



# COUNTY OF YOLO

Office of the County Administrator

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## Yolo County Beginning Farmers Workshop January 21

**(Woodland, CA)** – On January 21, the Yolo County Agriculture Department will host a workshop for new farmers from 8:15 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Norton Hall, located at 70 Cottonwood Street in Woodland. The goal of the workshop is to provide assistance for the new farmer, thus enabling them to be successful and confident in the marketplace.

The National Center for Appropriate Technology, and by extension ATTRA (the national sustainable agriculture information service), the Center for Land Based Learning, California Farmlink and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)-Farm Services Agency will be in attendance to discuss financial planning, loan programs, business planning, intergenerational farm transitions and farmland conservation. The Yolo County Department of Agriculture, an organic certifying agency, will discuss direct marketing and organic certification. Andrew Brait from Full Belly Farm will relate his experience as a farmer and will discuss marketing strategies and managing expectations, as well as the necessity of community support for the new farmer.

“Yolo County is very fortunate to have a number of organizations to assist new farmers and those interested in the possibility of farming as an occupation,” said Yolo County Supervisor Matt Rexroad. “The Center for Land Based Learning, USDA-Farm Services Agency, National Center for Appropriate Technology, California Farmlink and our own Yolo County Department of Agriculture are some of the agencies in the area that have a wide variety of programs to help future farmers.”

“It is a very exciting time to be a farmer,” said Yolo County Agriculture Commissioner John Young. “Consumers have developed a more sophisticated palate. In turn, this has generated interest in many different varieties of locally grown produce and has fueled the creation of restaurants with “seasonal” menus, roadside fruit stands and community gardens. Additionally, new certified farmers markets have been created throughout the United States. At the same time, policy changes at a federal level have encouraged institutions, such as hospitals, schools and food banks to have access to locally grown food. All of this has made the prospect of farming an exciting endeavor to undertake.”

Seating is limited and registration is required. To register, contact: Michelle Lawson, Yolo County Department of Agriculture, via e-mail: [michelle.lawson@yolocounty.org](mailto:michelle.lawson@yolocounty.org) or phone (530) 666-8140.

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