

# Overarching Vision for Agriculture and Education In Marin County

(Created at the Marin Agriculture & Education Forum, February 2002)

*Marin has vital agricultural industries and food systems that are economically and environmentally sustainable and that provide diverse products to a community that values and actively supports local agriculture.*

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*Agricultural education is an integral part of the Marin school community from lessons and projects in classrooms, on farms and in school gardens to local foods in the school food service programs*

## Indicators that the Vision has been Accomplished

### *All Marinites will:*

Know which agricultural products are grown in Marin and where to purchase them  
Support and work to preserve Marin farms as a source of fresh local foods  
Understand that eating fresh locally grown food is beneficial  
Appreciate the agricultural resources of Marin that contribute to open space & scenic beauty  
Be able to visit a farm

### *All Marin Students will:*

Know where their food comes from and how it is grown  
Know that they depend on agriculture, and that agriculture depends on them  
Understand the interconnection among agriculture, people, and the environment  
Participate in an educational farm field trip

### *All Marin Farmers will:*

Be able to sustain their operations economically and environmentally  
Have sufficient distribution and outlets for their products  
Have a streamlined and supportive county-permitting process that enhances their operations

## Ways to Achieve the Vision

1. Educate Marin school children about agriculture in schools and on farms
2. Support and encourage the purchase of local food in schools, institutions, and retail stores
3. Build public awareness and understanding of the importance of supporting local agriculture by increasing media coverage and public agency understanding
4. Support viability of agriculture in Marin with pro-active public policy and planning
5. Provide interested ranchers and farmer with tools for sustaining and enhancing their operations

## Successful Activities Initiated since the 2002 Forum

- Sustainable and Organic Agricultural Advisor hired by U.C. Cooperative Extension
- Grown in Marin Website
- Ombudsman with County planning office to assist farmers with permitting and regulation
- One locally grown lunch served in a Novato school
- Marin Agriculture and Education Alliance Coordination Project
- Farm Field Study Program for school farm visits
- Education Farm Feasibility Study