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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## ABBATE FARMS EARNS PESTICIDE RESIDUE FREE CERTIFICATION

California-Based Farmer to Offer Customers Certified Parsley, Leeks, Broccoli & Chard

**June 1, 2011 - Emeryville, CA** – Abbate Farms, based in California, has earned the prestigious Pesticide Residue Free Certification from third-party certifier Scientific Certification Systems (SCS) for a variety of vegetable crops. The certification indicates that these crops were independently field sampled and lab tested and shown to have no detected pesticide residues.



Abbate Farms currently offers certified parsley, leeks, broccoli, chard and dandelions and is now seeking certification for a second group of crops including bell peppers, onions, watermelons, eggplants and more.

“We are proud to show our commitment to food quality and excellence through this certification,” said Paul Abbate, General Partner of Abbate Farms. “This recognition demonstrates the steps we are taking to provide healthy, nutritious products to our customers.”

The certification process involves full disclosures of growing practices, informed field sampling, and extensive lab testing to ensure that the produce has no detected pesticide residues, based on government-defined “limit of detection” testing protocols (generally set at a level of 0.01 parts per million). This level of purity is far more stringent — up to 1,000-times — than required by law. The certification process helped Abbate Farms select pest control products that can be used sparingly and would break down quickly.

“Certification provides an added quality control check on fresh fruits and vegetables,” said Wil Sumner, director of agricultural testing and certification for SCS. “Our goal is to recognize the outstanding efforts of farmers who are able to produce crops in a manner that far exceeds federally mandated residue requirements, and to provide an added choice for consumers who are concerned about pesticides in food.

**Scientific Certification Systems (SCS)** has been providing global leadership in [third-party food quality, sustainability](#) and environmental certification, auditing, testing and standards development for more than 25 years. SCS programs span a wide range of industries including green building, product manufacturing, food and agriculture, forestry, retailing and more.

**Abbate Farms** is located in Merced, CA, and grows vegetables on 1700 acres of California farmland. It has been in operation since 1995.

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