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## **BAKER PETERSON FRANKLIN ANNOUNCES 2016 AG BUSINESS AWARD – BOOTH RANCHES OF ORANGE COVE**

Baker Peterson Franklin, Certified Public Accountants, is pleased to announce the recipient of the 2016 Baker Peterson Franklin Ag Business Award is Booth Ranches of Orange Cove.

Booth Ranches LLC exemplifies a leading for-profit ag organization whose achievements and impact have significantly contributed to the ag industry and the Central Valley. The Baker Peterson Franklin Ag Business Award honors a for-profit service or product-related agribusiness or farming entity headquartered in the Central San Joaquin Valley. The award recipient is selected by a committee representing the local agribusiness industry and the BPF Ag Department. Booth Ranches has a distinguished record of positive leadership, entrepreneurship, and service to the agriculture industry and our community making them the 2016 Baker Peterson Franklin Ag Business Award recipient.

Founded in 1957 by Otis Booth Jr., Booth Ranches began with a 40 acre citrus grove near the central Sierra Nevada foothills. Otis retired from the publishing industry in 1972 to begin his second career as a cattle rancher and citrus farmer. Under daughter, Loren Booth, Booth Ranches has quietly grown to nearly 9,000 acres stretching from Orange Cove to Maricopa in Kern County. Loren had the vision for growth and vertical integration, and Booth Ranches has become the fifth largest citrus producer by volume in the U.S. Loren also runs a commercial cattle herd, as well as raising and showing Quarter horses.

Booth Ranches is known as an outstanding employer that promotes a family business environment, and Loren Booth is a leader respected by her peers and a philanthropist with a passion for education and children. Booth Ranches provides scholarships to 60 employees' children enrolled in college full time. Twice a year, they host L.A. inner city children to Camp Booth for a first-time outdoor experience. They provide financial support to Orange Cove and Woodlake school districts, Reedley College and Fresno State. A \$5 million gift was made by the Otis Booth Foundation to the California Agricultural Leadership Foundation to honor the impact the program has had on Loren personally and professionally.

The past 20 BPF Ag Business Award recipients are: Hall Management of Kerman, HMC Farms of Kingsburg, Gar Tootelian of Reedley, Sun-Maid Growers of California, Allied Grape Growers of Fresno, Fresno Equipment Company, Errotabere Ranches of Riverdale, Harris Farms of Coalinga, Borba Farms of Riverdale, National Raisin Co. of Fowler, Ballantine Produce Co. of Sanger, Woolf Enterprises of Fresno, Producers Dairy Foods of Fresno, P-R Farms of Clovis, J&L Vineyards of Fresno, Fowler Packing Company, Joseph Gallo Farms of Atwater, Wawona Frozen Foods of Clovis, Wilbur-Ellis Western Division, and Zacky Farms of Fresno.

Booth Ranches will be honored at the Ag Awards Luncheon on Wednesday, November 9 at Valdez Hall Fresno Convention Center. The Baker Peterson Franklin Ag Business Award and the Fresno Chamber Agriculturalist of the Year, Manuel Cunha of Nisei Farmers League, will be presented. Luncheon tickets are available through the Fresno Chamber of Commerce, [www.fresnochamber.com](http://www.fresnochamber.com), (559) 495-4800.

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