

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Oregon Organic Coalition Announces Special Events to Celebrate Oregon's Organic Agriculture and Industry This September

Governor Brown Proclaims September 11-17  
"Organically Grown in Oregon Week"



**SALEM, Ore.** – August 22, 2016 – Nominations are in for Oregon Organic Coalition's (OOC) 2016 Awards for Excellence, the annual recognition of farmers, food processors, researchers, retailers, and individuals who are leading the state's organic sector. To be considered for this prestigious award, nominees are required to qualify in a variety of categories, including innovation in organic practices; service to the industry; expansion of organic business opportunities; and overall achievement in the state's organic industry.

2015 recipients included Pacific Botanicals, Gwendolyn Wyard (Organic Trade Association), Barry Haynes (Ashland Food Co-op), Denison Farms, Horsepower Organics and Astoria Co-op Grocery. This year's recipients will be announced during the OOC's awards luncheon on Tuesday, September 13, 2016 at the Ecotrust building in Portland, Oregon.

In recognition of the importance of organic farmers, processors and distributors to the state, Oregon Governor Kate Brown renewed a proclamation declaring **September 11-17, 2016, *Organically Grown in Oregon Week***. The Governor's proclamation highlights the rapidly expanding organic sector of Oregon's agricultural economy. It acknowledges the state's unique stature as a leader in organic agriculture, highlighted by the first organic standards legislation in 1973, the first published organic certification standards in 1987, and the establishment of the first statewide advocacy group - the Oregon Organic Coalition - to help promote the organic industry. Organic agriculture is a vital segment of Oregon's economy with 525 certified organic farms, which brought in over \$237 million in farm-gate sales in 2015, with nearly 12% projected growth.

2016 marks the 28<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Organically Grown in Oregon Week*, a tradition that began in 1988 as a means for celebrating Oregon's organic industry and recognizing the leaders of Oregon's organic movement. The week-long celebration of the organic agricultural industry will include regional events, along with tastings of local organic foods and beverages, farm tours, and grassroots events. For information about participating in *Organically Grown in Oregon Week*, contact Stacy Kraker at 541.246.1856 or [skraker@organicallygrown.com](mailto:skraker@organicallygrown.com)

*Organically Grown in Oregon Week* is presented by the Oregon Organic Coalition, with generous support from Organically Grown Company, Oregon Tilth, and Ecotrust. For a full list of OGOW supporters, member businesses, as well as a complete schedule of OGOW events, visit [www.oregonorganiccoalition.org](http://www.oregonorganiccoalition.org)

### About Oregon Organic Coalition (OOC)

The OOC is a trade support organization, working to advance the development and growth of the organic industry and community in Oregon. The OOC consists of a wide array of key players in Oregon's organic industry who volunteer their time and energy-from farmers to wholesalers

and processors, as well as organic certifiers, scientists, consumers and retailers. The OOC acts as an organizing body, providing direction and endorsement of activities in promotion of Oregon's organic trade, such as the re-enlivening of OGOW every September and advocating for continued federal support for organic research at Oregon State University.

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**Media contact:**

Stacy Kraker, Director of Communications & Marketing, Organically Grown Company; Chair of the Oregon Organic Coalition  
541.246.1856, skraker@organicallygrown.com