



COUNTY OF ORANGE – HEALTH CARE AGENCY

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
April 5, 2012

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More Than 3,000 Orange County Food Establishments Receive Awards of Excellence

(Santa Ana) – The Health Care Agency's Environmental Health Division has issued 3,247 *Award of Excellence* certificates to local Orange County food facilities, representing an increase of almost 60 additional food facilities from the previous year. From a qualifying group of 9,693 food facilities throughout the County, these establishments were recognized by Environmental Health's Food Protection Program for their outstanding food safety and sanitation practices during 2011.

The Food Protection Program created the annual Award of Excellence to provide an incentive for food establishments to consistently meet or exceed health and safety standards for food facility operations. In 1999, the first year of the program, 584 food establishments received the Award. With increased outreach and improved compliance to food safety laws the number of recipients has grown significantly since its inception. Included in the Award of Excellence Program are food facilities such as restaurants, catering establishments, meat/seafood markets, retail bakeries, supermarkets, supermarket/bakery combinations, and public and private schools with food production service. A complete list of all recipients and award criteria is available online at www.ocfoodinfo.com/foodaward.htm.

The Food Protection Program focuses on the inspection of retail food facilities in order to promote the safe and sanitary preparation and service of foods, prevent foodborne illness, and protect consumers from adulterated food products. For more information about the Health Care Agency's Food Protection Program, visit www.ocfoodinfo.com.

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