



# COUNTY OF YOLO

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## **Yolo County Receives Grant for Farm to School Yolo**

**(Woodland, CA)** – The California Department of Food and Agriculture has awarded the Yolo County Department of Agriculture \$399,930 over a three-year period to develop the Farm to School Yolo program, as mandated by the Yolo County General Plan. The award is part of the United States Department of Agriculture’s California Specialty Crop Block Grant Program.

Farm to School Yolo links Yolo agriculture with the National School Lunch Program offered to 38,000 students in Yolo County, of whom 65% are eligible for free and reduced meals, five days a week. Through the grant, five Yolo County school districts and the county’s Head Start Program will receive cooking lessons and funds to purchase products, and Yolo County farmers will receive training in marketing to school districts. An additional use of the grant funds is creation of a website for farmers to sell and institutions to order products as well as a portal to the *California Specialty Crop Guidebook for School Lunch*.

“Farm to School Yolo is a public health and agricultural marketing initiative that has the potential to change the way students and young people eat and think about food,” Yolo County Agricultural Commissioner said John Young. “I am working with Superintendent of Schools Dr. Jorge O. Ayala and Yolo County Health Director Jill Cook to ensure all students eat a good-tasting lunch that features many of the crops grown in Yolo County and throughout California. It is our vision that as young people come to know and love fresh fruits and vegetables prepared in flavorful ways, they will develop lifelong healthy eating habits.”

Assisting the Yolo County Department of Agriculture in delivering this grant will be the local marketing firm of Evans & Brennan, which works on farm to school nationwide. Additionally, a nationally recognized evaluation program based at UC Davis – the Sustainable Agricultural Resources and Education Project, under the direction of Gail Feenstra – will be on the team implementing the grant.

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