

## EL DORADO COUNTY AG IN THE CLASSROOM (EDCAITC)

### 2010 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

#### ***Fields of Learning:***

*Fields of Learning* (FOL) is a model program developed by EDCAITC that creates partnerships between local schools and agricultural producers. The successful pilot of the *Fields of Learning* program between Camino School and Rainbow Orchards started its second year this fall. During fall, winter, and spring, first grade students have participated in hands-on, learning activities in a "real world" setting during field trips to Rainbow Orchards. A second FOL partnership has been formed this year between Gold Oak Elementary School and Goldbud Farm.

EDCAITC recently completed a *Fields of Learning* program template to be shared with schools and agricultural producers to help them develop FOL partnerships.

#### ***Teacher's Ag Summer Institute:***

The *Teacher's Agricultural Summer Institute* (TASI) brings together teachers with farmers, ranchers and other agricultural and natural resource specialists to gain a deeper understanding of the food and agricultural systems that sustain the health of people, society, and the natural environment. The three-day Ag Institute will combine classroom-style instruction, learning stations, hands-on in the field experiences to immerse participants in the vital world of agriculture. In turn, teachers will be able to share what they have learned about agricultural and natural resource management with their students. TASI will be held June 20 - 23, 2011 in Coloma, CA.

#### ***EDCAITC WEBSITE:***

El Dorado County Ag in the Classroom launched its new website this year, [www.agintheclass-edc.org](http://www.agintheclass-edc.org). The site is designed for local teachers, students, agricultural producers, and the general public to access current information about agriculture-related educational activities, programs, and events.

#### ***Farm Day:***

This year, over 750 third grade students enjoyed a fun day of learning on a wide range of agricultural topics at the 9th Annual Farm Day. Since 2002, over 6,000 students have attended this premier field trip hosted by EDCAITC at the El Dorado County Fairgrounds. Over 40 volunteer presenters bring agriculture alive to students through creative, interactive demonstrations and activities. Children learn about local produce, soil, worm composting, organic pest management, irrigation, bees, herbs, habitats, and resources that forests provide. They participate in presentations on fiber from alpaca, llama, and sheep; working animals like horses and goats; and food animals like poultry and beef cattle.