A Decade Of Plant Education!

California Fertilizer Foundation 1999 - 2009

A Vision Becomes Reality!

Thirteen years ago, members of the fertilizer industry decided to take action on the increasingly growing fact that kids do not understand where their food comes from. These same children would become adults who would eventually vote on issues that impact agriculture. The industry saw this as a challenge and decided to take action. Their vision was to create a grant program where schools could obtain funding for school gardens. After all, they believed, there is no better way to learn about agriculture than by experiencing it firsthand! It is this vision that created the California Fertilizer Foundation.

In 1999, the California Fertilizer Foundation (CFF) contributed $8,000 to predominately urban schools in California to be used to establish or sustain school gardens.

CFF’s First Board of Trustees: In 1999 CFF was established. The first Board of Trustees were Lou Astbury, Bill Bowie, Chris Moudry, Bob Smith and Jay Yost.

Ag Industry Goes to School!

Members of the fertilizer industry went into schools to educate kids about plant health.

Legislators Learn Too!

Local and state legislators were invited to participate in garden grant presentations. The legislators learned about agriculture too! CFF was immediately recognized by both California’s Senate and Assembly for its positive contribution to education. Assembly Bill 1535 was signed into law in 2006 and provided $15 million to public schools for school garden programs. CFF’s successful School Garden Grant Program was a model for this, first of its kind, bill.

Youngsters Visit a Farm!

Over the past ten years thousands of students, through CFF funding, have visited farms and learned what it takes to grow healthy, productive plants.

Swing for Education

In 1999, CFF held its first fundraising golf tournament. There seemed to be no better way to raise funds than to combine golf and giving. This year marks the tournament’s 10th year.
**CALIFORNIA FERTILIZER FOUNDATION**

*Mission: To enhance the awareness and understanding of plant nutrients and agriculture.*

**Today**, CFF continues to personally present each grantee its check and provides a presentation or activity. Partnerships with local resources are encouraged.

**2008-’09 Garden Grant Award Recipients**

- Bidwell Junior High, Chico / Biggs Elementary, Biggs / Cambria Grammar, Cambria / Donald Rheem Elementary, Moraga / East Union High, Manteca
- Rodeo Hills Elementary, Rodeo / Saint Mary, Star of the Sea, Oceanside / Saint Stanislaus Charter Elementary, Modesto / Santa Rosa Charter, Santa Rosa / Theodore Judah Elementary, Sacramento / Vista La Mesa, La Mesa
- Weston Ranch, Stockton / Willard Elementary, Pasadena

**Today**, state legislators and assembly members continue to participate in award ceremonies.

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**Local media** continue to show the positive influence CFF’s making on the lives of school children. This year, CFF’s presentations were highlighted in several local newspapers and on Sacramento’s KCRA Channel 3, during a local television newscast.

CFF develops unique **educational resources** that educate youth and the public about plant nutrients.

CFF is piloting an **FFA Garden Program** where high school students work with local elementary school students in their school garden.

**Today’s 2009 CFF Board of Trustees**

- Steve Spangler, Chairman, Agrium US / Rich French, Vice Chair, Bear River Supply
- Larry Ede, Secretary/Treasurer, Aon Risk Services, Inc. / Sebastian Braun, Yara North America
- Alice Inderbitzin, CALAMCO / Kent Johnson, Ag Production Company / Ray Maul, Kerman Ag Resources
- Tim McGahey, Helena Chemical Company / Bob Smith, Industry Consultant / Jay Yost, IAP

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Forty second graders and their teachers, from Marie Curie Elementary School in San Diego were awarded a **CFF Progress Grant** of $1,500 and a field trip for their great efforts in their gardens. They toured the Flower Fields in Carlsbad and learned about soil and ranuculas. Students planted begonias at Evergreen Nursery and found out how trees and shrubs grow.

**Golfing For Ag’s Future**

For the past ten years, CFF has held a sell-out golf tournament that raises funds for CFF. Over 150 companies and individuals have supported the CFF golf tournament.

**The Future...** Through CFF’s efforts, every Californian will better understand and appreciate California agriculture and what it takes to grow healthy, productive plants.

For more information about CFF, contact Pam Emery at 916-574-9744 or visit www.calfertilizer.org