



Media Contact:

John Harrington
503-493-1066 ext. 24
john@foodalliance.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pride Packing Co. Achieves First Certification for Sustainable Supply, Process, and Distribution Chain

Parent company United Salad Co. achieves Food Alliance certification of vertically integrated supply and distribution

Portland, OR–November 14, 2008: Food Alliance, a national non-profit organization that offers comprehensive third-party certification for sustainable agriculture and food handling practices, announced today that it has certified Pride Packing Co. for meeting rigid standards for sustainable agricultural and management practices.

With the certification of Pride Packing Co., United Salad Co. sets a precedent as first to be certified throughout the entire supply, process, and distribution chain. In 2007, United Salad Co. and the Duck Delivery companies became the first food distributors in the country to be Food Alliance Certified.

Pride Packing Co. owns and harvests more than 3,000 acres of orchards in Washington State. It grows and packs more than 2.5 million cases of fruit annually. Food Alliance certified the apricot, nectarine, and peach orchards and the 60,000 square foot fruit packing facility at Pride Packing Co. Pride Packing is actively seeking additional certification for its pear, apple and cherry orchards and plans to be certified for all its fruit by 2009.

The initiative to certify was spearheaded by Ernie Spada Jr., the Vice President of United Salad Co. “It’s all about transparency from the orchard, through the packing house, and into distribution,” says Spada. “We want our customers to know what we’re doing to address important social and environmental issues, and what steps we’re taking to become even better. We want to be the best in terms of quality, food safety, and sustainability. Frankly, all those just go together.”

Food Alliance certification standards for farm and facility operations address a range of social and environmental issues including safe and fair working conditions, reduction of pesticide use and toxicity, soil and water and energy conservation, reduction of waste, and protection of wildlife habitat. The certification requires continuous improvement in social and environmental management practices. Companies are required to report their progress annually.

Food Alliance Executive Director Scott Exo says, “Ernie takes a lot of pride in the history and reputation of his companies. He is showing amazing leadership by tackling the issues head-on and providing his customers with credible assurances for social and environmental responsibility”.

The managers at Pride Packing Co. chose Food Alliance certification to help differentiate and add value to their products. “Certification is a great tool and helps us communicate our commitment to our customers. It means a lot that we can meet these high standards and pass a third-party audit,” explains President, Ernie Spada, Sr. “We keep up with research and innovation in our industry and take a progressive approach to managing our orchards. We look closely at pest management and cultural practices and ways to be better environmental stewards. With Food Alliance certification, people have more than just our word. They have un-biased proof.”

Pride Packing Co. is owned by parent company United Salad Co., which also owns Duck Delivery Produce, Inc. and Duck Delivery of Washington, Inc. Combined, they distribute fruits, vegetables, herbs, specialty produce, and processed produce to more than 1,000 retail and food service businesses weekly.

About Food Alliance

Food Alliance is a non-profit organization that certifies farms, ranches, food processors and distributors for sustainable agriculture and production practices. Businesses that meet Food Alliance’s standards, as determined by a third-party site inspection, use certification to make credible claims for social and environmental responsibility, differentiating their products and strengthening their brands. There are over 300 Food Alliance certified farms and ranches in 23 United States, Canada, and Mexico. These producers manage over 5.6 million acres of range and farm land, raising beef, lamb, pork, dairy products, wheat, and a wide variety of fruits and vegetables. Food Alliance has offices in Oregon, Minnesota and California.

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