



# CCOF

Organic Certification Trade Association Education & Outreach Political Advocacy

For Immediate Release

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## CCOF Launches Organic Intern Certificate Training Program

**(August, 3, 2007) Santa Cruz, CA** –CCOF, announced today the rollout of its comprehensive organic intern certificate training program. The ambitious program is currently recruiting motivated individuals who will complete 360 hours of project work in exchange for a certificate and valuable career training.

Interns will learn an overview of the rapidly expanding organic industry and undergo training in the essentials of organic certification, inspection, production and marketing. The rigorous training will be balanced with fun organic events and hands-on experience working at the world-renowned, CCOF certified, UCSC Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems.

“The demand for education is overwhelming. We are inundated with requests to participate in events but we do not have the staff to attend. We are hoping this program will provide the support we need to expand our educational efforts and increase public knowledge about organics,” says Viella Shipley, CCOF Marketing Director.

The program offers something for everyone who wants to get involved. While project interns must commit to 360 hours of work and are awarded a certificate upon completion, volunteers are accepted on an as needed basis for shorter periods of time. Supporting Mentors are also sought to mentor project interns. And for the generous at heart, Program Benefactors are welcome to help fund projects.

The intern program, the first of its kind at CCOF, is set to begin in late October 2007. The CCOF staff “is very excited to have fresh and energetic minds joining our team,” says Intern Program Coordinator Brian Bluestein. Recruitment is currently underway with the project slated to begin with five interns by October 8, 2007. Applications are now available on the CCOF website at [www.ccof.org/intern.php](http://www.ccof.org/intern.php)

About CCOF

*CCOF (California Certified Organic Farmers), a nonprofit organization, was founded in 1973 and is one of the nation's oldest and largest third-party organic certifying agencies. CCOF certifies, educates, advocates and promotes organic in California and elsewhere through:*

- A premier organic certification program for growers, processors, handlers, and retailers.*
- Programs to increase awareness of and demand for certified organic product and to expand public support for organic agriculture.*
- Advocacy for governmental policies that protect and encourage organic agriculture.*

