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SQUAB PRODUCERS OF CALIFORNIA HONORED WITH CALIFORNIA'S PRESTIGIOUS "FLEX YOUR POWER" AWARD

Modesto, CA (May 15) "Flex Your Power," California's statewide energy efficiency program recently named the Squab Producers of California a leader in energy efficiency. Squab Producers, a cooperative of small independent farmers, was one of 41 winners selected from several hundred applicants for outstanding leadership in energy efficiency. Cumulatively, award winners over the last two years have saved more than \$172 million, one billion kilowatt hours and reduced greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to removing more than 80,000 cars from the road.

Squab Producers of California received an honorable mention in the Energy Efficiency category for the installation of a Thermosorber, a new energy efficient heat pump technology never before used in a food processing facility. The Thermosorber has the ability to heat and chill water to meet the rigorous temperature requirements of poultry processing at a fraction of normal energy use. It significantly reduces nitrogen oxide and carbon dioxide emissions as well.

"The Thermosorber is especially appropriate for poultry processing because of the large quantity of both hot and cold water needed to retain product quality and ensure food safety," explains Bob Shipley, Squab Producers of California President. Energy Concepts Company in Annapolis, Maryland developed the Thermosorber with funding support from the US Department of Energy and the California Energy Commission's Public Interest Energy Research (PIER) Program.

The Squab Producers' decision to install the system continues to pay dividends far beyond its own business. The experimental usage at the Squab Producers plant demonstrated Thermosorber's effectiveness in an industrial setting and provided experience, leading to refinements and ultimately the confidence for much larger poultry processing plants to invest in the technology. This has led to PG&E making the new technology a part of its energy efficiency program.

"We are very proud to receive the "Flex Your Power" Award," says Shipley. "It validates our efforts to be an environmental steward and encourages our farmer members and employees to continue to find ways to enhance our business in a responsible manner."

Over the past few years, Squab Producers has initiated many other environmental friendly business practices, including extensive recycling of office and plant products, while creating employee incentive programs including extensive conservation and recycling efforts both at work and at home. Just recently the firm installed a fully automated air chilling system to further improve product quality and food safety, while reducing water and chemical consumption at the plant. Farmer members have received training and are working hard as well to raise their special birds with a focus on sustainable farming and welfare for their birds.

This year's 5th Annual Flex Your Power Awards were presented on Saturday, May 5 at the San Francisco Concourse Exhibition Center. The award selection committee included representatives from the California Public Utilities Commission. Flex Your Power Award winners were selected by senior representatives from the California Independent System Operator, California Energy Commission, California Urban Water Conservation Council, League of California Cities, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Building Owners and Managers Association, Silicon Valley Leadership Group, and Southern California Edison. For more information on the 5th Annual Flex Your Power Awards, visit www.flexyourpower.org.

About Squab Producers of California: Squab Producers is an agricultural cooperative of small independent farmers, formed in 1943, who work together to provide squab and specialty poultry to a wide variety of customers worldwide. As a cooperative, Squab Producers process birds raised by members in a modern HACCP-compliant processing plant located in Modesto, California. The plant features state-of-the art equipment and practices to ensure optimum product quality and food safety. In addition to their famous California Squab, the plant processes all natural Poussin, all natural and organic Cornish hens, natural silkie chicken and the very special California Poulet Bleu.