

JOIN THE MOVEMENT!

CAFF's Farm to School Initiative uses policy and community organizing to help reshape the way our children eat and learn. We are actively:

- Sharing farm to school lessons and resources with parents, farms, food service directors and educators through trainings and farm to school field guides. You can find many of these materials at: www.caff.org
- Linking farms that run educational programs through the California Farm Education Network

CAFF's Farm to School Initiative

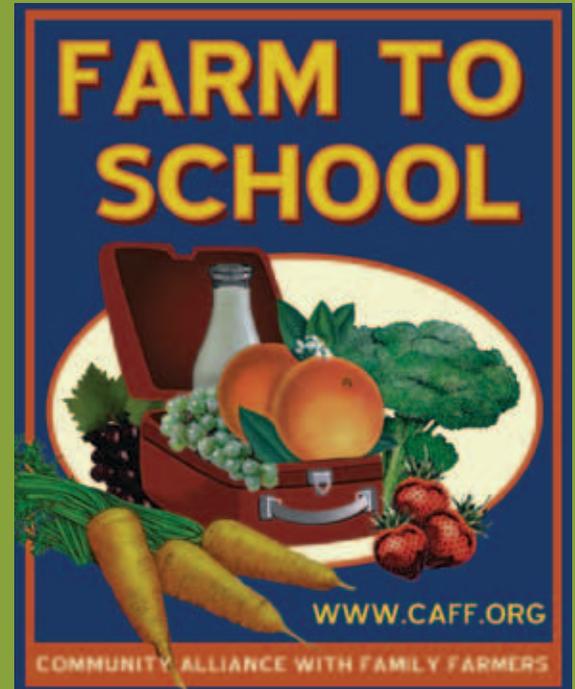


Farm to school programs are sprouting up across the county! Visit www.farmtoschool.org to plug into the national movement.

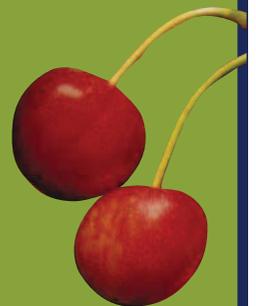


The Community Alliance with Family Farmers advocates for California family farmers and sustainable agriculture. CAFF is a non-profit organization that relies on grants and community donations.

For more information about our Farm to School Initiative visit our web site at www.caff.org or contact farmtoschool@caff.org



The Community Alliance with Family Farmers' Farm to School Initiative reconnects children with local food and agriculture in the classroom, on the farm and in the cafeteria.





WHAT IS FARM TO SCHOOL?

Farm to School Programs connect farms with school cafeterias and classrooms. These programs can include everything from farm field trips to nutrition education in the school garden to farm-fresh salad bars. Farm to School programs come in all shapes and sizes, but they fall into two main categories:

- Farm to School **Education**
- Farm to School **Produce Distribution**

A comprehensive Farm to School program puts both elements together: Fresh, locally-grown produce appears on the school menu, while students learn about local agriculture.

OUR FARM TO SCHOOL INITIATIVE

Since 2001, the Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF) has spearheaded Farm to School projects across California. Our Farm to School Initiative has developed and coordinated on-the-ground programs connecting schools and school children to their local farming communities, while also creating resources, workshops and materials that help further the Farm to School movement in California. CAFF runs Farm to School programs in Monterey, Humboldt, Santa Cruz and Santa Clara counties, and connects local farmers to school cafeterias in Sacramento Valley, Ventura and the Bay Area.



KNOW YOUR FARMER EDUCATION

Our Know Your Farmer Program reconnects children and youth with agriculture, coaching a new generation's interactions with the food system. The program has four core elements that teach kids about food and farming, inspiring them to make healthier choices that support our local farm communities.

CAFF staff works with local schools and districts to:

- Host farmer visits to classrooms
- Coordinate farm field trips that are fun, engaging and educational
- Teach kids about where their food comes from with local food system lessons
- Provide Harvest of the Month Tasting Kits that feature a locally grown fruit or vegetable each month with corresponding lessons

FARM TO SCHOOL DISTRIBUTION

CAFF has pioneered innovative ways to connect family farms to institutions like schools, hospitals and universities. With years of experience consolidating and distributing produce from family farms, CAFF is now focused on working with the distribution industry in California to open wholesale markets for small and mid-sized farms. The Farm to School Initiative specializes in working hand-in-hand with school food service to bring local produce onto the menu. We understand the challenges and barriers to change school food and strive to create mutually beneficial partnerships with food service departments, the produce industry and family farmers. We have developed many resources to help facilitate these relationships and also provide technical assistance to school districts.

