



# CCOF

Organic Certification Trade Association Education & Outreach Political Advocacy

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For Immediate Release

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## CCOF Celebrates 34<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**(November 23, 2007) Santa Cruz, CA** – CCOF celebrates 34 years of leadership in organic certification, advocacy and education at its Annual Meeting on January 22, 2008 in Pacific Grove, California. The event will kick off with a spirited conference on “Food Safety for Organic Production and Handling of Fresh Produce”, followed by a summit that includes dynamic breakout sessions and reception for attendees to network and contribute to CCOF’s growth for the coming year. Events are open to CCOF members and supporters.

CCOF has plenty to celebrate; 2007 has been a year of unprecedented growth. The nonprofit organization experienced 13% growth in certified clients and a 255% increase in applicants over previous years. Currently CCOF certifies 1801 organic growers, processors and retail operations throughout the western hemisphere. To accommodate the demand, CCOF has expanded staff by 35% since February of 2007 and relocated to new office spaces in March of this year. They also inaugurated an intern training program that is vital in their education and outreach programs.

“While growth is exciting, we are committed maintaining organic integrity and member service. Many of our members have had a tough year and we are offering financial assistance grants to help setbacks incurred due to recent natural disasters.” states Peggy Miars, CCOF Executive Director.

CCOF encourages anyone interested in participating in the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting to attend and become a supporting member at [www.ccof.org](http://www.ccof.org).

### 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.*