



2007 Oliver Atkins Award of Excellence

The Abbott Family Carpinteria, California

Award presented by Carl Stucky

Many of us in the avocado industry look forward each year to this occasion when we recognize and acknowledge the contributions that important people have made during their careers in our industry. The Oliver Atkins Award of Excellence has been given to people who have made contributions to avocado varieties through propagation, nursery operations, and production research.

The recipient this year is the Abbott family. Terry Abbott first came to Carpinteria in the 1920's and bought a piece of land in Rincon Canyon. In the 1930's, he bought a second piece of property in Carpinteria. The first plantings on this property, which the family called the Hill property, contained a trial planting in conjunction with the University of California Cooperative Extension. The Extension was known as the Farm Agents at that time.

There probably has not been a year since the early 1930's when Terry and his family – now almost into the 4th generation – have not hosted a project for the Cooperative Extension.

Much of the progress of the avocado industry throughout the world has been based on the agricultural technology developed here in California. Much of this research has been developed and made ready for adoption by the industry through the cooperation of private growers who agreed to conduct the research on their property. Historically, these cooperators have devoted a great deal of time and resources so that these research projects can be conducted.

It is with pleasure that we honor today the Abbott Family of Carpinteria for nearly 70 years of cooperating with the University of California by allowing research projects to be done on their ranches.

Duncan Abbott and his wife Meredith are with us today, along with their son William. Please come forward and receive the Oliver Atkins Award of Excellence.