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5505 SE International Way, Milwaukie. OR 97222
Phone: 503-234-7501 Fax: 503-234-7502 Toll Free: 800-388-4870
www.concentratesnw.com

To Whom It May Concern

My name is Heather Havens. I manage and co-own one of the largest distributors of Organic Fertilizers, Soil Amendments, Feeds, and Minerals on the West Coast. We have been doing this since 1938, and I have been doing this here for 19 years. Concentrates most likely sells to all of the organic farms in OR & WA, either directly or indirectly. We advise hundreds of these farmers about how our products may be used to improve their organic farms. We spend uncountable hours helping these farmers. We do this because we believe it is the right thing to do, but we do this for free, and it would be excellent if these farmers had the option to get a BS or MSc in Organic Agriculture and they knew how to do this for themselves. It would free up SO much of my time personally, and it would ultimately help my business greatly.

I received my BS Ag from OSU in 2006, via their EXCELLENT Online Degree program. Originally I studied Animal Sci, with an Equine Emphasis, at UWRF 1985 – 1991, and received more than enough credits for a degree, but left without one. In 2003 I decided to attend OSU Distance, using my UWRF credits, and I received my OSU BS Ag Cum Laude in 2006. I had an incredible experience with this program, and I have recommended it to anyone who would listen.

I have also worked a great deal with Nick Andrews of OSU Extension Small Farms Program and his Small & Organic Farmers, and their combined research. I know from direct experience that these Farmers need to know more about this subject, and they are eager to learn.

I have a degree in Ag, but I have been self-educated in Organic Ag, due to the lack of accredited college programs with that emphasis. I teach classes on Organic Ag and Soil Management for Community Colleges, Soil & Water Conservation Districts, Master Gardner & Master Composter groups, as well as many other kinds of groups. I have to say that there is a HUGE need for many more people out there advising Farmers, Gardeners, Landscapers and the public about Organic Agriculture and related topics. I could easily do this Full Time if I had the time and inclination.

There is a HUGE need for BS/MSc Degrees in Organic Agriculture, and as respected as OSU is in the field of Agriculture is, I believe BS/MSc Degrees in Organic Ag from OSU would be very valuable, respected, and coveted Degrees. Please do this!!!

Sincerely,

Heather Havens BS Ag
General Manager, Concentrates, Inc.
5505 SE International Way, Milwaukie, OR 97222
503.234.7501, heather@concentratesnw.com, www.concentratesnw.com