



COUNTY OF YOLO

Office of the County Administrator

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Yolo County is Working to Empower Socially Disadvantaged Farmworkers

(Woodland, CA) – The Yolo County Board of Supervisors is deeply committed to supporting and empowering socially disadvantaged local farmworkers. In line with this commitment, the county recently collaborated with the Ujamaa Farmer's Collective, in partnership with the Centers for Land Based Learning (CLBL), to address the needs of underserved individuals passionate about agriculture. Through an agreement with Yolo County, utilizing \$1.25 million in state funds, the collective procured local farmland and essential equipment for the operations of an educational farm.

"Many facets of Yolo County collaborated to make this possible, including the General Services Department and County Counsel, who worked with the California Department of Parks and Recreation," explained Yolo County Supervisor Jim Provenza. "This agreement underscores our dedication to promoting education and empowerment among socially disadvantaged farmworkers to ensure a more equitable agricultural landscape."

After the conclusion of several pandemic-era programs intended to mitigate the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on local farmworkers, leadership across the county intensified efforts to enhance support for the local farming community. This initiative led to the creation of the YoloWorks! Agricultural Labor Program, through which dedicated county staff identify and offer educational, financial, housing, and nutritional resources to local farmers, ensuring their stability, with a particular emphasis on support at regional migrant centers.

Last August, Yolo County proudly hosted the inaugural Yolo County Farmworker Day Resource Fair, a significant event celebrating local farmworkers and providing essential resources to their families. Additionally, the program supports local farmworkers' professional development through initiatives like the Northstar Digital Literacy Program and community engagement activities such as the Long Sleeve Shirt Drive. By addressing farmworkers' needs and empowering them to thrive in Yolo County, the program plays a crucial role in nurturing a resilient agricultural community.

Yolo County Supervisor Angel Barajas expressed appreciation for the collaborative efforts aimed at supporting the local farmworker community. "Our ongoing initiatives demonstrate our commitment to standing in solidarity with our farmworkers, acknowledging their invaluable contributions to our agricultural sector," remarked Supervisor Barajas.

The Yolo County Board of Supervisors encourages community engagement and invites residents to stay informed about the progress of these initiatives as the county works towards empowering socially disadvantaged local farmworkers. Additionally, the board is excited to announce that YoloWorks! Agricultural Labor Program has partnered with the California Employment Development Department to host a Farmworker Resource Fair this April. Residents of Mutual Housing at Spring Lake can expect support from an array of community resources, including career guidance, agricultural rights and safety information, support from local service providers, refreshments, a raffle, and much more.

For information about farmworker assistance programs and resources, please visit www.YoloWorks.org. Additionally, residents are welcome to call 2-1-1, which is a resource to access vital health and human services, information, and community resources.

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