

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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



Governor Brown Proclaims September 13-19 "Organically Grown in Oregon Week"

SALEM, Ore. – August 20, 2015 – Nominations are in for Oregon Organic Coalition's (OOC) 2015 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.

2014 recipients included Columbia Gorge Organic, Fry Family Farm, Hummingbird Wholesale, Lindsay Fernandez-Salvador from OMRI, and the People's Co-op. This year's recipients will be announced during the OOC's awards luncheon on Tuesday, September 15, 2015, with keynote address by Gwendolyn Wyard, Regulatory Director of Organic Standards and Food Safety, from the Organic Trade Association. Members of the media are encouraged to attend.

In recognition of the importance of organic farmers, processors and distributors to the state, Oregon Governor Kate Brown renewed a proclamation declaring **September 13-19, 2015, *Organically Grown in Oregon Week***. The Governor's proclamation highlights the rapidly expanding organic sector of the state's agricultural economy. According to the most recent data, the amount of land being used to produce certified organic products has expanded to 132,000 acres, with more than 444 certified organic farms. Today, Oregon's organic agricultural trade brings in more than \$150 million in farm gate sales annually, with over 14% projected growth.

2015 marks the 27th 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

Organically Grown in Oregon Week is presented by the Oregon Organic Coalition, with generous support from Organically Grown Company, Oregon Tilth, Ecotrust, and Organic Valley. For a full list of OGOW supporters, member businesses, as well as a complete schedule of OGOW events, visit 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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