



MEDIA RELEASE

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BATTLEFIELD FARMS RECOGNIZED FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ACHEIVEMENT

Company Honored for Long Commitment to Environmental Stewardship

(Rapidan, VA) Battlefield Farms, of Orange County, has been awarded the Virginia Agribusiness Council's 2014 Agribusiness Environment Award. Council Board Chairman Danny Shreckhise, of Shreckhise Nurseries, presented the award as the Virginia Agribusiness Council Board of Directors toured the company's facility on April 9.

The company was awarded the Agribusiness Environment recognition, presented annually to recognize a person, business, or industry's outstanding achievements and practices that benefit both the agribusiness and the environment. Battlefield Farms has grown from a small hydroponic plastic range into a 65 acre nursery operation, with both indoor and outdoor production, where plants are produced year round for shipment throughout the Northeast. First founded by Jerry van Hoven and now owned by his two sons, Bobby and Anthony, Battlefield Farms is an industry leader in both plant growing and environmental stewardship.

The facility's computer system constantly monitors and adjusts the greenhouse environment, and the company custom mixes soil on-site. Furthermore, Battlefield has the ability to provide drip line irrigation, ebb and flood flooring, and boom watering, and captures all runoff from the operation for storage and reuse. The company has also installed a custom biomass boiler, which produces energy to heat both their buildings and water system through self-sustaining, environmentally-friendly energy production.

"Battlefield Farms in an outstanding operation. They have always gone beyond what is expected to protect the environment through installing best management practices," said Orange County Virginia Cooperative Extension Agent Steve Hopkins. "They are the gold standard when it comes to their management of pesticides to protect their workers and the environment."

Even after the family had to rebuild their operation after a devastating fire nearly 15 years ago destroyed nearly all of their facility and their production, Chairman Shreckhise said, "The van Hoven family has carefully built the business with a commitment to quality products and sound environmental practices."

According to the company's website, they feel they "have a social responsibility to foster a sustainable future and make tomorrow a better place to live."

About The Virginia Agribusiness Council

The Virginia Agribusiness Council is a non-profit organization committed to representing the interests of the agriculture and forestry industries in the Commonwealth through effective governmental relations efforts and initiatives. Its membership includes farmers, foresters, and other agricultural producers; industry suppliers; marketers and processors; and commodity and industry associations. It is headquartered in Richmond. For more information, please visit www.va-agribusiness.org.

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Attached Photo, left to right: Bobby van Hoven, Vice President of Battlefield Farms; Jerry van Hoven, Founder and CEO of Battlefield Farms; Anthony van Hoven, President of Battlefield Farms