



# OUR SUSTAINING PRINCIPLES

## Growing our Business the Only Way We Know How

# 1

### Protect and Conserve Water Resources

In OPC's processing plants, internal efficiency teams continue to find ways to decrease fresh water intake and increase water utilization. At OPC we:

- Have decreased water use in our plants by 10-15% on a per lb. processed basis.
- Apply vegetable waste water to the land, saving millions of gallons each year!
- Recycle vegetable water within our facilities.

Using these methods we save hundreds of millions of gallons of water each year.

# 2

### Protect and Enhance Soil Resources

OPC is committed to stewardship of the land and water resources in Washington, Oregon and Idaho. We minimize commercial fertilizer application by sampling soil before planting and performing leaf analysis when crops are in mid-season. Our farmers work to:

- Reduce soil erosion by maintaining crops on off-season land.
- Build organic matter in the soil by using crop rotation.
- Plant and maintain riparian zones near streams.
- Monitor and track soil quality over time.



*We use less chemical pesticides and fungicides, maintaining a balanced and healthy ecosystem.*

# 3

### Integrated Pest Management

OPC's pest and vegetable disease management initiatives have led to the formation of organizations that efficiently and effectively combat pests and mold in raw products.

OPC farmers regularly:

- Monitor pest levels using visual inspection, insect traps and other environmentally sound measurement methods.
- Emphasize pest control, not eradication.
- Differentiate between important native insects and pests that harm crops deliverables.
- Collaborate with growers, industry field representatives and university faculty to coordinate, design, implement and evaluate mold and pest control methods.

# 4

### Conserve and Enhance Wildlife Habitat

OPC farmers interact with birds, fish and mammals that travel through or live near our farms on a daily basis.

Our aim is to:

- Eliminate noxious weeds that threaten native wildlife.
- Incorporate agroforestry design to provide food and cover for migratory birds and other wildlife.
- Harmonize farming and wildlife issues with agricultural needs.
- Improve water quality and benefit wildlife by maintaining the streams and rivers on and around members' farms.



*We actively work to maintain a healthy balance between our crops and the animals that call our fields home.*

## Our Family of Companies





# OUR SUSTAINING PRINCIPLES CONT.

**5 Provide Safe and Fair Working Conditions**  
OPC actively participates in our employees' local communities and regularly donates funds, food and materials to community programs. At OPC we:

- Conduct specialized job training and job related education.
- Maintain safe and sanitary facilities for all employees.
- Encourage employee input to continually improve the workplace.
- Maintain comprehensive benefits packages for all employees at a time when benefits are eroding industry-wide.

**6 Conserve and Recycle Nutrients**  
90 percent of all vegetable byproducts are turned into animal feed and the remaining 10 percent is applied to the land, recycling nutrients for future resources. Our Processing Plants:

- Recycle 99.5 percent of vegetable mass not used in packaged products.
- Turn excess vegetable matter into silage for livestock, annually recycling more than 150,000 tons of vegetable byproducts.
- Return nutrients from vegetables to the soil by irrigating fields with process water from our facilities.
- Apply beet juice and peel and other processed vegetable material to growing land.



*The OPC Family of Companies makes use of 99.5% of all vegetable mass, including turning excess vegetable matter into silage for livestock.*

**7 Produce Safe, Wholesome, High Quality Fruits and Vegetables**  
OPC is proud of its heritage as an industry leader in food safety and a quality producer. Our farmers and processing plants control quality from seed-to-fork. We have received extensive third-party recognition for our efforts and achievements in stewardship including:

- Do not use genetically modified organisms.
- Grow crops from seed varieties developed through conventional breeding techniques.
- Separate out crops by distance and time to preserve their identity.
- Support local farming economies that promote healthy and positive global ecosystems.

**8 Continually Improving Practices**  
For over two decades, our processing plants have averaged a 2.5 percent annual reduction in energy consumption. Our environmental stewardship extends beyond farming to all other areas of our business. We have partnered with the following organizations to continuously improve our practices:

- We are a founding member of the Oregon Sustainable Agriculture Resource Center (OSARC), a comprehensive and practical source to help farmers adapt stewardship practices.
- Food Alliance, a third-party stewardship auditor.
- Oregon State University, for crop improvement and input to the agricultural stewardship task force.
- Government organizations such as: U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Oregon Water Resources Department, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Oregon Dept. of Energy & Oregon Dept. of Agriculture.

For more information on our commitment to sustainable practices, contact your local OPC Companies representative.

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