



American Origin Products Association

Over 6000 producers and growing!

January, 2018

Greetings!

We invite you - producers and producer groups of a product whose reputation is strongly linked to a specific region - to become a member of the American Origin Products Association. The AOPA is a 501c6 trade association created for producers such as yourselves. We believe that there is a need in the U.S. for Origin Products to be promoted, protected, preserved.

Until now, American Origin Products have been overlooked in the U.S. and underserved by an agricultural system organized around commodity production. Previous efforts by AOP producer groups to assert their regional identity were limited by the fact that they were acting alone, many going against the production and commercial trends of their sectors.

We define an Origin Product as closely tied to its specific region by environment, producer know-how and history. Origin Products typically enjoy strong consumer recognition and a reputation for quality. And they are frequently traded nationally and internationally, which can open them up to the threat of fraud and deceptive labeling practices. As a result, AOP producers have increasingly felt the pressure of globalizing markets that expose them to competition with cheaper imitations.

The AOPA's purpose statement, goals and a membership form are included below. We urge you to join with us, and to share this information with qualified producers in your region as well as with your local and State elected officials.

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Jim Smith, Director of Policy and Communications of the AOPA. His contact information is below.

Sincerely,

Colehour Bondera
AOPA President
Kona Coffee Farmers Association



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American Origin Products

- “brand” their region and its history
- attract consumers with their high quality
- result of specialized producer knowledge and craftsmanship
- protect from job outsourcing due to the products’ quality link to land
- contribute significantly to their region’s economic well-being

What do we stand for?

- Promoting regionally distinctive American Agricultural products
- Protecting the marketplace from fraudulent and deceptive labeling
- Preserving AOP production as part of American agricultural heritage through sustainable practices
- Powering the American economy with regionally specialized local jobs that cannot be outsourced
- Paving the way for government policy that supports sustainable localized agriculture systems.

How will we get there?

- Unify AOP producers across the country under our common objectives
- Educate and inform the public and policymakers about the potential and value of high quality, region based agriculture through promotions and events
- Build a common AOP voice at the state, national and global levels
- Create and implement a system for consumer recognition AOPs through labeling and certification
- Assure AOP sustainability by encouraging (committing to) the most ecological practices among members
- Seeking partner and sponsorships to support our promotional efforts as well as grants for continued research and education on origin product

Join the AOPA Today!



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Membership Dues Structure

January, 2018

Producer members (voting)

Large producer groups (annual budget > \$1 million)	\$1,000
Small producer groups	\$350
Single producers/companies	\$200

Non-Producer members (non-voting)

Individual Supporting Members	\$50
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Associate members (non-voting)

Donations

- Your dues are appreciated and needed to make the AOPA a strong organization to represent your needs to policy makers and reach consumers with information about your products.
- Dues-paying members will receive all benefits of the AOPA including regular news updates and invitations to AOPA events; direct contact with other producers of Origin Products to exchange views and information; facilitated access to researchers and lawyers with legal expertise who are knowledgeable about the specific issues facing origin product producers and can assist you with your research and legal needs; and access to the members-only portion of the AOPA web platform where news, views, and downloadable publications of concern to you will be shared.
- Dues-paying producer groups will also be empowered to vote for board members, changes to the organizational by-laws, and future actions of the AOPA. Voting will be carried out through the members-only section of the web platform.

Please act today and join with us to defend your product!

Please complete the following form and return it to the AOPA office. You may return it by mail to 400 North Capitol Street, NW, #585 Washington, D.C. 20001 or as an email attachment to aopa.office@gmail.com.

Questions? Call Jim Smith at 202-624-3548, or email him at the address above.



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AOPA Membership Form

Select annual membership category:

- | | |
|--|---------|
| ___ Voting large producer organization (annual budget > \$1 million) | \$1,000 |
| ___ Voting small producer organization (annual budget < \$1 million) | \$350 |
| ___ Voting single producers/companies | \$200 |
| ___ Non-voting individual supporting members | \$50 |
| ___ Non-voting Associate Member | \$ ___ |

Organization/Individual Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ___ Zip: _____ Country: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____ Website: _____

Primary Contact Name: _____

Primary Contact Title: _____

Primary Contact Phone: _____ Email: _____

Secondary Contact Name: _____

Secondary Contact Title: _____

Secondary Contact Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please indicate payment method:

I am mailing a check

I will pay with PayPal*

* If you wish to pay with PayPal, mark the PayPal box above and send your application to the AOPA office. When we receive it we will send you an email containing a PayPal website link where you can submit your payment. Note that PayPal accepts payments from other PayPal accounts as well as payments by credit card.