



NEWS RELEASE

Contra Costa County
JOHN GIOIA (joy-a)
Board of Supervisors, District I
MARY NEJEDLY PIEPHO
Board of Supervisors, District III

For more information contact:
Terrance Cheung – Chief of Staff
Office of Supervisor John Gioia
Cell – 415-990-2087
Tomi Van de Brooke – Chief of Staff
Office of Supervisor Mary Nejedly Piepho
925-820-8683

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 27, 2009

**Contra Costa County Supervisors Unveil New Program to Bring
Locally Grown Produce to Low Income Residents in West County**

What:	Farm Tour AND News Conference	
When/Where:	Thursday, May 28, 2009 10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. (Farm Tour) Dwelley Farms 515 Delta Road Brentwood, CA (between Hwy 4 & Sellers Avenue)	<u>12 Noon</u> (News Conference) Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center 360 Harbour Way, South Richmond, CA
Who:	Supervisors John Gioia & Mary Piepho, Richmond Mayor Gayle McLaughlin, Eric Zell – Richmond Children's Foundation, Shyaam Shabaka – Eco Village, Kathryn Lyddan - Brentwood Agricultural Land Trust, Stephanie Forbes – Local Initiative Support Corporation (LISC), community residents	

Brentwood & Richmond, Calif... A unique program spearheaded by Supervisors John Gioia and Mary Piepho is giving low income families in West Contra Costa County an opportunity to regularly eat and have access to locally grown produce. The program will be unveiled tomorrow with a morning farm tour in Brentwood, followed by a 12 noon news conference in Richmond.

Called "Farm 2 Table," the East/West County partnership is Contra Costa County's initial launch at Community Supported Agriculture (CSA). Development for the program started a year ago as a way to improve low-income families access to fresh fruits and vegetables while raising awareness of the County's rich agricultural resources.

"In many low income communities, we know families want to eat healthier but have limited access to fresh produce," said Supervisor Gioia whose district includes Richmond, North Richmond, and Montalvin Manor. "This program will give those families an option they didn't have before."

Here's how the program works.

For families that can afford the basic \$50 a month fee, they'll receive two boxes a month of produce such as corn, chard, asparagus, and oranges delivered to their home or office. Part of that money goes to subsidize boxes for families that want to eat healthier, but can't afford the regular price.

"Contra Costa County farmers grow a variety of fruits and vegetables," said Supervisor Piepho whose district includes Brentwood. "This program is a natural link between our two communities."

With an initial budget of \$60,000 a year, the Richmond Children's Foundation – a Richmond based a non-profit agency whose mission is to enrich the lives of children and their families – manages the program and is subsidizing some boxes for families in partnership with LISC Americorp. Eco-Village, sustainable farm and education center in Richmond, sorts and boxes the produce from East County and delivers them to drop-off sites.

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