

**SAREP supports Farm-to-School programs throughout the state and develops evaluation tools and data for Farm-to-School projects.**



## California programs\*

### Davis Farm-to-School Program

- Has a multi-faceted program in which more than 50% of the district's produce was purchased from local growers in 2004/2005.

### Ventura Farm-to-School Program

- Features fresh, local produce from the Growers' Collaborative in all 25 schools in the district.

### Marin County

- Features gleaned and donated organic foods in schools throughout the county.

### Berkeley School District

- Has a progressive school food policy that promotes local, organic foods whenever possible.

*\*These are a sampling of the Farm-to-School programs in California.*



## About UC Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program

UC SAREP works with campus and county-based programs and other partners to...

...support local communities by strengthening participation in sustainable food and agricultural systems

...assist California farmers and ranchers in developing ecologically based production systems and alternative marketing strategies.

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For more information about UC SAREP and Farm-to-School programs, please visit our Web site at: [www.sarep.ucdavis.edu](http://www.sarep.ucdavis.edu)

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*For more information about Farm-to-School programs nationally, please visit: [www.farmtoschool.org](http://www.farmtoschool.org).*



## FARM TO SCHOOL



## Connecting local farms with school lunch programs

*“Eating locally supports and sustains our state's farmers. It's wonderful when school districts can link up with regional farmers to provide the produce for their children.”*

*A.G. Kawamura, Secretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture and California family farmer.*

# Supporting local agriculture



## What is farm-to-school?

### Farm Fresh Foods in Schools

- Students are served fresh, locally grown, seasonal fruits and vegetables with their lunches.

### Farm Visits

- Students visit local farms to meet farmers and learn how their food is grown.

### School Gardens

- Hands-on activities in the garden teach students about the connections between growing plants and eating healthy food.

### Recycling and Composting

- Students recycle their food waste, turning it into compost for the garden.

### Community Connections

- Farm-to-school programs link with local Farmers Markets and sponsor community events around food and farming.



## Program benefits...

### ...for Farmers

- Opens new direct marketing opportunities with institutions such as schools, colleges and hospitals.
- Strengthens relationships between farmers and the community.

### ...for Children

- Encourages children to develop life-long healthful eating habits.
- Reinforces an appreciation for the importance of farming to our community.
- Instills an appreciation for the cycle of food from seed to table.

### ...for the Community

- Helps maintain local economies by supporting local farms.
- Strengthens urban/rural linkages.

*“It’s a ‘win-win’ situation—fresh local produce helps improve diet and health, and schools and other institutional markets have the potential to absorb the volumes that mid-scale growers and processors have to offer.”*

*Richard Rominger, Winters farmer and former U.S. Deputy Secretary of Agriculture*

