

## Tom Haller Award

The California Small Farm Conference is very proud to announce the new Tom Haller Award.

The California Small Farm Conference will present the first ever Tom Haller Award at the 2008 conference in Visalia, during the banquet dinner on Monday, February 25.

The award is named in honor of Tom Haller, the individual whose drive, vision and leadership launched the California Small Farm Conference.

### Purpose:

The Small Farm Conference grants this award in order to recognize those who have demonstrated through their actions exceptional and exemplary commitment to help small farms thrive and excel within the context of California agriculture.

The Small Farm Conference invites nominations of public or private agencies, individuals, farms, businesses, farmers' markets or organizations that meet the award criteria.

### Criteria:

- The nominee should be dedicated to the sustainability and viability of California's small farms. The nominee should demonstrate visionary leadership that champions new and innovative ideas in a manner that brings people together. The nominee's work accomplished should be measurable and have an impact that extends beyond the individual or organization.

### Requirements:

Nominations will consist of no more than one typed page that addresses each of the above listed criteria. Nominations can be submitted on behalf of individuals; federal, state, or community-based organizations; farmers' markets; educational institutions; or others. Deadline:

The nomination deadline for the 2008 Award is January 11, 2008.

Applications can be mailed, e-mailed, or faxed and should be addressed to:

Allen Moy  
President  
California Small Farm Conference  
P.O. Box 73614  
Davis, CA 95617

fax: 888-712-4188

### About Tom Haller:

Tom Haller worked with small family farmers for more than 35 years in a variety of capacities and in various places around the world; including initiating, advising, and researching small farm projects in California, Connecticut, Kenya, Colombia, Peru, and Chile. Tom holds a bachelor degree in agricultural economics from UC Davis and graduate degrees with the same major from the University of Connecticut and Purdue University, as well as a degree in theology from Princeton Seminary. In California, Tom began his work at the non-profit organization Rural Economics Institute (REI) where he directed a number of programs related to small scale agriculture, farm labor, and rural development. While at REI he participated in the first interagency study of small farms and their future, called the Small Farm Viability Project. In 1982 he became the first Director of the Small Farm Program at UC Davis.

It was at the Small Farm Program that Tom helped organize the first Small Farm Conference. Over the years he has participated in the planning of 20 of these annual conferences and for three years served as its Coordinator. From the beginning Tom stressed the importance of including small farmers not just as participants but also as presenters, since he saw them as the experts on important areas of innovation. Tom spent the majority of his career, some 18 years, as the Executive Director of the Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF). The organization was started as the California Association of Family Farmers (later merged with the California Action Network) and came to being largely as a result of the first Small Farm Conference. Tom retired from CAFF in 1999, although he continued working part-time with the Small Farm Conference, as well as taking on consulting assignments.

In 2002 he and his wife Joanne took on a shared, half-time job as Hunger Action Enabler for the Presbyterian Church

USA, working with some 65 churches in Northern California to promote national programs related to hunger, peacemaking, and care of creation. Tom and Joanne have been married 42 years and have two grown children and two grandchildren.