

County program earns \$35K state grant

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A Dane County program that seeks to boost the sale of local agricultural products to big users such as hotels and schools has been awarded a \$35,000 state grant, the county executive's office said Tuesday.

Gov. Jim Doyle announced the grant for the county's Institutional Food Market Coalition earlier in the day. In all, nine programs got a total of \$222,700 through the state's Buy Local, Buy Wisconsin program.

Dane County's program links farmers and other local food producers with large food buyers. The grant will be used to recruit more producers into the program.

In 2009, the program helped sell and deliver more than 1 million pounds of locally produced vegetables, meats and cheeses to large local users.