

California Department of Food and Agriculture 2025 CalAgPlate Grant Program Project Abstracts

Beginnings INC **\$10,000.00**

Beginnings Garden to Market:
Youth Agricultural Business and Career Development Program

Rural Southern Humboldt students have limited exposure to agricultural career pathways despite living in a farming region. The program will transform an established greenhouse initiative into a comprehensive agricultural business and leadership program for second through sixth grade students. While students currently learn plant cultivation, they lack exposure to the viable careers and entrepreneurial skills agriculture offers. This project bridges that gap through integrated, hands-on learning. Students will explore diverse agricultural careers such as greenhouse management, nursery operations, herbalism, food entrepreneurship, and natural foods retail, guided by guest speakers and field trips to local farms and businesses. This model addresses rural isolation while building agricultural leadership and economic literacy in the next generation.

California Association, Future Farmers of America **\$178,500.00**

Leadership and Programmatic Development

CalAgPlate grant funding will continue to support student leadership and program development for California's statewide Future Farmers of America (FFA) program, which includes 373 school chapters across the state. These chapters play a crucial role in providing leadership instruction through the FFA student organization to 108,200 student members. The program aims to enhance student access to information about career, leadership, and programmatic opportunities.

Coachella Valley Unified School District **\$9,720.00**

School to Table: Hands in the soil, Minds in the Future.

Many children today have limited connection to how food is grown and reaches their tables. The School to Table project is designed to reconnect students to agriculture through hands-on composting and vertical gardening. Grant funds will be used to install GeoBins, tumbler composting systems, and mobile vertical gardens across participating schools. The project's goals are to increase student knowledge and involvement in composting and to expand the number of seed-to-table experiences through new garden installations. Students will engage in turning food scraps into nutrient-rich soil and growing fresh produce in small, sustainable spaces year-round.

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Community Bridges **\$10,000.00**

Seeding Change: Inspiring Agricultural Careers in South Santa Cruz County.

Many youth and families in South County, especially in Watsonville, live in the heart of California's agricultural industry but lack opportunities to learn about careers in farming, food production, and related fields. At the same time, local employers report challenges finding skilled workers who are aware of the wide range of agricultural career paths—from field production to technology, science, and business. Through this project, the organization will bring agricultural job awareness seminars and training opportunities to youth and families in South County. The project will host bilingual workshops and career panels featuring local growers, food producers, and agricultural professionals. These events will provide practical information, mentorship connections, and hands-on exposure to careers in agriculture.

San Joaquin Farm Bureau Foundation for Agricultural Education **\$10,000.00**

San Joaquin County AgVenture

San Joaquin County's (SJC) AgVenture program introduces young students to where their food comes from and the role agriculture plays in the community. As the county's largest industry, agriculture serves as a platform for teaching nutrition and healthy living. From January 2026 to January 2027, AgVenture will host five field days across northern, central, and southern SJC, involving 12,500 third-grade students and their chaperones, along with 1,200 local farmers, producers, and volunteers. These events provide hands-on learning experiences focused on agricultural literacy, healthy eating habits, and awareness of the agricultural workforce.