



PRESS RELEASE

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Agriculturist of the Year honoree – Lucio “Cio” Perez At Napa County Farm Bureau’s 98th Annual Dinner Meeting

NAPA, CA – July 7, 2011. Napa Valley native, Lucio “Cio” Perez will be honored at Napa County Farm Bureau’s 98th Annual Dinner Meeting as the 2011 Agriculturist of the Year on July 15th at Raymond Vineyards. The award recognizes Mr. Perez for his leadership qualities and over 23 years of service to Farm Bureau and the community.

Napa County Farm Bureau President Jim Lincoln said, “Cio’s passionate about protecting farmlands and sustaining agriculture in Napa County and throughout the state. He knows well the halls of Congress and the State Capitol from his regular visits to Washington DC and Sacramento to lobby on bills and issues regarding water resources, labor & immigration, and other ag related topics. We are proud to add his name to the distinguished list of ‘Agriculturist of the Year’ award recipients.”

Cio worked on the family ranch and learned his agricultural management skills from his father, Ezequiel and his grandfather Lucio D. Perez. He attended primary and high school in St. Helena and then studied at Stanford and UC Davis earning a degree in Enology & Viticulture.

Cio farms acreage in Conn Valley, Carneros and St. Helena and manages the family wine brand, L. Perez & Sons Vineyards. The family has been growing fine wine grapes in the Napa Valley since 1935. Cio’s grandfather, Lucio D. Perez settled in the Napa Valley in the early 1930s as an agricultural laborer, began managing and leasing vineyards and shortly thereafter, purchased his own vineyard.

Mr. Perez has served on the NCFB Board since 1988 and was President from 1994-97. He served on the California Farm Bureau Federation Board from 2004-10 representing Marin, Sonoma and Napa Counties. He served on the Napa Valley College Foundation Board and was Treasurer of the Comite Mexicano De Beneficencia.

With years of dedication and commitment to the state's farmers and ranchers, Cio has earned the respect and admiration of agricultural leaders throughout California.

About the Napa County Farm Bureau

NCFB is a voluntary, non-profit, non-governmental organization whose basic goal is to ensure the proper political, economic, environmental and social climate for the continuation of agriculture. Napa County’s strong agricultural heritage has contributed significantly to this state’s economy. Today, NCFB strives to preserve land for agriculture, and creates policies and programs that allow us to maintain a high quality of life in Napa County.