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.

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

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For more information about Farm-to-School programs nationally, please visit: www.farmtoschool.org.

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