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Oregon Organic Coalition Honors Three Organic Trade Innovators with Awards for Excellence

In recognition of Oregon's thriving organic industry, and 'Organically Grown in Oregon' Week, the Oregon Organic Coalition presents awards, highlighting the positive impact of the organic trade in the state.

EUGENE, Oregon – October 1, 2018

The recipients of the 2018 Oregon Organic Coalition (OOC) Awards for Excellence were presented awards by OOC leadership during a tour of recipient individuals and organizations.

OOC Awards for Excellence were given to the following 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:

Organic Processor: Red Duck Foods, Shannon Oliver, Karen Bonner and Jessica Hilbert, Founders and Principals The story of Red Duck Foods is an inspiring tale of hard work and success. University of Oregon graduate students were inspired to transform a masters' degree project into a real life, lucrative business, so created an organic condiment and grew into a full-scale business. Not only were these four students passionate about getting their degrees, they also were passionate about sourcing organic, high integrity ingredients and providing their local community with a food product that is organic, healthy, tasty, and clean. The dedication of Red Duck's founders to playing an active and positive role in their community, contributing to the social and economic health of Oregon, is also evident in their recent BCorp Certification. Their rapid expansion is an indication of the effectiveness of their business practices and their effort to fill a need in the market for this innovative product.

Organic Farm (Crop): Oregon Organic Hazelnuts cooperative, Linda Perrine, Board President Organized just a little more than a year ago, the Oregon Organic Hazelnuts (OOH) is a new agricultural cooperative comprised of farmers and food producers. The OOH is currently led and supported by certified organic and transitioning hazelnut farmers who seek to serve other growers, and to further the cause of organic farming, by working to expand, promote, and secure the future of organic hazelnuts in Oregon. OOH's key focus areas include marketing and promotion of organic hazelnuts, organic grower support, and processing. OOH's vision is to be the source of best practices in organic hazelnut production, through direct training, and through providing online resources.

Organic Advocate: Holly Helton, Eugene, Oregon Holly Helton has been an integral part of growing Oregon's organic community. She has worked as a support for organic farmers in marketing their crops, helping organic growers scale up their farms and sustain profitability to increase acreage. Thanks to her efforts, crops produced in Oregon and throughout the Northwest were made available in markets throughout the country. Helton's expertise and dedication to supporting independent farms, has helped to increase organic acreage that maintains financial stability. Sales of organic goods produced in Oregon has benefited not only many organic growers regionally, but has helped make Oregon's reputation for producing high-quality organic products, including the highly recognizable LADYBUG organic produce brand. She has helped grow Oregon's economy by advocating for the needs of growers, shippers and her customers.

Organically Grown in Oregon Week is presented by the [Oregon Organic Coalition](#), with generous support from [Friends of Family Farmers](#), [Hummingbird Wholesale](#), [Mountain Rose Herbs](#), [Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides](#), [Oregon Tilth](#), [Organically Grown Company](#), and others. To see a full list of member organizations and OGOW sponsors, please visit oregonorganiccoalition.org.

About the Oregon Organic Coalition

The Oregon Organic Coalition (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 celebration of OGOW every September, advocating for state policy in favor of Oregon's organic trade and supporting continued federal support for organic research at Oregon State University.

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