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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Organic Valley Debuting Its First Creamery in Oregon, Serving 77 Family Farms

Grand Opening of Organic Valley's McMinnville Creamery on August 12, 2017

La Farge, Wis.—*July 27, 2017*—The nation's largest farmer-owned organic dairy cooperative, Organic Valley, is launching its first milk processing plant outside of Wisconsin in McMinnville, Oregon. The cooperative has had farmer members in the area for more than 20 years, and is excited to have a home base in Oregon. The opening of the creamery means 37 jobs in the McMinnville community, will support numerous milk-hauling jobs in the region and will be one of the only creameries of its kind (100% organic). Vibrant and food-savvy McMinnville is at the heart of the Willamette Valley and is a central location for 77 of Organic Valley's Pacific Northwest family farmer-owners.

A Home Base in the Pacific Northwest

As the co-op's first brick-and-mortar facility in the Pacific Northwest, the creamery will produce Organic Valley's award-winning butter and milk using dairy from cows in the immediate region. This reinforces Organic Valley's regional model of processing, distributing and selling products in the communities where they're produced. It also supports the co-op's mission to serve family farmers and the rural communities wherever they live. Organic Valley butter will be available throughout the west coast.

The cooperative's farmer-owners are happy that they can more directly engage in and strengthen the Pacific Northwest's dairy systems and Organic Valley's mission-driven culture. For Oregon farmers like Jon Bansen, the new creamery represents a home in the community.

"It's great for us because our milk will travel much shorter distances to make products that consumers really want—like our butter—locally," said Bansen, a fourth-generation Oregon farmer. "It also means a smaller footprint, which Organic Valley is always aiming for; and it saves money for the co-op, which means more money in farmers' pockets. We have always had a multi-regional approach, and this shows that. Now we have a place to proudly wave our flag right here in our own community."

Grand Opening August 12: Farm and Facility Tours, and Free Butter

To officially induct the newly retrofitted creamery and to commemorate Organic Valley joining the local business community with a brick-and-mortar facility, the cooperative is hosting an open invitation, multi-dimensional grand opening on August 12, 2017. The event will include official remarks from Chris Cummings, deputy director of Business Oregon; Lisa Hanson, deputy director of Oregon's Department of Agriculture; Scott Hill, mayor of McMinnville; and Steve Pierson, Organic Valley farmer-owner.

Members of the community near and far will be invited to visit one of Organic Valley's local farms, where they can see baby calves, make butter, see what it's like to milk a cow, and enjoy

snacks and other fun activities. From there, attendees may join for the festivities at the creamery, which will include a complimentary, organic lunch featuring the co-op's products. Guests may tour the facility, where Organic Valley has made a significant investment in new equipment and state-of-the-art technology, such as driers for powdering milk and refurbished butter churns to align with its existing butter-making standards and methods. Attendees of the event will receive a free pound of Organic Valley butter. Shuttles between the creamery and the farm will be provided.

“We are both proud and grateful to join the McMinnville business community,” said Bob Kirchoff, Organic Valley's chief business officer. “This new creamery speaks to our commitment to Oregon agriculture and building a better future for family farms here. We can't think of a more welcoming community or a better fit for our farmers and our co-op.”

August 12 Grand Opening Schedule

- 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.: Grand opening at McMinnville Creamery, including complimentary lunch
- 9 a.m. – Noon: Tours of Dan and Jamie Bansen's Farm (shuttles provided from McMinnville Creamery)
- 1:30 p.m.: Remarks at McMinnville Creamery from local and state politicians, Organic Valley farmer-owners and other community members

Official link: <https://www.organicvalley.coop/our-farmers/farm-tour-discovery/event/grand-opening-organic-valleys-mcminnville-creamery/>

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Organic Valley: Independent and Farmer-Owned

Organic Valley is America's largest cooperative of organic farmers and one of the nation's leading organic brands. Organized in 1988, it represents more than 2,000 farmers in 36 U.S. states. Focused on its founding mission of saving family farms through organic farming, Organic Valley produces a variety of organic foods, including dairy milk, eggs, produce, and soy products, which are sold in supermarkets, natural foods stores and food cooperatives nationwide. With its regional model, milk is produced, bottled and distributed right in the region where it is farmed to ensure fewer miles from farm to table and to support our local economies. For further information visit www.organicvalley.coop. Organic Valley is also on Twitter ([@OrganicValley](https://twitter.com/OrganicValley)) and Facebook (www.facebook.com/OrganicValley).