

2009 Sustainability Progress Awards

CALL FOR ENTRIES



Have you made significant progress toward making your business more sustainable?

Enter the GPN/OFA Sustainability Progress Awards competition before May 15, 2009.

Whether you are a grower who recently began to move toward sustainable practices or your growing operation has taken another key step in the journey toward sustainability, you are eligible for the GPN/OFA Sustainability Progress Awards competition. Each application will be judged on its own merits and progress is key. Sustainability Progress Award winners will be announced at the OFA Short Course, July 11-14 and profiled in an upcoming issue of GPN.

Sustainability is meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs while enhancing the health of ecosystems. Every action must be able to be repeated over and over, without impairing the ability of future generations to provide for themselves.

HOW TO ENTER:

Each entry must include (1) an overview of 500 words or less, as well as (2) a short narrative of 300 words or less describing progress within one or more of the areas outlined below. Please include company name, street address, city, state, zip code, phone number, contact information and a contact e-mail address with your entry.

NOTE: You do not have to be certified "sustainable" by a third-party organization to enter.

(1) OVERVIEW

In 500 words or less, please provide specific information on your sustainability initiative, including: how long it has been in practice; how was this initiative implemented; why it is sustainable; what did it replace or improve upon; quantify the improvement/savings; what are your plans going forward?

(2) PROGRESS NARRATIVE

Please describe the progress you've made in **any OR all** of the following areas in 300 words or less.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

- Sustainable crop production – minimizing the use of fertilizers, chemicals and pesticides. Employing biologicals and replacing environmentally harmful chemicals with less harmful or organic chemicals. Reducing erosion.
- Resource conservation and energy efficiency – conserving the use of water and reducing the use of energy. Conversion to energy sources that reduce the production of greenhouse gases.
- Ecosystem protection – reducing or eliminating run-off. Reducing or eliminating the amount of chemicals (fertilizers, pesticides, PGRs, etc.) introduced into the environment.
- Integrated Waste Management – employing bio-degradable containers and packaging. Recycling or composting waste. Safe handling and disposal of chemicals.

SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY

- Fair labor practices – safe and healthy work environment. Fair wages and access to key services.
- Community benefits – supporting the local community through purchasing and hiring practices. Support of local civic initiatives. Protection of local infrastructure.

OVERALL PRODUCT INTEGRITY

- Product quality – implementing quality assurance and quality tracking procedures to ensure that products are properly handled from the production facility to the retailer providing maximum freshness and longevity for the consumer.
- Product safety – undertaking measures to assure product safety at each stage of handling.

ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

- Operational cost savings – short-term and long-term savings achieved in areas of your operation where you implemented sustainable practices and procedures.

Submit applications by May 15, 2009 to:
GPN/OFA 2009 Sustainability
Progress Awards
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