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Contact: Darlene Din  
(831) 682-0734  
[darlenedin@earthlink.net](mailto:darlenedin@earthlink.net)

## **Grower-Shipper Association Foundation's Ag Knowledge Program Accepting Applications for Class III**

Salinas, CA (February 15, 2009) – The Grower-Shipper Association Foundation announces applications are now being accepted for fellows to the 2009 Ag Knowledge program. Community members are encouraged to apply to this eight-month executive leadership program focused on educating its students about the heritage, diversity, stewardship, complexity of Monterey County agriculture and the interdependencies of agriculture, local government, and the community.

Courses focus on issues affecting and influenced by the local agricultural industry, including food safety and security, labor and immigration, technology, marketing, conservation, urban/agriculture interfacing, air, water and much more. Twenty fellows spend one Friday a month over the course of the program attending forums and visiting farms, processing facilities and meeting leaders and innovators in the industry. One of the program's most popular facets includes a "day on the farm" with a local grower.

David Martella, Chairman of the Grower-Shipper Association Foundation, says this program provides a bird's-eye view into the largest economic engine on the Central Coast. "Monterey County agricultural products feed people throughout the world, yet many people who live within a mile of our fields know very little about what it takes to produce a head of lettuce, a crown of broccoli or a basket of strawberries. This program gives our fellows an appreciation for where their food originates and offers these professionals new insight on the importance of sustaining and supporting our local agricultural industry."

Applications for the 2009 Ag Knowledge program are available at the Grower-Shipper Association office and must be received by March 6, 2009 in order to be considered for the 2009 program. Contact GSA at (831) 422-8844 to request your copy.

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