

*Over 65 Years Serving the Produce Industry*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PRODUCE MARKET MANAGERS  
HOLDS 66<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

LOS ANGELES, CA – The National Association of Produce Market Managers (NAPMM) met here March 28-31 for the group's 66<sup>th</sup> annual conference. Participating in the meeting were representatives of the USDA and United Fresh. The event featured tours of markets and a southern California farm.

Members approved the following NAPMM officers for the next year. President, Ben Vitale, the executive director of the Central New York Regional Market; 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, Dan Kane, general manager, Philadelphia Wholesale Market and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Betty Allison, deputy director of the Maryland Wholesale Food Authority, Jessup, MD. Appointed secretary was Ronnie Best, market manager of the North Carolina State Farmers Market in Raleigh, NC and the treasurer spot will be held by Deb Churchill, the property manager of City Market in Kansas City, MO.

The conference concluded with the annual awards banquet. Vitale announced Caesar (Sonny) DiCrecchio as the "Market Manager of the Year" for his outstanding achievements related to the development, construction and management of the Philadelphia Wholesale Produce Market.

Fidel Delgado, a long-time market architect for the USDA, received special recognition for his dedication to designing market facilities throughout the US and the world as well as his many years of contributions to NAPMM.

The tours included visits to the Los Angeles Farmers Market, the 7<sup>th</sup> Street and Los Angeles Wholesale Markets, the Santa Monica Farmers Market and Deardorff Farms in Ventura County.

Conference presentations included updates from both USDA staff and United Fresh, and discussion of the latest implications of the Food Safety Modernization Act. Also conducted were wholesale and retail roundtables featuring market projects and best practices as well as a comprehensive look at tools to measure and communicate the economic and social value of markets. There was also a presentation on an innovative program to utilize solar power at markets by representatives from Sunlogics.

The 67<sup>th</sup> Annual NAPMM Conference is slated for March 18-21, 2013 and will be held in Maryland and Washington DC, in conjunction with the host market, the Maryland Food Center Authority.

NAPMM is an all-volunteer group of managers of retail, wholesale and public markets from across North America and beyond. The association meets annually to share best practices, learn about new regulations and trends; and to recognize outstanding achievements in the industry.

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Media contact:

Ben Vitale, NAPMM President (315) 422-8647 [bvitale@cnyrma.com](mailto:bvitale@cnyrma.com)

Gwen Tillisch, NAPMM Administrator (803) 333-9421 [gtillisch@napmm.org](mailto:gtillisch@napmm.org)