



# COUNTY OF YOLO

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Yolo County Earns Gold for State Fair Exhibit

(Woodland, CA) - Yolo County had a winning day at the California State Fair. The County's exhibit entitled "Follow the Yolo Brick Road" received a gold ribbon from the judges, as well as ribbons for Best Content and Best Use of Products, Produce or Artifacts. Wes Ervin, Yolo County's Economic Development Manager accepted the awards on behalf of the Yolo County Board of Supervisors.

Participating in the 2008 California State Fair's theme, "Go Hollywood," Yolo County's booth uses symbols from the movie, *The Wizard of Oz*, to highlight Yolo County's leadership in using eco-innovations to support and increase environmentally sustainable agriculture and related industries.

"Yolo County is committed to protecting agriculture, and being sensitive to the impact we make on the environment," said Yolo County Board of Supervisors Chairman Duane Chamberlain. "Our exhibit this year shows how we use innovative ideas to help us achieve our goals."

Yolo County's interactive exhibit is centered on Dorothy and Toto dancing along a yellow brick road made of kernels of corn (Yolo County's highest grossing field crop) that winds its way to an emerald city and the Wizard of Ag. Walking through the exhibit, the visitor is greeted by the Scarecrow, who "knows" about Yolo County Agriculture; the Tin Woodsman, who "cares" about sustaining Yolo County's bounty; and the Cowardly Lion, who is not "afraid" of bugs. Each character provides information to fairgoers about eco-innovations in Yolo County. Windows cut into the exhibit show the ghostly image of the Wizard, the wicked witches of the East and West caught up in a cyclone, and mysterious eyes that seem to follow the visitor.

Yolo County's exhibit is located at the east entrance to Building B at the California State Fair, and is staffed by county employees on weekends. Yolo County Visitor's Bureau maps, listing the farms, wineries, festivals and other activities are available at the exhibit.

California State Fair exhibit judging is based on five criteria, each representing 20% of the total score: content; marketability; craftsmanship; creative use of products; produce or artifacts; and technology/animation. To win a gold ribbon, exhibits must achieve an overall score of at least 90 out of 100 points.

Yolo County's State Fair exhibit is a result of months of hard work by the members of the county's State Fair exhibit committee, with special contributions from the University of California Cooperative Extension, who provided produce and expertise in agriculture, and the Richard Bay Puppet Theatre Company, which designed and constructed the exhibit.

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