NEVADA COUNTY
FOOD & FARMING
RESOURCE GUIDE

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The Nevada County Food Policy Council is a group made of agencies, organizations and businesses working collaboratively to increase the demand, supply and access to local, community-based, fair ecologically sound and humane foods in Nevada County. This resource guide is part of a greater Food System Assessment. In mapping a future food system in Nevada County to improve overall community health and well-being the Council came up with these three goals:

1. Increased **Availability of and Access** to Whole-Sum food  
2. Increased **Supply** of Whole-Sum food  
3. Increased **Consumer Demand** for Whole-Sum food

This resource guide elaborates on the existing efforts to support these goals. You can read the full Food Systems Assessment [here](#). For a directory of Nevada County agricultural producers visit Sierra Harvest’s [Farm Directory](#) soon. For resources on which restaurants and institutions are supporting these efforts please visit the Sierra Harvest website soon.

![Students enjoying veggies from their weekly garden cart as part of the Sierra Harvest Farm to School Program, Grass Valley, CA](#)

*Photo Credit: Andrea Bradley*
Existing Efforts to Support Availability of and Access to Whole-sum Food

Non-profits

**Bright Futures for Youth** The organization will be comprised of two aligned programs: The Friendship Club and NEO. The new, multilayered organization will provide comprehensive services to meet the many, and sometimes very specific, needs of youth in the area. The Friendship Club provides a comprehensive, year-round, long-term program aimed at helping empower and educate youth who face challenges of poverty, abuse and trauma between the ages of 10 and 18 and provides assistance into their 20s as they transition into adulthood. They provide cooking and gardening opportunities for youth in their programs. NEO’s mission is to empower youth to make healthy and positive lifestyle choices. NEO, which stands for New Events & Opportunities, is an innovative grassroots nonprofit youth center and youth empowerment program. NEO was founded by two nineteen-year olds in 2008 and hosted over 350 teen-led events throughout western Nevada County before opening their Youth Center in 2015. They serve youth and young adults between the ages of 11-25 years old.

**Gold Country Senior Services (GCSS)** GCSS provides essential programs that meet the basic needs of seniors living in Western Nevada County. GCSS ensures older adults have nutritional meals, warm homes, social interaction and a greater sense of security. Their nutrition programs for seniors include Meals on Wheels and a lunch café. The meals are prepared and cooked from scratch to provide a hot healthy meal to program participants. A dietitian approves the menu to meet dietary guidelines for older adults. A donation of $3.00 is suggested per meal, however, no senior is turned away due to the inability to make a donation. The program’s average donation is $1.20.

**Congregate Café:** Each hot meal is prepared fresh and from scratch Monday-Friday in Grass Valley. Seniors participate in activities, health and wellness education classes, and socialize with their peers at the lunch café. The program serves over 7,000 meals per year.

**Meals on Wheels:** Gold Country Community Services has been providing home
delivered meals to homebound seniors since 1987. Annually, they serve over 38,000 meals in various parts of Nevada County. Volunteers deliver a hot meal Monday through Friday. The demand for services especially Meals on Wheels continues to exceed current resources with a waiting list implemented in the Meals on Wheels. The need for additional food resources delivered to homebound seniors continues to be an unmet food need in Nevada County.

Sierra Community House (SCH) was launched from a collaborative relationship between 4 long-standing non-profits that make up the safety net for North Lake Tahoe/Truckee communities: Family Resource Center of Truckee, North Tahoe Family Resource Center, Project MANA and Tahoe SAFE Alliance.

Weekly Food Distributions Community members can attend any one of four weekly food distributions in the North Lake Tahoe/Truckee region. SCH distributes nearly 4,700 pounds of food weekly, 20,500 pounds of food monthly and 246,500 pounds of food annually. This equates to a distribution of nearly 3,950 meals weekly, 17,125 meals monthly, and 205,500 meals annually.

Food and Companionship Exchange (FACE) FACE is a home food delivery program for individuals who cannot make it to the weekly food distributions due to mental or physical limitations.

Emergency and Cooking Compromised Food Bags A limited number of bags of non-perishables are available for those who need a little extra food.

Food Rescue Food Rescue is a collaboration with local supermarkets and retail vendors, where Project MANA staff and volunteers collect produce, dairy, bakery and grocery items each week. This donated product is then distributed to community members throughout our three county service area. In 2012-2013, 65,960 pounds of food were rescued.

Food Donations and Drives SCH accepts perishable and non-perishable food donations. In 2012-2013, 20,131 pounds of food were collected and donated through food drives. These largest donors included Truckee High School, Incline Middle School, Incline Elementary School, Alder Creek Middle School, Glenshire Elementary School, Truckee Elementary School, North Tahoe Hebrew Congregation, The Gang, the Ritz Carlton Lake Tahoe, Incline High School ROTC, and Sierra High School.
Sierra Harvest’s mission is to transform lives and strengthen community through fresh, local, seasonal food.

**Food Love Farm U-Pick/Farmstand:** Community members have the opportunity to visit Sierra Harvest’s educational farm and pick their own fresh and organic produce weekly on Tuesdays from 4:30-6:30pm, starting late June. The farm accepts CalFresh.

**Gleaning:** Volunteer Harvest Leaders lead groups of volunteers to glean extra fruit and produce from private homes and farms and donate it to Interfaith Food Ministry to feed fresh and local produce to their more than 8,000 clients including 25% children.

**Procurement:** Sierra Harvest is committed to procuring food for our local hospital, correctional facility, schools, the food bank and more that supports local farmers, a healthy environment, and an engaged, vibrant community. By supporting entities like schools to have scratch cooked, farm fresh meals, children of all income levels have access to high quality school lunch.

**Sierra Gardens:** Sierra Harvest installs backyard gardens and offers two years of supplies and mentorship to families who want to succeed at growing their own fresh vegetables at home. There is a sliding scale for low-income families.

**Sierra Roots** serves chronically homeless people of Nevada County, many of whom have been homeless for years and have severe disabilities such as mental illness, substance abuse disorder, and chronic health problems. In 2012 Sierra Roots began providing hot, nutritious meals once a week in Pioneer Park in Nevada City throughout the summer. In addition to weekly lunches, Sierra Roots offers toiletries and non-perishable food for the homeless.

**Sierra Senior Services** provides home-delivered meals, community dining, and social connection, and coordinates additional support services that empower seniors to continue living independently. Sierra Senior Services serves at-risk individuals 60 years of age or older in the Truckee/North Lake Tahoe area. They provide home-delivered meals Monday through Friday. Meals are prepared in their kitchen and provide 1/3 of the minimum daily requirements for older adults. All meals are low in sodium, cholesterol and fat and are approved by a Registered
Dietitian. Meal distribution is as follows: 38% home delivered meals to Placer County; 28% home delivered to Nevada County; 19% Community Dining Room; 15% Washoe County. The delivery area is approximately 860 square miles: from Donner summit up Highway 89 to Hirshdale, and from Incline Village to Tahoma on the West Shore. Two-thirds of seniors are home bound, 83% live alone, 68% are renters, 52% are disabled, and 75% are over the age of 75.

**Tahoe Food Hub**’s mission is to galvanize the community to build a regional, sustainable and equitable food system. They support regenerative agriculture and address local food access challenges at a systems level by creating a local food system for the Lake Tahoe/Reno area. They have a network of more than fifty farms and ranches within 150-miles of North Lake Tahoe. Their fair trade marketplace makes it easy for restaurants, small grocers, resorts, schools and the public to access these local food producers. They are committed to reducing food insecurity by sourcing food regionally and ensuring equal access while exploring ways to grow food locally.

**Food Banks and Pantries**

**Food Bank of Nevada County** distributes community-donated food and USDA commodities from five locations in Nevada County throughout the month. They provide healthy school snacks for 258 individual classrooms and free summer lunches to children of low-income families in five separate locations. They also donate food to thirty local nonprofit agencies who help feed seniors, children, mothers, homeless, homebound, disabled, veterans, and more.

**Summer Meal Service – Grass Valley School District Child Nutrition Services, Grass Valley and Madelyn Helling Libraries** provides free nutritious meals to children during summer vacation. Free summer lunches for children and youth. Must eat on site. For all kids ages 0-18 and for 19-21-year-old individuals identified as having a mental or physical disability and who are following an IEP program. For the third year in a row, children ages 18 and under can get a free, healthy lunch five days a week at the Grass Valley Library and once a week at the Madelyn Helling Library. In the summer of 2019, more than 1,470 children and teens enjoyed a nutritious lunch and an entertaining activity at the Grass Valley Library. The Summer Lunches Program is a partnership between the Nevada County Community Library, The Food Bank of Nevada County, and the Nevada County Public Health.
department. During the 2018-2019 school year, half of the youth in Nevada County received free or reduced lunch according to Ed-Data.org. When school is no longer in session, children and families may struggle to find food to fill this gap.

**Interfaith Food Ministry (IFM)** is a nonprofit dedicated to reducing food insecurity and providing supplemental food to families in Western Nevada County. Since 1987, over 1 million Nevada County residents, including seniors (25%), adults (50%) and children (25%), have walked through their doors seeking help. Each client visit has a positive impact on the health of that family and on the health of our community. IFM is primarily funded by local community donations, grants and fundraising events. Their low overhead (2-3%) and strong buying power allows IFM to effectively and efficiently provide supplemental groceries to Nevada County residents. In 2018 alone, IFM served 7,838 individuals and 2,030 children.

**Garden Gals:** The Garden Gals is an all-woman crew of volunteers who grow organic produce on a half-acre farm in Penn Valley. They grow exclusively for IFM and donated 3,200 pounds of food to the non-profit in 2018.

**Donated Food:** IFM has also received donations of fresh produce from BriarPatch Food Co-op, California Organics, Cedar Ridge Grocery Store, Natural Selection, Placer Food Bank, Nevada County Food Bank, SPD, The Nevada City Farmers Market, Raley’s, Save Mart, and Holiday Market.

**Partnership with Riverhill Farm:** Riverhill Farm is a diversified organic farm in Nevada City. They have partnered with IFM since 2017 to provide high-quality produce to IFM clients. Riverhill customers “adopt” a row of crops, and those crops are donated to IFM at no cost.

**Partnership with Sierra Harvest’s Gold Country Gleaners:** The Gleaners program organizes volunteers to harvest fresh, organic seasonal produce that would otherwise go to waste, and donates it to IFM. From 2018 – 2020, the gleaners have donated more than 54,000 pounds of produce to IFM.

**20% by 2025 Whole-sum Food Challenge:** IFM is the first organization to sign on to the Nevada County Food Policy Council’s Whole-sum Food Challenge. Their current consumption of local/regional food is 2%. Since signing on to the challenge, Sierra Harvest has helped them expand their relationships among
local and regional producers.

**Sierra Bible Church** offers a food pantry and financial assistance to people in need. Walk-ins are welcome for the food pantry, open Monday – Friday and Sunday, 9am–4pm.

**United Way of Nevada County** strives to assure that individuals and families in Nevada County are able to meet their basic need for food, emergency shelter, and access to health care.

**Food Access Saturday** United Way of Nevada County, in collaboration with Interfaith Food Ministry (IFM) initiated a new food distribution program called Food Access Saturday. This program was created to help those who work during the week, and are unable to get much-needed supplemental food at local food pantries. Food is distributed every second Saturday of the month. Any working individuals and families who need food can participate by showing up at Interfaith Food Ministry.

**Farms**

**Early Bird Farm** is a diversified farm in Nevada City. They also operate a mill and sell grains throughout the region. In 2018, they grew over 500 pounds of produce to donate to Interfaith Food Ministry and local churches. They receive no economic benefit from their donations, but are able to continue operating by selling to local grocery stores, caterers and restaurants, which balances their costs.

**Mountain Bounty Farm** is an organic, diversified farm in Nevada City. The farm offers an option in their Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) sign-up for subscribers to donate a dollar amount to subsidize the cost of CSA boxes for low-income households (generally a 15-30% discount). From 2019 to the end of summer 2020, they raised roughly $7,500 from 200 donors (about one-third of their total CSA subscribers). These boxes are supporting 25 low-income families. They also donate to Sierra Harvest’s Gleaners, who distribute the produce to Interfaith Food Ministry.

**Riverhill Farm** is a diversified organic farm in Nevada City. They have partnered with Interfaith Food Ministry since 2017 to provide high-quality produce to IFM
clients. Riverhill customers “adopt” a row of crops, and those crops are donated to IFM at no cost.

Government Agencies

211 Nevada County/Connecting Point is a resource and information hub that connects Nevada County residents with programs and services through a searchable website and 24/7 local call center. 211 assists community members in locating and connecting to food resources in the area. Their extensive database includes resources such as food banks and pantries, congregate meals, home delivered meals, and other nutrition programs. 211 also provides information on the CalFresh program and can guide consumers through the application process. In partnership with Nevada County Social Services, 211 offers a Market Money program at local farmers’ markets. CalFresh participants who spend their EBT dollars on market tokens will be matched with up to $10 more in free tokens at all participating markets, every week, all season long. 211 is a program of Connecting Point.

The Nevada County Public Health Department administers the following programs:

CalFresh Healthy Living Program Classes are offered to adults and youth to teach residents how to cook and eat fresh foods while sticking to a budget. Class and food demo locations are selected based upon specific program criteria.

Women, Infant, Children (WIC) Program WIC is a program that helps pregnant women, new mothers, infants and young children eat well, stay healthy and be active. WIC provides food vouchers via a debit card system for families to purchase healthy food options at the location of their choice. In addition, WIC coupons can be used at farmers’ markets that are certified to accept WIC.

HIV Case Management For community members living with HIV/AIDS, the HIV Case Management program can provide vouchers for the purchase of food, dependent on the client’s income.
The Nevada County Department of Social Services oversees CalFresh Food. CalFresh Food (federally known as the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program or SNAP) provides monthly food benefits to assist low-income households in purchasing food. Customers can use their CalFresh benefits through Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) at most farmers’ markets and grocery stores.

Businesses/Other

BriarPatch Food Co-op is a local, community-owned business that is committed to providing high-quality, healthy products, especially local and organic food. They promote a strong local food system by prioritizing local and regional food, and by providing access to education about food and consumer issues that encourage customers to make healthier food choices. In 2019, the Co-op donated $15,000 to community organizations that support low-income residents, and $25,000 in food, products and gift cards. 50% of their products sold are organic ($17 million purchased by the community). Also, in 2019 they donated $27,000 worth of vegetables to elementary schools through Sierra Harvest’s Harvest of the Month Program.

Co-op Basics and Bulk: BriarPatch Food Co-op always offers staple items at discounted prices in an effort to make healthful foods and household products more affordable to everyone. The Co-op also has an extensive bulk department that lets shoppers buy as much or as little as they want, which can give their food budgets more flexibility. Buying in bulk also allows customers to consider the sustainability of their packaging choices and to reduce the environmental impact of shopping.

Co-op CAUSE: The Co-op CAUSE program allows customers to donate easily at checkout to a community endeavor aligned with the Co-op’s Ends Policies. Cashiers prompt customers to round up their total payment to the nearest dollar or more. The amount over and above the purchase total is donated to the designated project. In 2019, the Co-op CAUSE program raised $65,500 in donations.

Grocery Outlet in Grass Valley sells roughly $10 million worth of Natural, Organic, and Specialty & Healthy Foods (NOSH) annually. Most of their purchases are made
through a buying team in Emeryville, California, which makes it difficult to track all regional food, but management estimates their sales of regional food are between $500,000 and $750,000. Since purchases are made opportunistically, Grocery Outlet is able to offer heavily discounted prices on the majority of their products. They donate food to Interfaith Food Ministry and also invite the organization to work outside Grocery Outlet and collect food and money donations on a yearly basis. Grocery Outlet currently sells no local food.

Existing Efforts to Support Supply of Whole-sum Food

Non-profits

Banner Community Guild is dedicated to promoting, supporting and advocating for the: community, regenerative farms, local economy, cultural diversity, schools, arts, and a variety of charitable causes. They accomplish this by providing a location for meetings, workshops and classes, hosting events such as the annual Seed Swap, and (soon-to-be) certified kitchen.

Bear Yuba Land Trust exists to protect and defend the working and natural lands of the Bear and Yuba River watersheds and to empower a healthy, resilient community through nature access and education.

**Forever Farms** Since 1990, Bear Yuba Land Trust has protected over 6,000 acres of local farm and ranch land through conservation easements and continues to grow this footprint through the Forever Farms program in collaboration with Sierra Harvest, BriarPatch Food Co-op, and the Tahoe Food Hub. BYLT is dedicated to keeping this agricultural legacy intact in a number of ways: protecting the land from development through conservation easements; providing revenue to farmers; ensuring conserved land will remain in agriculture forever; estate tax reduction; property tax reduction; restoration funding; promoting local farms and encouraging policies that support agriculture (such as the Williamson Act and the Farm Bill); connecting farmers with landowners.

California Grower’s Association is a statewide membership organization focused on information, community, and advocacy. In the last few years,
CalGrowers has quickly become one of the most prominent cannabis voices in the state. Taking an inclusive approach to membership, the organization is the largest association of cannabis growers and business owners in the state.

**California FarmLink**’s mission is to link independent farmers and ranchers with the land and financing they need for a sustainable future. Established in 1999, California FarmLink supports beginning, limited-resource, immigrant and other underserved farmers. FarmLink provides access to land and capital to build a diverse and sustainable farming community.

**Farm Bureau** is California’s largest farm organization (53 county bureaus, nearly 78,000 members). The Farm Bureau strives to protect and improve the ability of farmers and ranchers engaged in production agriculture to provide a reliable supply of food and fiber through responsible stewardship of California’s resources. The Farm Bureau plays an important role in preserving farmable land in Nevada County. They offer two scholarships a year to graduating high school seniors who choose to pursue their studies in agriculture.

**Future Farmers of America (FFA)** is an intra-curricular student organization for those interested in agriculture and leadership. It is one of the three components of agricultural education. Nevada Union and Bear River High School have FFA chapters. Agricultural Education prepares students for successful careers and a lifetime of informed choices in global agriculture, food, fiber, and natural resources systems.

**Nevada County Beekeepers Association** is a diverse group of professionals and hobbyists, with a keen interest in promoting the well-being of honey bees and their habitat while enjoying their amazing benefits. The NCBA strives to promote education on beekeeping and agriculture by providing the latest news and techniques in these fields.

**Sierra Small Business Development Center (SBDC)** is a program that provides free consulting and training designed to help existing and new businesses. They help new businesses go through the steps to become successful and also assist existing businesses in strategizing expansion plans and accessing capital for sustainable growth. The SBDC’s free one-on-one consulting topics include:
strategic planning, cash flow management, feasibility, social media, site selection, marketing, operations, human resources, and other specialty programs for small businesses and startups.

Sierra Commons Business Ignitor helps strengthen the local economy through job creation, retention, and increased local revenue. They support business owners, freelancers, and remote workers by providing business education, turn-key office infrastructure, and business acumen through mentoring and community building.

Sierra Harvest

Farm Conference: Sierra Harvest's Sustainable Food and Farm Conference brings together a diverse panel of speakers, farming related businesses and organizations, for a weekend full of informative lectures, a food and farming exposition, plus numerous workshops for all levels of farming and ranching. The conference provides educational opportunities for farmers to begin their farm business or improve their existing business. The conference also provides scholarships and deeply discounted tickets to farmers and ranchers.

Farm Institute Program: Sierra Harvest offers farm business classes, organic certification and production skills classes to the next generation of farmers in Nevada County. They support farms in finding new markets by connecting them with buyers. They also match farmers with agricultural land, and support long term land tenure for farmers through the Forever Farms program.

Procurement: In an effort to support viable local farm businesses, Sierra Harvest works to build relationships between local farmers and local buyers, increasing opportunity for new markets to be established.

Public/Government Agencies

Agricultural Advisory Commission advises and makes recommendations to the Nevada County Board of Supervisors and other county boards, commissions, and departments, on issues affecting or of interest to the agricultural industry. The AAC develops a framework for cooperation among agencies, interest groups, and public
and private property owners for wise conservation and management of resources to benefit the County's agricultural assets.

**Agricultural Commissioner (CDFA definition)** Each agricultural commissioner is charged with the protection of California agriculture, the protection of the environment as well as protection of the public’s health and safety. These goals are accomplished through the management of programs designed to achieve their mission through a combination of public outreach, industry education and enforcement actions. The County Agricultural Commissioners carry out the programs listed below to accomplish these aims: Pest Exclusion, Pest Detection, Pest Eradication, Pest Management, Pesticide Enforcement, Seed Certification, Nursery Inspection, Fruits, Nuts and Vegetable Standardization, Egg Inspection, Apiary Inspection, and Crop Statistics.

**Board of Supervisors** is the legislative and executive body of county government and supports agricultural production through agricultural policies, zoning changes, etc.

**Nevada County Resource Conservation District (NCRCD) & National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)** NCRCD’s mission is to promote responsible resource management within our jurisdiction through education, leadership, technical assistance, and project facilitation. The NCRCD and the NRCS provide technical assistance regarding issues that include erosion control, pond management, invasive weed control, fuels management, wildlife habitat improvement, pasture, orchard and vineyard management, and rangeland management.

**Environmental Quality Incentives Program:** Cost-share incentives for conservation farm improvements including irrigation efficiency, livestock fencing, habitat restoration, & soil improvement.

Resource Conservation District Programs: No-till seed drill for pasture improvement, one-time on-farm consultations, manure exchange, ongoing education and workshops.
**Nevada Irrigation District (NID)** is a diversified water resource district that supplies both treated drinking water and irrigation water to nearly 25,000 homes, farms and businesses in Nevada and Placer counties in the foothills of Northern California’s Sierra Nevada Mountains.

**Penn Valley Area Municipal Advisory Council** is a formal council that is established for the sole purpose of advising the District IV Supervisor, the Planning Department and Board of Supervisors on development and land use issues that are located within District IV boundaries that are within either the Western Gateway Parks and Recreation District or the Penn Valley Fire District.

**Sierra Foothill Research and Extension Center:** The 6,000-acre research ranch located along the Yuba River supports research on beef cattle production and health, rangeland and irrigated pasture grazing management, oak woodland conservation and restoration, as well as water quality management in foothill watersheds, among other programs.

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy** is a California state agency established through bi-partisan legislation to initiate, encourage, and support efforts that improve the environmental, economic, and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada Region, its communities, and the citizens of California.

**University of California Cooperative Extension’s** mission is to help all segments of the community benefit from the scientific advances in our nation’s land grant universities, particularly in the areas of agriculture, family and consumer sciences, and youth development. UC Cooperative Extension offers programs to build skills and knowledge, fosters networking, and provides mentoring to new farmers.

**Small Farm Advisor:** The Horticulture and Small Farms Advisor: assists new farmers in evaluating production sites and new crop opportunities, and in
developing production experience; works with established farmers to improve production practices for quality produce; provides information and assistance to growers in implementing Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices; works with grower associations to develop sound business plans and effective marketing strategies; promotes sustainable agriculture that protects the environment, contributes to the economic viability of small farmers and preserves farmland; conducts farm calls to evaluate specific opportunities or problems; works with University of California specialists to provide reliable research-based information for agricultural producers.

University of California Small Farm Program: Develop field and marketing research aimed at the needs of small and moderate-scale farmers, and provide that information to farmers who are often not reached by traditional extension programs. Clients include farmers of many different cultures who operate a wide variety of farming operations, often with limited resources.

Nevada County Master Gardeners: Master Gardeners provide home gardeners in Nevada County with science-based information, whatever their gardening conditions, and offer a number of workshops and events to achieve this goal.

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) By providing access to credit, FSA’s Farm Loan Programs offer opportunities to family-sized farmers and ranchers to start, improve, expand, transition, market, and strengthen family farming and ranching operations.

USDA Farmers.gov offers financial assistance, farm loan programs, H-2A Visa Program resources, and other programs to assist farmers.

USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) provides leadership and funding for programs that advance agriculture related sciences. They invest in and support initiatives that ensure the long-term viability of agriculture. NIFA applies an integrated approach to ensure that groundbreaking discoveries in agriculture-related sciences and technologies reach the people who can put them into practice.

USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service provides technical assistance and funding opportunities for soils, water, plants & animals, cross fencing, wells, high
tunnels, irrigation, prescribed grazing and cover crops.

**The 4-H Youth Development Program** is an educational program of the University of California Cooperative Extension and is made available through a partnership of county, state, and federal governments. The program creates positive opportunities for youth to develop life skills and become engaged in their local communities. The program combines the efforts of youth, volunteer leaders, and University staff and faculty to create a fun, hands-on learning approach to a non-formal education. An emphasis is placed on learning citizenship, leadership, and life skills.

**Businesses/Other**

**BriarPatch Food Co-op** has contributed directly to the production of whole-sum food, locally and regionally. In 2018, the Co-op worked with 37 local and regional farms, helped support 30 local farms, and spent over $20 million on local and regional food. They provide $48,400 in financial support for farms and related organizations ($12,500 in FarmLink loan guarantees, $36,500 for Sierra Harvest, and $11,900 for community projects).

**California Certified Organic Farmers Sierra Gold Chapter** CCOF advances organic agriculture for a healthy world. They advocate on behalf of our members for organic policies, support the growth of organic through education and grants, and provide organic certification that is personal and accessible. The CCOF Sierra Gold Chapter is located in the Sierra foothills. The chapter represents Amador, Alpine, Calaveras, El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, and Tuolumne counties.

**Compost Suppliers:** Four Seasons Landscape Materials, Nevada County Farm Supply, Rare Earth Landscape Materials and Vital Garden Supply. Additionally, Nevada County Resource Conservation District has a list of private homes, ranches and farms that also offer manure by appointment.

**Gold Country Sheep Producers Association** encourages cooperation among sheep and goat producers and supports businesses within the California counties of El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter and Yuba.

**Kitchen Collab** is a shared commercial kitchen space in Truckee available to rent.
for Food Industry Professionals. Kitchen Collab charges an hourly rate for kitchen time, which varies based on monthly membership level. There is an additional monthly rate for cold, freezer, and dry storage. They also offer parking for food trucks and trailers.

**Mooney Flat Co-Op** is dedicated to promoting, supporting, building and advocating for: sharing of resources, community, regenerative farms, local economy, cultural diversity, schools, arts, and a variety of charitable causes. They accomplish this by providing a location for meetings, events, certified kitchen, cider press, tool lending library, demonstration garden and ceremonial bark house, all available for community use. It will also serve as a place to acquire bulk items for the farm such as organic amendments/nutrients, chicken feed, hay and more. It will also serve as a cultural/welcome center for the Nisenan, Maidu, Tsi-Akim and Nevada County (it’s right on the Yuba/Nevada County line).

**Nevada County Nurseries:** A to Z Hardware & Garden Center, Ag Natural, Anything Green, B & C Ace Home & Garden Center, Bennett’s Perennials, Fresh Starts Nursery, Grizzly Hill Nursery, Hills Flat Lumber, Honey Circle Farm, Karmen’s Garden & Greenhouse, Kurt’s Garden, Nevada County Farm & Garden, New Life Nursery, Peaceful Valley Farm & Garden Supply, Penn Valley True Value Hardware, Prospector’s Nursery LLC, Vital Garden Supply, Sweetland Garden Supply, Sweet Roots Farm, Weiss Brothers Nursery, and Wildflower Nursery Garden & Gift Shoppe.

**Placer Nevada Cattle Women** is a group of women devoted to activities that promote the best interests of the cattle industry and increase the consumption of American Beef. The aim is to develop a better public understanding of the cattle industry and the relationship it bears to the health, safety, and general welfare of all people.

**Redbud Chapter of the California Native Plant Society** welcomes all native-plant lovers in Nevada and Placer counties. We are dedicated to exploring, educating, researching, and writing about the diversity and beauty of our native flora.

**Sierra College’s** Agriculture Department offers A.S. degrees and certificates in Agriculture, Animal Science, Equine Studies and Suburban Agriculture. All of the agriculture programs are designed to be student-centered and offer flexibility in course offerings allowing students to customize each degree based on their specific interests and career or educational goals.
Sierra FoodWineArt is a free, quarterly lifestyle magazine that is the go-to publication for restaurants, wineries, wine & beer, arts & music, and travel & tourism in the Sierra Foothills, Tahoe/Truckee, Reno and outlying Sacramento region. They also have a companion website called SierraCulture.com.

Sierra Vintners Association Members provide valuable financial and community support that attracts visitors and businesses to Nevada County for the growth and development of the entire region.

Sierra Wine & Grape Growers Association’s purpose is to inform and educate our current and future members, neighbors, the media, and the general public about grape growing and wine making in a casual and social environment.

The Union newspaper has a Farm to Table section spotlighting all Nevada County food and farming events and also produces the Rancher magazine.

Additional Resources

Resources Compiled by the NCRCD
Meat Processing, Packaging, and Contacts
Produce Production
Financial and Technical Assistance

Existing Efforts to Support Consumer Demand for Whole-sum Food

Non-profits

Nevada County Grown is dedicated to supporting and celebrating our local food culture by promoting, empowering and connecting our farmers, ranchers and food makers, with merchants, restaurants, and the greater community. As of 2020, Nevada County Grown activities have been put on hold.

Tahoe Food Hub’s Sierra Agroecology Center (SAC) is a program of the Tahoe Food Hub and educates mountain communities about agriculture in an alpine ecosystem. Community members and school children learn about the importance of local food and sustainable farming practices, as well as the ability to further
increase our own food security by growing food locally in the mountains using four-
season growing techniques. The Farm to School (F2S) program is set up to ensure
that local food is getting into schools. It is accomplished in 4 ways through the
following programs:

1. Farm Cart in the Classroom – Teaches students about local food and
   sustainable agriculture by hosting a mini farmers market.
2. Harvest of the Month – introduces students to new fruits and vegetables to
   encourage more adventurous eating.
3. School Lunches – In 2018 this program put $14,500 of local produce into
   school lunches. Throughout the year we deliver seasonal produce several times
   a month to schools in the area.

Sierra Harvest

Farm to School Program: Sierra Harvest brings the Harvest of the Month - a
tasting of a local fruit or vegetable to more than 9,500 pre-K - 12th graders so
they can learn to love fresh, local food. Sierra Harvest also offers farm field
trips so the students can learn how food grows and what makes fresh, local
food so tasty. Farmers also visit the classrooms and chefs teach cooking lessons
using local and organic produce for the menus. Farm carts full of fresh produce
from a farm partner are offered weekly to students in late summer and fall.

Food Love Farm: Sierra Harvest’s educational farm offers field trips, summer
camp, U-pick vegetables and more to 2,500 community members each year.

Soup Nights: More than 400 community members celebrate Nevada County’s
thriving local farm movement, enjoy a simple dinner of soup and bread, and
meet local farmers to learn how to purchase direct.

Summer Farm and Ranch Tours: Sierra Harvest hosts farm and ranch tours
from June - September at local farms and ranches, so community members can
meet local farmers and ranchers, enjoy being on the farm, and learn how to buy
fresh food directly from the people who grow it.
Businesses/Other

**BriarPatch Co-op** In 2019, the Co-op customers purchased over $4.4 million worth of products from 491 local and regional vendors. There were 9,024 active owners and 1,020 new owners. The Co-op donated $27,000 worth of vegetables to elementary schools through Sierra Harvest’s Harvest of the Month Program. BriarPatch Food Co-op has a broad influence in the community and employs different marketing techniques to educate consumers. Over 60,000 copies of their quarterly newsletter, The Vine, were distributed through the county in 2019. The newsletter features seasonal recipes, profiles of local farmers, and education on healthy food. They have over 173,000 video views, and many of their videos feature local and regional farmers. At the time this report was written, the Co-op had 9,641 followers on Facebook and 5,462 on Instagram.

**Local Food Coalition (LFC)** is a listserv with 1,165 active members where people can ask farming and gardening questions, sell tools, animals and equipment and seek resources. LFC aims to support local farmers, preserve local farms and farmland, and ensure a local food supply in the western Nevada County area of California.

**Farmers Markets** There are four farmers’ markets in Nevada County, many of which offer EBT (Electronic Benefit Transfer) redemption through the CalFresh supplemental food assistance program and a Matching Program which can double their dollars spent on fresh fruits and vegetables.

**Truckee**
Tuesday (Mid-May – mid Oct.)
10500 Brockway Rd 8am-1pm

Sunday (June–September)
12047 Donner Pass Road 10am-3pm

**Grass Valley, The Market at Grass Valley**
Saturday (May 2–November 21)
KMart Shopping Center 8am-1pm
**Thursday Night Market: Certified Farmer’s Market (June 25 – July 30)**
Mill St. 6pm-9m

Tuesday (May 5-September 29)
Raley’s Pine Creek Center, Freeman Lane 8am-1pm

**Nevada City Farmers Market**
Saturday (Weekly June –November) Union Street 8:30am-1pm

1st & 3rd Saturdays (December - May) – Three Forks Bakery and Brewing Co.
parking lot 9am – 12pm

North San Juan
Tuesday (June-October)
North San Juan Community Center, 29140 Hwy 49 4pm-7pm

**Nevada County Fairgrounds** provides a community-friendly annual Fair that showcases Nevada County and its heritage, and promotes agriculture, youth, education and the arts. It has been declared as “California’s Most Beautiful Fairgrounds,” and is covered with hundreds of towering pine trees on almost 90 acres. It is home to the annual Nevada County Fair, the Draft Horse Classic, the Country Christmas Faire, world-class music festivals, and year-round community events.

**Three Forks Bakery and Brewing Company** sources as much food as possible, typically 70%, from local organic producers and makes local farmers and ranchers their priority. Their coffee and teas are organic and fair trade. The menu changes weekly - it’s fresh, simple, and based on what is available locally in each season. Three Forks also gives back to the community by sponsoring local non-profits that support local food.

**References**
