



## 2009 Indian Valley Organic Farm & Garden Highlights

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- **Soil Preparation:** The hard clay soil was transformed into healthy, rich soil through ripping, discing, and grading services donated by Lundy Grading. We also applied 128 cubic yards of compost donated by Dominic Grossi Dairy and Devil's Gulch Farm.
- **Infrastructure & Tools:** A perimeter fence and gates were built. Hoop houses were generously donated by Warren Weber. In February, we received hundreds of tools donated through the decommissioning of the St. Anthony Farm.
- **First Product:** In April, we joined with the UC Cooperative Extension -Marin Master Gardeners to grow 4,000 tomatoes in the greenhouse. Through this partnership, the Master Gardeners gained access to this high tech structure, students learned expert gardening techniques, and the Farm was recognized as the place that the tomatoes were grown.
- **First College Students:** Principles & Practices of Organic Farming & Gardening Class during the Spring Semester at College of Marin. In June, 2009, the students formed a Farm Student Club to continue their farm activities through the summer. The Fall 2009 class is filled to capacity; is in full swing and has a long waiting list.
- **Several Raised Beds:** Built with the College of Marin Construction class
- **Initial Irrigation Installed:** With the College of Marin Irrigation class
- **Outreach:** Weekly "farm tours" started in March, resulting in dozens of people learning about sustainable farming from the AmeriCorps members who conducted the tours.
- **Cesar Chavez Clubs:** In the Spring, middle school youth participating in after school Cesar Chavez Clubs led by CCNB's AmeriCorps students came to the farm on field trips.
- **First intensive Summer Program:** This year, 170 Project ReGeneration summer program youth (grades 6-12) participated in educational and service project activities on the Farm between June and August. The Farm was so popular, the youth competed for the opportunity to return to the farm. For most of the youth, this was the first time they were on a farm, or a college campus.
- **CCNB's post high program:** This Fall, twelve corpsmembers are doing their field experience at the Farm while enrolled at College of Marin. Beginning in October, three Farm & Garden AmeriCorps members will work at the Farm as well.

Thanks to a grant from the Industry Driven Regional Collaborative and other funders, this summer we hired a full time Farm Manager, Bethallyn Black. For the past 11 years prior to joining CCNB, Bethallyn worked at the University of California Cooperative Extension as their Urban Horticulture Program Manager. Bethallyn has a Masters Degree in Ecological Agriculture/Andragogy from New College of California, as well as a Bachelor of Arts in Humanities from New College of California. In addition, this fall we are proud to promote AmeriCorps Farm & Garden Member Henry Wallace to Farm Supervisor.

In addition to these exciting and much needed staffing additions, the past six months have seen increasing utilization of the farm itself.

This fall, the College of Marin will continue to offer the popular Principles & Practices of Organic Farming & Gardening course taught by Master Gardeners Steve Quirt and Wendy Johnson. This class filled within hours for the Fall semester. Other classes offered by the college are using the farm as a lab

site, increasing both interest and appreciation for what is being accomplished here. And, as a side benefit, enrollment at the College of Marin has increased on the whole thanks to this project!

Finally, CCNB has already been able to utilize the farm to enhance current programming. Our Youth in Environmental Service volunteers have been able to take their Cesar Chavez service clubs from various area schools to the farm for field trips and environmental/organic farming lessons. As mentioned above, our ever-popular summer experiential camp program, Project ReGeneration has been able to utilize the farm to teach children about organic farming and provide them with firsthand, first-time experiences working on a farm or garden.