

Mt. Olive Organic Farm



A family farm in the truest sense of the term, Mt. Olive Organic Farm in Paso Robles is operated by around two dozen relatives—parents, children, siblings, and cousins. United with a common goal, they raise fresh fruits and vegetables, including stone fruits, strawberries, sprouts, leafy greens, and tomatoes, and offer true free-range eggs—all through natural, organic, and “poison-free” practices. They have also gained notoriety for a great assortment of prepared products such as olive oil, cured olives and tapenades, vinegars, and jams, as well as body care products derived from their bounty.

Their commitment to organic farming is multifaceted: they believe that pesticides and herbicides are harmful to human health; that organic food tastes better and is more nutritious; and that these practices are better overall for the planet, as they use less energy and are less invasive than more commercial practices.

Their strategy includes maintaining an earthworm farm that produces organic fertilizer. Worm casting introduces rich organic matter into the soil and gradually releases nutrients while

inoculating the soil with healthy bacteria and fungi. Compost is their basic fertilizer, supplying the plants with essential nourishment, improving soil conditions, and binding the soil so it retains water and nutrients. They combine these efforts with EM technology (Effective Microorganisms), a complex culture of selected beneficial microorganisms which includes photosynthetic bacteria, lactic acid bacteria, and yeasts.

Judge Hunter Francis, in his vote for Mt. Olive, states it best: “This farm exemplifies agricultural sustainability from multiple perspectives. From an environmental standpoint, they use organic, earth-friendly production practices in a highly diversified setting. Socially, they are a family farm with strong ties to the surrounding community. They have strong marketing programs regionally, supporting our local ag economy. They also offer value added products (such as toothpaste), thus meeting many consumer needs. Further, they provide ag education for the local community.”

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