

P R E S S R E L E A S E

GLENISK WINS ENVIRONMENTAL ENRICHMENT AWARD AT BORD BIA FOOD & DRINKS INDUSTRY AWARDS 2009

(Offaly, 5 November 2009) Glenisk, the family operated organic dairy, has received the 'Environmental Enrichment – Sustainability' Award at the 2009 Bord Bia Food & Drink Industry Awards.

The award was presented by Brendan Smith, TD, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries & Food, at an awards ceremony on Thursday, 5 November at Dublin's IMI. 'Environment Enrichment' was one of six awards categories for the Food & Drinks Industry Awards; Glenisk was also shortlisted for the 'Home Grown' award and for the 'Consumer Focus' award – and was the only company to be commended in three separate categories.

Bord Bia invited entries for the Environmental Enrichment award from companies who "show vision and stewardship in environmental and community issues." The judges commented that "Glenisk's commitment to sustainability is truly outstanding. Passionate about fair trade and ensuring that their production is sustainable, this family owned business has excelled in producing a high quality and desirable product while minimising their manufacturing imprint."

Accepting the award on behalf of Glenisk, managing director, Vincent Cleary said: "We are delighted to accept the award for environmental enrichment. Care of the environment is central to our organic mission at Glenisk and this year, we took a number of measures including the installation of our first wind turbine at our plant and the commencement of a major audit programme for both our plant and our farms, to enable us to measure, and ultimately reduce our CO2 emissions."

Further information is available at www.glenisk.com.

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For further information, photography, or to arrange an interview, please contact:
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Note to Editors:

Glenisk was established in 1987 by the Cleary family in Killeigh, Co Offaly. Glenisk converted to organic production in 1995. Today, Glenisk continues to operate from Killeigh and is run by five of the Cleary siblings. Glenisk works with 50 organic farmers across the island of Ireland, and procures 90% of the organic milk produced in Ireland. Glenisk is a multi-award winning business, most recently receiving the Bord Bia Food & Drink Industry Award for Environmental Enrichment 2009, and the National Organic Award 2009 for Best Retail Product for its Greek Style Yogurt.

In addition to promoting organic agriculture, which is accepted as a less intensive form of agriculture providing benefits for the environment, Glenisk has taken a number of steps to lessen its environmental impact. The company opened an €8.5m eco-friendly plant in 2007, with a focus on using sustainable materials in the build. The new plant is powered by Airtricity and in 2009, Glenisk installed its first wind turbine which powers the reed beds for water waste efficiencies; vehicles run on biofuel and electricity and Glenisk operates a strict recycling policy. Paper yogurt pots are sourced from sustainably managed forests, approved by the Forest Stewardship Council. All of the fruit used is organic and bananas are certified by the Rainforest Alliance.

In 2009, Glenisk commenced a major project internally designed to measure not only the plant's carbon footprint, but that of each of the farms they work with. Bia Cert has been contracted to audit the farms, while the plant audit is working to the Greenhouse Gas Protocol, developed by the World Business for Sustainable Development & The World Resource Centre.

Glenisk is also committed to supporting NGOs and charities with an environmental cause. We are partners with The Organic Centre, Co Leitrim; GM Free Ireland Network and with Cultivate, the sustainable living and learning centre, and with Bothar.

Glenisk is a member of Love Irish Food, the initiative set up in 2009 to promote Irish food and drink manufacturers.