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PCO Honors Outstanding Organic Leaders

Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Hannah Smith-Brubaker leads ceremony

Centre Hall, PA: PCO hosted its 2015 Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony this year at the PA Organic FarmFest and recognized those who have contributed so much to further organic food and farming in Pennsylvania and the mid-Atlantic. Pennsylvania's Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Hannah Smith-Brubaker set the stage and led the awards ceremony followed by a keynote presentation by Executive Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Michael Smith, who spoke on trends and opportunities for organic food and products in the marketplace.

"PCO extends our congratulations and expresses our deep appreciation for the commitment and vision of these extraordinary individuals," says Lee Rinehart, PCO's Director of Education. "Organic farming takes considerable time and attention not only to agricultural production and marketing but to maintaining the integrity of the whole system. Our passionate award winners have set the standard for innovative management and creative outreach that benefits the organic community."

Twelve PCO members were acknowledged at the PCO Annual Awards Ceremony, which recognizes pioneering individuals and business for innovative management, sharing knowledge and expertise with fellow farmers and the organic community, and furthering the cause of organic farming through research and education. The winners show consistent dedication to furthering the sustainability of farms, families, communities, and the environment, with exceptional commitment to high quality organic production.

2015 Award recipients include: Landie's Candies, Outstanding New Organic Processor Award; Noah & Rebecca Peachy, Outstanding New Organic Farmer Award; Sara & Ned Fogelman, Going the Extra Acre Award; Maple Hill Creamery, Sustainability Award; Dickinson College Farm, Organic Research and Education Award; Farmer's Pride, Inc., Outstanding Organic Producer Award; Trickling Springs Creamery, Outstanding Organic Processor Award; Eric Burkhart, Outstanding Volunteer Award; Conklin Farms, Inspector Appreciation Award; Profeta Farms, Staff Appreciation Award; Al Johnson and Brian Magaro, Hall of Fame Award. 2015's PCO Annual Award winners full biographies are posted on the PCO website at paorganic.org/awards.

PCO is a membership-based non-profit organization that educates and certifies growers, processors, and handlers of organic crops, wild crops, livestock, and livestock products in Pennsylvania and adjoining states. PCO is a USDA-accredited organic certifying agency. To learn more about organic certification and our Transition Membership Program contact PCO at 814-422-0251 or visit paorganic.org.

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