

Organic Fertilizer Industry Creates New Association

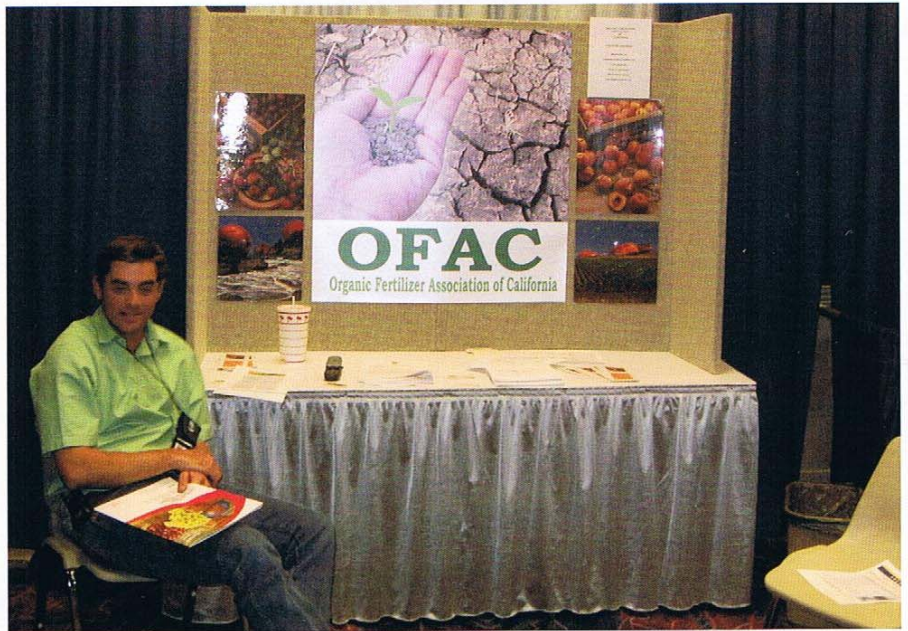
Steven R. Beckley, S. Beckley and Associates

The Organic Fertilizer Association of California (OFAC) has been formed by leading manufacturers, distributors and retailers of fertilizer products that meet the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Organic Program's (NOP) standards. The purpose of the new association is to represent the California organic fertilizer industry and promote the knowledge of safe and effective organic farming systems through outreach, education and regulatory/legislative efforts.

Doug Graham of New Era Farm Service in Tulare has been elected Chairman, Isaac Nelson of Port Organic Products, Bakersfield, will serve as Vice Chairman and Tim Stemwedel of California Organic Fertilizers, Fresno is the Secretary/Treasurer. Other directors of OFAC are John Salmonson, Monterey AgResources, Fresno and Tom Quick, Grow More Inc, Gardena. Steve Beckley of S. Beckley and Associates will serve as executive director.

The primary goals of OFAC in the first year will be to work with the California Department of Agriculture to develop an approval process for NOP fertilizers, promote the use of organic fertilizers and seek funding for additional research on organic fertilizers. The association will help make growers and the public aware of the important role organic fertilizer play in producing organic food and sustaining our environment.

Active membership is open to firms that produce, distribute and retail organic fertilizer in California. Associate membership is available to individuals and business that do not qualify for active membership but support the purposes of the association.



OFAC Vice Chairman, Isaac Nelson, tends the booth at the 2007 CAPCA Conference

Firms and individuals are urged to become members of OFAC and help our industry embrace the opportunities and challenges of the future. Membership in OFAC offers the opportunity to network, provide input into the future of the industry, and get the latest information on issues impacting the organic fertilizer industry. A regular newsletter will be distributed to OFAC members and interested parties and seminars will be held on organic fertilizer use and cultural practices.

More information on OFAC can be obtained at www.organicfertilizerassociation.org or by calling Steve Beckley at (916)539-4107. 🌱

