



MENDOCINO COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

# NEWS RELEASE

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TO: MENDOCINO COUNTY NEWS MEDIA  
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## ***Mendocino County Approved Source Program (MCAS) Now On-Line***

Local producers of fresh raw fruits and vegetables can now register to be an "Approved Source" of food in Mendocino County. In California, retail food and food preparation facilities are required to purchase their produce from an approved source. The Department of Environmental Health (DEH) and the Department of Agriculture, in partnership with the Mendocino County Food Policy Council and with the support of the Board of Supervisors, have developed this program to allow local producers to become an approved source in Mendocino County.

The concept of approved source, in its simplest form, is the requirement to have safe and healthy food delivered to retail food establishments and food preparation facilities that then re-sell or prepare that food for other consumers. The MCAS program is designed to meet this goal by having the producers adhere to a list of Best Management Practices (BMP) designed to minimize the risk of spreading food borne pathogens that could cause human illnesses. By implementing this program, we hope to encourage the sale and consumption of safe and healthy locally produced food.

The approved source program was developed in conjunction with interested community members. Multiple rounds of stakeholder meetings were held throughout the County to provide information, receive feedback, and guide the development of the program. Interested participants included growers, restaurant owners, consumers, grocery retailers and members of the local food movement. This effort started in December of 2012 and a substantial amount of help and support during the process was provided by members from the Mendocino Food Policy Council. As Environmental Health Director Dave Jensen relates: "Without the dedication, professional expertise, and strong networking skills of both Susan Lightfoot and Cliff Paulin, our effort would have been much more difficult and may have missed the mark substantially in some important areas. We owe a debt of gratitude to both of them and to the many stakeholders that were engaged with us during the development phase. A lot of time and energy was spent to develop a program that was responsive to local producers growing practices while also maintaining the intent of approved source."

For more information on this program, please visit the County Department of Agriculture's web page: <http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/agriculture/>. Background information, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ), the Best Management Practices (BMP), and a list of currently registered producers are available on the website. Further questions or communications about this program can be sent to: [mendoas@co.mendocino.ca.us](mailto:mendoas@co.mendocino.ca.us)

Released by:

Handwritten signature of Carmel J. Angelo in blue ink.

Carmel J. Angelo  
Chief Executive Officer