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**NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 27, 2009

**California State Fair Tilling Soil for  
the State's Oldest Farms and Ag Businesses**

*Entry Deadline May 1, 2009 for Induction Into Elite Business Association*

**SACRAMENTO, CA** (March 27, 2009) - Established nearly 165 years ago, the Tejon Ranch Co. of Kern County, California, is one of the oldest members of the California State Fair's prestigious California Agricultural Heritage Club (CAHC). In difficult economic times, we remember what a significant accomplishment it can be to build a business and keep it afloat. Since its inception in the 1940s the CAHC has established a legacy of honoring centenarian businesses in California that have weathered the economic storm.

"The CAHC was created as a way to celebrate the history of agriculture and the agricultural enterprises that have made significant contributions to that industry," said Norb Bartosik, State Fair CEO and General Manager. "The Club recognizes more than just owning a business; it chronicles the unique family histories of agricultural productivity in California."

The Tejon Ranch Co. is just one example of a centenarian business that has helped build a solid foundation for California's agricultural heritage. The CAHC inducted 11 new nominees into the Club in 2008.

Each year the California State Fair conducts an extensive search for farms, ranches and companies that have called California home for 100 years or more. Any agricultural business or affiliate, including farms, ranches, equipment dealers, accountants, trade or marketing organizations, universities/colleges, irrigation districts and others, are invited to apply for induction into the elite association.

CAHC members receive a plaque of recognition and a special invitation to the State Fair's annual induction ceremony and brunch specifically for designees. The 2009 event, sponsored by the California Farm Bureau Federation is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 2, 2009** at the California State Fair. Event partners include California Farmer Magazine, UC Davis Cal Aggie Alumni Association, the California Chamber of Commerce and the California Milk Advisory Board.

The following is a list of the 2008 CAHC inductees:

**Companies inducted in 2008 with 100+ Years of Continuous Operation**

<u>Company</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Established</u>
Bayliss Ranch	Butte County	Est. 1865
Edwards Ranch	Tehama County	Est. 1844
Hagata Ranch	Lassen County	Est. 1905
Laugenour Ranch	Yolo County	Est. 1893
Montna Farms	Sutter County	Est. 1895
Potter Ranch	Merced/Monterey County	Est. 1854
Stanley Ranch	Alameda County	Est. 1859
The Marshall Ranch	Humboldt County	Est. 1891
University of California, Davis	Yolo County	Est. 1908
University of California, Riverside	Riverside County	Est. 1907
Willard Ranch	Tehama County	Est. 1881

**Companies inducted in 2008 with 125+ Years of Continuous Operation**

<u>Company</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Established</u>
Bayliss Ranch	Butte County	Est. 1865
Brownell-Steuben	Glenn County	Est. 1859
Domenigoni Bros Ranch	Riverside County	Est. 1879
Edwards Ranch	Tehama County	Est. 1844
Greene and Hemly Inc.	Sacramento County	Est. 1850
James Campbell Farms	Solano County	Est. 1876
Laugenour Oak Leaf Ranch	Yolo County	Est. 1852
Potter Ranch	Merced/Monterey County	Est. 1854
Stanley Ranch	Alameda County	Est. 1859
Stockton Wheel Service	San Joaquin County	Est. 1883
Willard Ranch	Tehama County	Est. 1881

**Companies inducted in 2008 with 150+ Years of Continuous Operation**

<u>Company</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Established</u>
Edwards Ranch	Tehama County	Est. 1844
Greene and Hemly Inc.	Sacramento County	Est. 1850
Laugenour Oak Leaf Ranch	Yolo County	Est. 1852
Potter Ranch	Merced/Monterey County	Est. 1854
Stanley Ranch	Alameda County	Est. 1859

Those interested in becoming a member or nominating an organization should contact Teresa McEntire in the Competitive Programs Department at (916) 263-3598 or at [TMcEntire@calexpo.com](mailto:TMcEntire@calexpo.com). Applications can be found online at [www.bigfun.org](http://www.bigfun.org). Media inquiries should be directed to Erica Manuel at (916) 825-0646 or [media@calexpo.com](mailto:media@calexpo.com).

**The 2009 California State Fair will be held August 21 to September 7, 2009 at Cal Expo in Sacramento, California**

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