

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Governor Brown Proclaims Organically Grown in Oregon Week to take place September 10<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

*Awards luncheon keynote Dr. Garry Stephenson will discuss the importance of funding organic research*



**SALEM, Ore. – August 10, 2017** – Nominations are in for Oregon Organic Coalition’s (OOC) 2017 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.

2016 recipients included Green Zebra Grocery, Humm Kombucha, Persephone Farm, Scott Balin (Balin Farm Trust), Lane Selman (Culinary Breeding Network), Lynn Coody (Ag Systems Consulting), Sarah Beth Wynes (Minto Island Growers), Dr. Garry Stephenson (Oregon State University) and the Organic Material Review Institute. This year’s recipients will be announced during the OOC’s awards luncheon on Wednesday, September 13, 2017, at the Ecotrust building in Portland, Oregon.

Previous award winner Dr. Garry Stephenson will be keynoting this year’s luncheon, speaking to attendees on the importance of funding organic research. Dr. Stephenson’s extensive writing and teaching work with OSU also includes leading their extension and agricultural education service programs, such as the Extension Organic Program, the Center for Small Farms and Community Food Systems and the Small Farms program.

In recognition of the importance of organic farmers, processors and distributors to the state, Oregon Governor Kate Brown renewed a proclamation declaring **September 10-16, 2017, *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 409 certified organic farms, which brought in over \$2.69 billion in farm-gate sales in 2016. Over 91% of Oregon households purchased organic products in 2016.

2017 marks the 29<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](mailto:skraker@organicallygrown.com)