



CCOF

Organic Certification Trade Association Education & Outreach Political Advocacy

For Immediate Release

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CCOF Receives Certified Green Business Status

(August 5, 2009) Santa Cruz, CA CCOF, one of the nation's oldest and largest organic certifiers, recently earned the Monterey Bay Area Business Program's Green Business Certification. The program recognizes and promotes businesses that volunteer to operate in a more environmentally responsible way. Award recipients must meet program standards for conserving resources, preventing pollution and minimizing waste.

"CCOF values include *being socially, environmentally, and economically responsible*" states Steve Lustgarten, CCOF Assistant Director. "We are pleased to join with other companies recognized for our commitment to sustainability as part of the Monterey Bay Area Green Business Program."

CCOF's mission is to certify, educate, advocate and promote organic. The organization certifies over 2,100 organic operations and over 500,000 acres. Organic farming has been proven to be more sustainable compared to input intensive practices in conventional farming. In organic, the use of harmful synthetic, petroleum-based fertilizers is prohibited, which in turn conserves valuable energy sources and reduces the use of fossil fuel in agricultural production. Organic soy and corn farming practices have also been shown to use less fuel in their day-to-day operations while matching the yields of conventional farming. And most importantly, organic farming retains more carbon and water in the soil. This sequestration of carbon in the soil reduces greenhouse gas emissions and the impact that farming has on global warming.

"CCOF is proud of the contributions our certified organic members are making to sustainability" states Peggy Miars, CCOF Executive Director. "This award shows our members that in our day-to-day, office-based certification and trade association activities we are also conducting our business in a way that carefully stewards and sustains the planet's precious resources. At home base here in Santa Cruz, we're doing our part, too."

For more information on CCOF and our programs and initiatives, visit www.ccof.org.

About CCOF

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