



CCOF

Organic Certification Trade Association Education & Outreach Political Advocacy

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For Immediate Release

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CCOF Pioneers Food Safety Conference for Organic Producers

(November 22, 2007) Santa Cruz, CA – CCOF takes the lead again by creating a conference to educate both large and small growers, as well as handlers, about sound organic food safety practices. The “Food Safety for Organic Production and Handling of Fresh Produce Conference” takes place January 22-23, 2008 in Pacific Grove, CA in conjunction with the CCOF 34th Annual Meeting activities.

Food safety is the buzz in the wake of recent outbreaks, recalls and regulatory action surrounding fresh produce. These developments have stirred up spirited debate as to what actions are most appropriate to minimize food safety risks now that produce is a focus of the national food safety discussion.

Growers, industry and research professionals have collaborated to create a two-day course on the topic of Food Safety for Organic Production and Handling of Fresh Produce, with content customized specifically to address the needs and concerns of organic growers and handlers. Attendees will learn about:

- Pre- and post-harvest best management practices for food safety in fresh organic production
- Water, wildlife, workers and amendments
- Post-harvest plant pathology and factors that influence food safety
- Getting the most out of audits
- State and federal regulations impacting organic growers and handlers

The program will consist of professional presentations by speakers on course topics with the first day geared primarily to small and mid-sized growers and the second day geared primarily toward larger growers and handlers. The event is sponsored by the CCOF Processor Handler Chapter and is open to growers, handlers, product managers, quality assurance managers, owner/operators, organic inspectors, certification staff, consultants, and other industry professions. Information is available at <http://www.ccof.org/foodsafetyconference.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