

## For Immediate Release

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# Canada's Delta Country Farms Tomatoes Certified "Pesticide Free" by SCS

April 20, 2009 – Emeryville, CA – Greenhouse vine tomatoes grown by Delta Country Farms of British Columbia, Canada have been independently certified as "Pesticide Free". The certification, issued by Scientific Certification Systems (SCS), is the strictest guarantee of its kind for fresh fruits and vegetables in the marketplace today.

To earn the Pesticide Free designation, products must undergo the rigorous NutriClean® certification process, the oldest and most widely recognized scientific assessment system for assuring the purity of food products. Under this process, growers are required to provide a full disclosure of their pest management practices, including any chemicals used, whether synthetic or botanical. SCS then conducts an evaluation of these pest management practices, including on-site "worst-case" sampling and laboratory testing to confirm that there are no pesticide residues present at levels above laboratory detection capabilities. This level of detection is 0.01 ppm for most pesticides, and is generally 10 to 1,000 times more stringent than required by law. The program is used by organic and conventional growers alike.



Wil Sumner, SCS Director of Food & Agricultural Testing Services, said, "Meeting the Pesticide Free standard is a major achievement, and recognizes the exceptional measures Delta Country Farms has integrated into its production and handling operations to protect the purity of its produce."

The family-owned company was started in 1999 by Shirvan Bakhtiyari, and includes his son Reza Bakhtiyari, Sales and Marketing Director, and three additional family members. The tomatoes, grown on 30 acres, are marketed under the company label, Tasty Fresh Vines, and are also sold for private-label branding.

"Our family wants to supply the best tomatoes to retailers and consumers," says Shirvan Bakhtiyari. "Our farm workers follow all the safety guidelines and don't cut corners. Tasty, safe, reasonably priced – everyone should have the best."

Delta Country Farms utilizes Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices, such as the biological control tags that release beneficial insects onto plants that prey on harmful insects. Reza notes that this is a little costly but that it is the responsible thing to do.



“The certification provides a way for companies like ours to get credit for the things we have been doing,” said Reza. “Plus, we learned how to improve our operations and now have more opportunity to reach new markets.”

According to the Bakhtiyari family, Delta Country Farms is well-positioned for quality control because they pick and pack their own produce in one location, which allows oversight throughout the chain-of-custody. Through this process, the company accommodates grocers with quick deliveries from their farm ten miles from the US border. A store in Sacramento store can have a truckload of tomatoes delivered within 12-14 hrs, according to Reza.

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#### **About Delta Country Farms (BC) Ltd.**

Delta Country Farms is a wholesaler and distributor located in Delta, British Columbia, Canada. It produces 1.8 million boxes of cluster TOV (tomatoes on the vine) in association with Millennium Pacific Greenhouses. The company employs 80-200 workers and has been in business for 11 years. For more information contact: Reza Bakhtiyari email: [rezampgh@dccnet.com](mailto:rezampgh@dccnet.com) Phone: 604-940-1881 Fax: 604-940-1118. The website is under production.

#### **About Scientific Certification Systems (SCS)**

SCS is an independent certifier of environmental, sustainability, food quality and food purity claims. Over two decades, SCS has developed internationally recognized standards and certification programs aimed at spurring the highest level of environmental improvements, social responsibility, and product performance. Its programs span a wide cross-section of the economy, recognizing accomplishments in agricultural production, food processing and handling, forestry, fisheries, flowers and plants, energy, green building, manufacturing, and retail. For more information about SCS and the “Pesticide Free” program, visit [www.scs-certified.com](http://www.scs-certified.com) or call 510-452-8021.