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Governor Kulongoski Proclaims Sept. 14-20, “Organically Grown in Oregon Week”

Governor Recognizes the Importance of Oregon’s Organic Industry to Health of State’s Citizens and Economy

SALEM, Ore. – *June xx, 2009* - As a symbol of the importance of organic farmers, processors and distributors to the State of Oregon, Governor Ted Kulongoski issued a proclamation recognizing September 14-20, 2009, as “Organically Grown in Oregon Week.” The week-long celebration will include farm tours, grassroots events, a public awareness campaign, in-store demonstrations, and will be capped by the 2009 Oregon Organic Coalition’s Awards in Excellence presentations.

This year marks the 21st 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 Governor’s proclamation highlights the rapidly expanding organic sector of the state’s agricultural economy. In the past five years (2004 – 2008), the amount of land being used to produce certified organic products has expanded from 31,092 acres to 114,923 acres – a 270 percent increase.

In his proclamation, Governor Kulongoski also acknowledges Oregon’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 first establishment of a statewide advocacy group – the Oregon Organic Coalition – to help promote the organic industry.

“I’m proud to recognize Oregon’s organic leaders as they continue to expand our state’s agricultural economy in a sustainable, environmentally responsible way,” says Governor Kulongoski. “Our support of Organically Grown in Oregon Week is our way of promoting the good work of the industry and highlighting home-grown success stories.”

Call for Nominations for Organic Awards of Excellence

As part of the Organically Grown in Oregon Week of awareness and celebration, the Oregon Organic Coalition will host the 2009 Awards in Excellence ceremony and luncheon. As many as 11 awards will be given to individuals and organizations across 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. The nomination deadline is August 1. Applications are available online at www.oregonorganiccoalition.org. The awards luncheon and ceremony will be held on Tuesday, September 15, 2009, at the Jean Vollum Natural Capital Center, also known as the Ecotrust Building.

For more information about participating in Organically Grown in Oregon Week contact: Stacey Kraker, 541.461.6473 or skraker@organicgrown.com.

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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