Is:

Aviation History Month  
I Am So Thankful Month  
Family Stories Month  
National Roasting Month  
National Pomegranate Month  
Peanut Butter Lovers' Month

## More Information:

California Fig Advisory Board <http://www.californiafigs.com>  
Peanut Butter Lovers. com <http://www.peanutbutterlovers.com>  
The National Grange <http://www.nationalgrange.org/>  
Reis Ranch <http://www.reisranch.com>

## Credits

**CFAITC**  
**Chase's Calendar of Events 2010**

# November

- 1 -7 National Fig Week**
- 3 Sandwich Day** — Celebrate the birth of John Montague, Fourth Earl of Sandwich, born in 1718 in London. He is said to have invented the sandwich as a time-saving nourishment while engaged in a 24-hour gambling session in 1762.
- 9 National Young Reader's Day** — Schools, libraries, families and communities nationwide use this day to celebrate youth reading in a variety of creative and educational ways.
- 17 Homemade Bread Day** — Demonstrate the grinding of wheat and let the class make mini-loaves of bread.
- 19 -25 National Farm-City Week** — Rural and urban. So different, yet so dependent upon each other!
- 21 -27 National Game and Puzzle Week** — Try "The Farming Game"—it's fun!
- 25 Thanksgiving!!!** — Think of the agricultural traditions associate with this holiday.
- 26 Maize Day**

## Did You Know?

George Washington and Benjamin Franklin both lobbied for the turkey to become the national bird before the eagle was finally selected.

Chick incubators available for classrooms (including notebook with the latest version of "In An Egg Shell: Egg To Chick To Egg" and instructions on hatching your eggs). Hatching eggs supplier: Pricilla's Eggs 909-594-2401



We provide curriculum materials for:

- Cotton Journey Kits
- Bread Kits
- Trout in the Classroom supplies

Aligned curriculum on Ag and Nutrition related subjects:

- Apples
- Plants to grow in a drought
- Vegetable gardening in containers
- Fruits and Vegetables for Health
- Building a Square Foot Garden
- Wind Energy & Wind Farms

DVDs, books on Ag related subjects

Seed packets for School Gardens

The 48th DAA works with Pre-K to 12th Grade. We look forward to meeting you! **909.468.4433**

# December

- 1 Basketball created, 1891** — James Naismith, a P.E. teacher at the YMCA training school in Springfield, MA, developed an indoor sport that could be played during the winter months. Using peach baskets as hoops and soccer balls to throw, he started a whole new phenomenon. Leather used for today's basketballs comes from agriculture!
- 4 National Grange Founding, 1786** — The National Grange was the first organized agricultural movement in the United States.
- 9 Clarence Birdseye's Birthday, 1886** — American industrialist who developed a way of deep-freezing foods. He was marketing frozen fish by 1925 and was one of the founders of General Foods Corporation.
- 11 National Day of the Horse** — The horse is a living link to the heritage and history of our nation, and represents a common bond among all peoples who led the way in building our country.
- 12 Poinsettia Day** — A day to enjoy poinsettias and to honor Dr. Joel Roberts Poinsett, who introduced the U.S. to the Central American plant named for him. The poinsettia has become a favorite Christmas season plant.
- 21 First Day of Winter**
- 27 Louis Pasteur's Birthday, 1822** — Pasteur's principle of sterilization pasteurization changed the dairy industry forever.

## CA Agriculture Quiz

### (Answers on back page)

1. According to government statistics, there are over \_\_\_\_\_,000 farms and ranches in California. (choose one: 35, 76 or 190)
2. The average size of a California farm is \_\_\_\_\_ acres. (choose one: 248, 346, or 630)
3. The average nationwide farm is \_\_\_\_\_ acres. (choose one: 446, 770, or 935)
4. Agriculture directly contributes over \_\_\_\_\_ billion dollars to California's economy. (choose one: 12.4, 17.8 or 31.4)

## New Hours

Our new office schedule is as follows: **Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** (closed between 12:00 and 1:00 p.m. for lunch).

We will be open on Saturdays for scheduled in-service programs only. If you have any questions or concerns please contact us.

### Directions to 48th DAA Office:

**From the 57 Freeway:** Exit at Temple, go West. Turn right on Bonita, turn right at the stop sign. Continue straight through parking lot. Stay to the left and turn left onto Farm Road. Follow directional signage.

**From the 10 Freeway:** Exit at Grand, go South. Turn left at Temple, turn left at Bonita, turn right at the stop sign. Continue straight through parking lot. Stay to the left and turn left onto Farm Road. Follow directional signage.



WESTERN FAIRS ASSOCIATION

Member of Western Fairs Association

## America's More Matters Pledge to Fight Obesity

Michelle Obama's talking about it. Everybody's talking about it! The obesity epidemic in America is a national health crisis. More than 60% of adults and nearly **one** in every **three** children are overweight or obese. Did you know obese children are more likely to become obese adults, with associated costs and life-threatening consequences? In fact, children today may be on track to have a shorter lifespan than their parents!

**Join** the many who have already pledged to do something about it, and let us help you follow through!

As a community, we all need to do our part to assure that Americans have affordable, good tasting, healthy food to eat at home, work, and school. Fruits and vegetables not only provide valuable nutrients to fight disease, but they're critical in the fight against obesity.

What can you do? Join America's **More Matters** Pledge: Fruits & Veggies...Today and Every Day! and learn how fruits and veggies can play a bigger role in your community and your family.

There are things you can do at home... or with your school...to help change this trend! Visit our website to take the pledge and we'll show you how to follow through!

Take the pledge — let us help you stop this trend! [http://www.fruitsandveggiesmorematters.org/?page\\_id=7](http://www.fruitsandveggiesmorematters.org/?page_id=7)

## The Legend of Johnny Applesseed

The legend states that John Chapman, who was born in Massachusetts in 1774, planted more than 10,000 square miles of orchards. He began in Pennsylvania and, while traveling barefoot and using a saucepan for a hat, spread the word about the importance of apples in people's diets. He died in 1845 at the age of 71 in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Everyone called him "Johnny Applesseed." (Courtesy of the American Farm Bureau)



## Apple Production

Across the country, thirty-six states grow apples. Apple growers use half-a-million acres of our land to produce apples, and produce 265 million bushels per year. Most of these apple orchards are in our northern states, such as Washington, Michigan, and New York. Washington State has the best climate in the world to grow apples because of its warm days and cool nights. Of all the apples grown in the United States, half are sold fresh and half are made into apple sauce, apple juice, or dehydrated apple products. (Courtesy of the American Farm Bureau)

## And Now U Know

### News from the Fresh Produce Industry

What's Red, you ask? Mark Bassetti dishes on Duda Farm Fresh Food's latest and greatest culinary creations: Red Celery and Radish MiniSticks. The Red Celery is grown from an heirloom seed variety that Duda has developed over the last 19 years. Radish MiniSticks are specifically designed to appeal to consumers who love radishes but cringe at the thought of cutting them. The tasty twosome debuted at last week's PMA Fresh Summit, and we'll keep you posted on their progress. Visit their website at <http://andnowuknow.com/>

## 2011 Fair Dates & Theme

### April 12—16, 2011, "Eat Your Colors"

The 2011 Exhibitor Handbooks are now available. The handbooks and registration form/tags are online at [www.agfair.org](http://www.agfair.org). The online entry form is now available. You can fill out and submit your entry online. Deadline for Fair entries is February 1, 2011.

### Answers to California Agriculture Quiz:

- 1. 76:** The federal government defines a farm to be any unit of production with gross sales of \$1,000 or more per year. In 2006, this qualified 76,000 farms to be counted in California.
- 2. 346:** The size of farms varies depending on the type of agriculture commodity produced. For example, vineyards or citrus groves average 45 acres, while cattle ranches need larger acreage to graze their herds. More than 60% of the state's farms are less than 50 acres.
- 3. 446 acres.**
- 4. 31.4:** Agriculture generated \$31.4 billion for our state's economy in 2006.

**Based on 2006 statistics compiled from California Agricultural Statistics Service.**

**Credits:** California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom