



CCOF

Organic Certification Trade Association Education & Outreach Political Advocacy

For Immediate Release

Contact: Peggy Miars
Executive Director, CCOF
(831) 423-2263, ext 12
peggy@ccof.org
www.ccof.org

CCOF Appoints Certification Services Director

Santa Cruz, CA, September 1, 2006 – CCOF announces that Jake Lewin is the new Certification Services Director effective September 1, 2006. Lewin was hired for this position following an industry-wide search. He has been serving as Interim Certification Services Director since July of this year.

“CCOF has built a strong reputation and significant customer loyalty through a dedication to integrity and service,” Lewin said. “I’m looking forward to working with CCOF’s clients more closely and ensuring the continued quality of CCOF’s premier certification program.”

Lewin brings to the position a wealth of certification experience and education including more than eight years in the organic food, farming, and certification field. For the last two-and-a-half years, Lewin has overseen all aspects of CCOF’s marketing and international market access grant programs. In that time, CCOF has experienced strong revenue growth, increased media prominence, and doubled its online visitors. Lewin’s other experience includes working on an organic strawberry farm and as a certification reviewer, program manager and organic inspector for a variety of organic certifiers. He brings with him a deep understanding of organic standards in the United States and abroad.

CCOF’s certification program has grown to one of the largest in the United States with more than 1,000 organic farmers, nearly 400 organic processors and a variety of other businesses. CCOF certifies more than 850 different types of products and more than 75% of California’s organic acreage. The organization has seen strong growth over the past several years including a single year increase of 40,000 acres – a 27% increase – in 2005. CCOF has long been respected as a leading voice in organic food, agriculture, and certification.

About CCOF

CCOF, a nonprofit organization formed by a group of grassroots activist farmers in 1973, is one of the oldest and largest organic certifiers in North America. CCOF’s purpose is to promote and support organic agriculture 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 products and to expand public support for organic agriculture.
- Advocacy for governmental policies that protect and encourage organic agriculture.

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