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OREGON TILTH LAUNCHES ORGANIC FIBER & TEXTILE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Nation's Most Seasoned Organic Certifier Brings a Tradition of Organic Integrity to the Fiber & Textile Industry

SALEM, Ore—On Thursday, February 9, longtime organic certifier and shepherd of sustainable agriculture Oregon Tilth announced the launching of their Organic Fiber and Textile Handling certification program, bringing their tradition of experience, expertise, and integrity to the fiber and textile community and industry. Oregon Tilth will be certifying to the American Organic Standards for Fiber and Textile Handling, a standard of the Organic Trade Association.

“We’ve long recognized the need to foster sustainable and organic agricultural practices in fiber production, such as cotton, flax and wool, and we’re pleased to have a consistent, broadly applicable standard for the certification of fiber and textile handling,” said John Foster, Executive Director of Oregon Tilth. “We now have the ability to certify the fields where crops such as cotton, hemp or flax are grown, through spinning, weaving, and knitting processes, to—literally—the shirt on your back. We can certify pastures and sheep, sheared wool, sweaters or socks, providing an integrated, seamless process from start to finish.”

Years of work and collaboration went into the broadly inclusive American Organic Standard, representing the priorities of the organic community. Oregon Tilth’s Board of Directors voted to finalize the adoption of these standards at their January 30th meeting, bringing the experience of their certification program to contribute to this emerging, dynamic sector of the organic industry.

Dr. Joe Snyder, Chair of the Oregon Tilth Board of Directors added, “This expansion will help consumers make conscientious and responsible decisions regarding purchases of clothing, fabric, and other textile products; which in turn will increase markets for organic fiber and help support organic fiber producers, small and large alike.”

Founded in 1975, Oregon Tilth has become a world leader in organic certification of crops, livestock and processed products, and is widely respected for the integrity of the Oregon Tilth Certified Organic name (OTCO). Oregon Tilth provides experienced, integrated certification services throughout the United States and internationally. For more information visit www.tilth.org.

Oregon Tilth is a nonprofit organization supporting and promoting biologically sound and socially equitable agriculture through education, research, advocacy, and certification. Oregon Tilth advocates sustainable approaches to agricultural production systems and processing, handling and marketing.