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OREGON ORGANIC COALITION BESTOWS AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE ON EIGHT OREGON INDIVIDUALS AND COMPANIES

Oregon District 5 State Representative, Peter Buckley, Gives Keynote at Luncheon Celebrating Local, Organic Food Trade

SALEM, Ore. – *September 18, 2013* — The recipients of the 2013 Oregon Organic Coalition (OOC) Awards For Excellence were announced yesterday at a celebratory luncheon at the EcoTrust Building in Portland. More than 80 representatives from Oregon's farming, retail, academic, political and food production communities honored these organic innovators. A highlight of the annual [Organically Grown in Oregon Week](#), the event featured a keynote address by Peter Buckley, Oregon State Representative and advocate for organic and family farms.

Awards were given to individuals and organizations that demonstrated innovation in organic practices, service to the industry, expansion of organic business opportunities and overall achievement in the state's organic industry. This year, OOC recognized accomplishments in furthering the quality and growth of organic food in seven areas: processing, retail, wholesale distribution, organic advocacy, scientist, farm livestock and farm crops, as well as a recognition award for organic innovator. The following individuals and organizations were honored with OOC Awards of Excellence:

Processor: Café Mam

Since 1989, Café Mam has been a pioneer in the distribution of organic and fair-trade certified coffee, sourced from an organic coffee cooperative in Chiapas, Mexico, thereby providing the support for improved living conditions, better wages and environmental and human health for the people who farm and work in Mexico. Café Mam has also committed to sustainable business practices in their distribution and facilities, by using compostable coffee bags, utilizing biodiesel in their trucks and the designation of 2% of annual profits to community contributions. For their on-going commitment to purchase and distribute organic coffee and serve Oregon's community some of the best shade-grown, fair trade, organic coffee, and for investing in the stewardship of the land both in Chiapas, Mexico and in Oregon, Café Mam is granted the Award for Excellence as an Organic Processor.

Retailer: Fred Meyer

With nearly 20 million dollars in annual organic produce sales in Oregon, Fred Meyer has expanded their investment in organics over the past 40 years, through strategic partnerships with Oregon farmers and distribution companies. Fred Meyer has been developing a Northwest local buying group, in order to further support local and organic initiatives and, due in part to these efforts, they received the Department of Agriculture's 2012 Oregon Products Retailer of the Year award. For their work in supporting the expansion organic produce sales and their efforts to market the regional farmers who grow our food, Fred Meyer is granted the Award for Excellence as an Organics Retailer.

Wholesaler: Organic Produce Warehouse

The first certified organic, food distribution center operating in southern Oregon, Organic Produce Warehouse, lead by Tom Marks, has actively supported the Oregon organic trade since its inception, with a "local first" approach to distribution. Dedicated not only to organics, but to organizations and nonprofits working to improve the economy and the environment, Tom actively supports many southern Oregon

community and environmental support non-profits. For continuing to improve the quality of organic products, the sustainability of eco-systems and the fair business practices in the industry, Organic Produce Warehouse is granted the Award of Excellence as an Organics Wholesaler.

Farm (Crops): Spring Hill Farm

Jamie Kitzrow began farming in 1990, guided by a vision to return the land to a sustainable, healthy place for crops to grow and people to work. With 100% certified organic acreage, the farm has become an innovative oasis for both crops and the crew that manage the land. Recently Spring Hill Farm sought to become Agricultural Justice Certified, which means that their produce represents the honesty and integrity of the fair trade label and that their workers are treated justly and compensated fairly. For their efforts in innovative, organic farming research, their longstanding service to the organic industry and their promotion of fair labor and better business practices in organic agriculture, we proudly give Spring Hill Farm the Award for Excellence as a Crop Farm.

Farm (Livestock): Forest Glen Jerseys

Forest Glen Jerseys is home to Dan Bansen, a third generation farmer, his family, and many thriving animals. After graduating from OSU in 1973, Dan took over the farm to raise livestock. In 1997 his operation became certified organic by Oregon Tilth—five years before the implementation of the National Organic Standards. On the farm they've upgraded their equipment to more energy efficient models and have participated in conservation programs that improve woodland and riparian areas. In 2012 they installed a methane digester that creates energy from dairy manure. With this new machine they are able to power up to 700 homes per year. Dan also offers opportunities for the next generation to learn about such farming practices by providing internships to students interested in dairy production or agriculture. Dan has served as President of the Farmer's Cooperative Creamery and has held various roles on Organic Valley committees over the years. For being innovative and retaining a long-standing commitment to raising healthy, sustainably grown livestock and working to preserve the future of sustainable farming for generations to come, Forest Glen Jersey is granted the Award of Excellence for Organic Farm Livestock.

Organic Advocate (Individual): Chris Schreiner

Since 2009, Chris Schreiner has been the Executive Director for Oregon Tilth, though his involvement with the organization and organic farming stretches back to his time as a Quality Control Director, Farm Program Coordinator, and Assistant Manager for Sweetwater Nursery—just to name a few. Chris has been an integral part of collaborative conferences like Organicology—a platform for the organic industry to share trade knowledge and build networks. He is on the advisory boards of Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility's Healthy Food in Healthcare Campaign and the Multnomah County Institutional Food Buyers Alliance where he helps develop infrastructure and policy for large-scale institutional purchasing of organic and sustainable food. For his long-standing commitment to furthering organic agriculture and the institution of sustainable food systems in Oregon and beyond, Chris Schreiner is granted the Award for Excellence as an Individual Organic Advocate.

Scientist: Dan Sullivan

Dan Sullivan is a soil scientist with OSU Extension, and over the years he has had an important role in organic soil research. Since 1995 he has provided tools, field trials, training and research information for Oregon organic farmers to help them increase soil quality, establish better cover cropping, implement nutrient cycling, and provide better management of compost and manure. He was the principle investigator of the OSPUD Organic Potato Project and worked closely with growers to identify and refine research objectives, especially with nitrogen management. Currently he is working with Bernadine Strik to investigate different, organic inputs for healthier and better producing blueberry and blackberry systems. He's also working on a degree-day modeling website that will provide vegetable growers more information on weed species, vegetable varieties and nitrogen management. For conducting vital studies on land management and organic farming and for providing training, research support and scholarly information to farmers, Dan Sullivan is granted the Award for Excellence as a Scientist.

Award for recognition-Organic Innovator: Hunton's Farm and Camas Country Mills

Camas Country Mills is an extension of the Hunton Family Farm—a third generation Northwest family farm that has been established since 1952. The 2,700 acre operation has a dedicated a portion of their farm to organics and transitional land, which is certified by Oregon Tilth. They practice crop diversification and Food Alliance practices by promoting soil health, ecosystems and respect for farm workers. The Huntons are also committed to using only non-GMO seeds. The partnership between Camas Country Mill and the Hunton Family Farm serves as a model for how traditional farms can transition to support diversification of our food supply while increasing traceability and employing sustainable agricultural

practices. For their commitment to bringing grain production back to the Willamette Valley, thereby providing healthy, organic and non-GMO flour produced regionally and sustainably, Camas Country Mill and the Hunton Family Farm is granted the Award of Recognition as an Organic Innovator.

About Oregon Organic Coalition

The Oregon Organic Coalition (OOC) was formed in 2005 to advance the development and growth of the state's organic agricultural community and trade. OOC brings together representatives of the organic trade as the stakeholders of the organic food system. Together, they support research on organic systems at Oregon State University, advocacy, alliances with like-minded groups, marketing programs and conferences, and provide direction and endorsements for activities that promote Oregon's organic industry.

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