



Organic win for Lily's

NEWBRIDGE-based Lily O'Brien's chocolate company was presented with a major national award for its organic sweets collection at a trade show in Dublin last week.

Trevor Sargent TD, Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, presented the Best Organic Sweet, Flour and Chocolate Confectionary award to the company as part of Bord Bia's National Organic Awards. The awards, organised by Bord Bia in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, attracted over 100 entries from organic companies nationwide and were presented at the SHOP food and drink retail trade event.

Several other midlands-based companies also scooped awards.

Glenisk in Co Offaly received Bord Bia's Overall National Organic Food Award for its organic butter. This product will be available on supermarket shelves in the coming weeks.

Other winners included Oliver Carty Ltd, Athlone, who won in a new category, Best Organic Meat Product, for his Organic Loin of Bacon with a Citrus Topping. Kelly's Moon Shine Organic Dairy in Mullingar won a SHOP Product of the Show Award for their Una cheese which is a cream cheese made with sun-dried tomatoes and olives.

Ralph Haslam from Mossfield Cheese, Co Offaly won a World Cheese Award medal at the show for his repressed cow's milk cheese with garlic and basil.

"Success at award ceremonies such as these are a testament to the innovative, hard working, small scale, organic producers around the country and it illustrates how the organic sector is going from strength to strength", said Grace Maher, Development Officer of the Irish Organic Farmers and Growers Association.

Speaking at the ceremony Minister Sargent said "It is encouraging to see the high standard of entries this year and it strengthens my belief that the future is bright for organic food and farming in Ireland. Last month I announced a new scheme to allocate additional milk quota to organic producers, which will allow existing producers to expand their output and also encourage new entrants to organic milk production."



Pictured at the Awards ceremony in Dublin were l-r : Aidan Cotter, Chief Executive, Bord Bia; Suzanne Walsh, Lily O'Briens; Mr. Trevor Sargent TD, Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries.