

Farm to School Innovator Series: Getting Started with Local Farmers and Micropurchases

November 5, 2025

Liz Carlton

California Food for California Kids
Program Manager

Cindy Hu, MEd

Education Program Manager

Vince Caguin, MBA

Director of Strategy and Innovation



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Farm to School Innovator Series: Getting Started with Local Farmers and Micropurchases

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Keng Vang

Founder

Fresno BIPOC Produce Inc.



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Live Interpretation Community Language Cooperative

The Community Language Cooperative (CLC) provides interpretation services, focus groups, and inclusivity/diversity training to make community, academic and governmental events more accessible for all. We help remove barriers and broaden opportunities for participation and community engagement by non-English speakers and train organizations on implementation of inclusivity practices.



Agenda

- Welcome + Updates
- New School Meal Recipes
- Getting Started with Local Farmers and Micropurchases
- Guest Panel: Keng Vang, Fresno BIPOC Produce
- Q+A
- Farm to School Poll
- Regional Breakouts
- Resources
- Closing





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164

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

39

COUNTIES

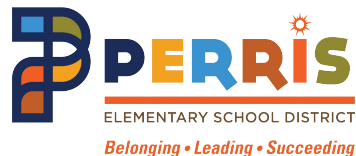


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California Food for California Kids New Member Introductions



BLAKE SCHOOL DISTRICT
HOME OF THE BULLDOGS



SYLVAN UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
WHERE KNOWLEDGE GROWS



Farm to School Innovator Series

The Farm to School Innovator Series provides virtual gatherings for farm to school leaders focused on building resilient school food systems in California. Live interpretation into Spanish will be provided for the event series.



Federal Updates

Government Shutdown and School Meals

- CalFresh (SNAP) benefits temporarily delayed and reduced
- School meal funding continues
- Remind families:
 - 2+ free meals per day at school
 - How to find a food bank
- Schools can donate leftover food



H.R. 1 and School Meals

- Some Californians will lose access or have reduced benefits under CalFresh (SNAP) and Medi-Cal (Medicaid)
- Cuts are coming in phases
- Fewer “Directly Certified” students due to cuts
- Federal contribution will decrease for California’s school nutrition programs
- Every student in California will still receive free breakfast and lunch



New School Meal Recipes

Fresh from California

- 11 culturally relevant recipes
- Spotlights dynamic Farm to School leaders across California
- Highlights regional connections
- Designed to inspire and equip school nutrition professionals



Nourishing Students

- 12 school meal recipes
- Targeted at our earliest learners:
Transitional Kindergarten (TK) and
Kindergarten students
- Innovative strategies to strengthen connections
between the classroom and cafeteria



Getting Started with Local Farmers and Micropurchases

Connecting with Local Farmers

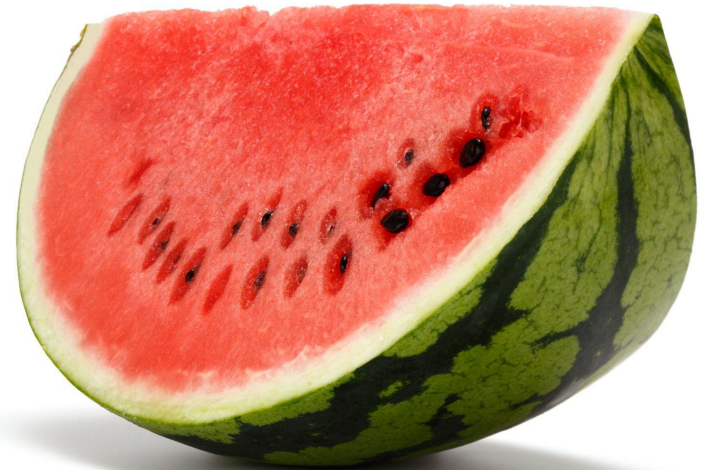
- Build Relationships
- Reach Out
- Meet Your Farmers
- Focus on Community
- Stay in Touch
- Resource: [Plan a Farmer Visit to Your School](#)





Micropurchases

- Micropurchase: a procurement method for small and simple purchases
- General threshold: \$10,000
- Self-certify threshold: \$50,000
- Common Uses:
 - One-time purchase
 - First-time purchase
 - Relationship building



Understanding Working with Farmers

- **Consider:** Why might it be difficult for some farmers to sell to schools?
- **Barriers:** paperwork and more
- Navigating uncertainty
- Respect



Introducing Fresno BIPOC Produce Inc.



"Representing hundreds of BIPOC and socially disadvantaged farmers throughout California."

FRESNO BIPOC PRODUCE

FRESNO BIPOC PRODUCE

Based in Fresno and operated by Keng Vang, Fresno BIPOC Produce serve as a food hub, collaborating with school districts to expand their procurement on fresh and culturally diverse fruits and vegetables.

PRODUCE

- Chinese Eggplant
- Bok Choy
- Vochoy
- Onchoy (Water Spinach)
- Daikon
- Bittermelon
- Opo
- Zucchini
- Purple Potatoes
- Stone Fruits
- Citrus
- Persimmons
- Jujube
- Green Beans
- Peppers
- Tomatoes
- Mustard Greens





Guest Panel Discussion: Keng Vang, Fresno BIPOC Produce

Fresno BIPOC Produce Inc.

Keng Vang
Founder

fresnobipocproduce@gmail.com

fresnobipocproduce.localfoodmarketplace.com

[instagram.com/fresnobipocproduce](https://www.instagram.com/fresnobipocproduce)



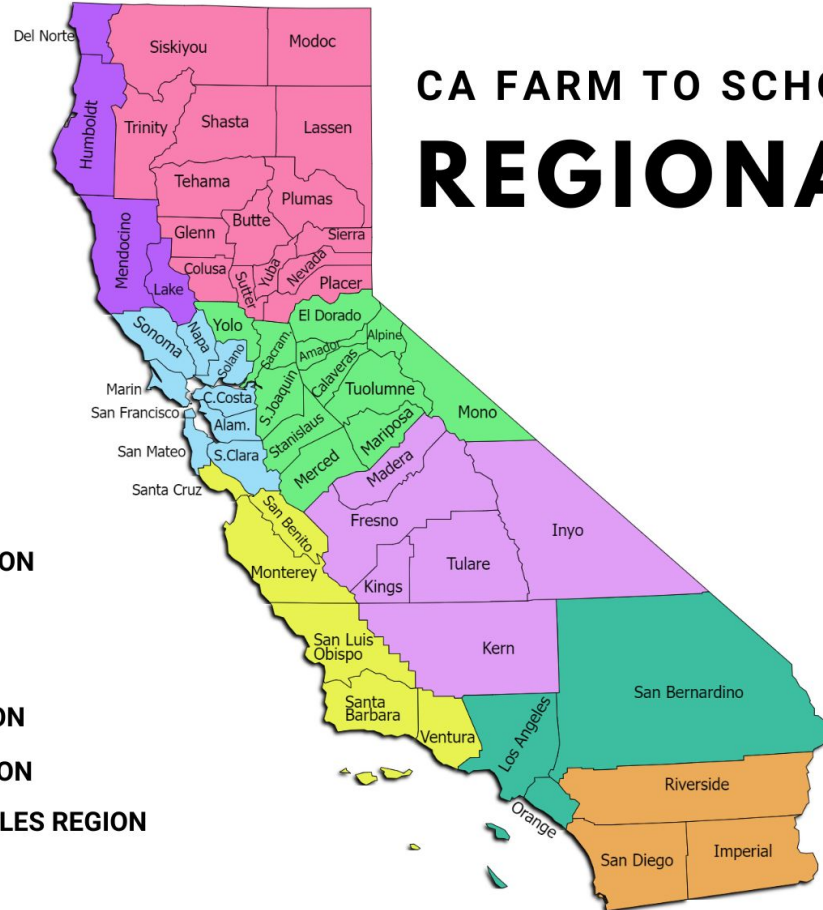
Farm to School Poll

Regional Breakouts

CA FARM TO SCHOOL NETWORK

REGIONAL MAP

-  **SUPERIOR REGION**
-  **NORTH COAST REGION**
-  **BAY AREA REGION**
-  **CENTRAL REGION**
-  **SAN JOAQUIN REGION**
-  **SOUTH COAST REGION**
-  **GREATER LOS ANGELES REGION**
-  **SOUTHERN REGION**



Resources

Center for Ecoliteracy Resources

PUBLICATIONS

- [Fresh from California](#)
- [Nourishing Students Resources](#)
- [Plan a Farmer Visit to Your School](#)

VIRTUAL EVENTS

- [Farm to School Innovator Series: February 25, 2026](#)
- [School Food Innovator Series Archive](#)
- [Nourishing Students Virtual Menu Planning Sessions Archive](#)

Join the California Food for California Kids Network

California Food for California Kids is an initiative of the Center for Ecoliteracy that builds the capacity and commitment of public school districts to provide all students with fresh, locally-grown school meals and develop connections between the cafeteria, classroom, and garden.



Micropurchase Resources

California Department of Education

- [Micropurchase & Simplified Acquisition Thresholds](#)

LunchAssist

- [Micro-Purchase Self-Certification Template](#)

CAFF and CHIP F2I Center

- [The California School Produce Procurement Guide](#)

Partner Organization Resources

California Department of Food and Agriculture

- Office of Farm to Fork California Farm to School Program
- CDFA Office of Farm to Fork: CA Farm to School Network Call – *Dec 18*

National Farm to School Network

- 10th National Farm to Cafeteria Conference – *Dec 1-4*

Partner Organization Resources

Salad Bars to Schools (SB2S)

- Expanding Access to Fresh Fruits and Vegetables in School Meals – *Ongoing Grant Program*

USDA

- FY 2026 Patrick Leahy Farm to School Grant Program – *due Dec 5*

Thank you!



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