

## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

### **GLENISK WINS NATIONAL ORGANIC AWARD 2009** **Glenisk Greek Style Yogurt Named 'Best Retail Product'**

(Offaly, 14 September 2009) Glenisk, the family operated organic dairy, has won Best Retail Product at the 2009 National Organic Awards for the company's Greek Style Yogurt.

The award was presented by Trevor Sargent, TD, Minister for Food at the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food, at an event in Bord Bia on 14 September 2009 to co-incide with the launch of Ireland's National Organic Week (14-20 September). This is the third year of the National Organic Awards – last year, Glenisk picked up the Overall Award for their newly introduced Organic Irish Butter.

Launched in 2008, Glenisk's Organic Greek Style Yogurt is a delicious, creamy, premium-quality yogurt and is available from retailers nationwide in blueberry and natural flavours, in 450g and 500g pots.

According to the award organizers, Bord Bia, the **Best Organic Retail Product** "seeks to recognize an organic product that is driving consumer awareness of organic food at national retail level."

Accepting the award on behalf of Glenisk, managing director, Vincent Cleary said: "We are delighted to receive this award for our Greek Style Yogurt, a product we are exceptionally proud of. Promoting organic agriculture is central to our own mission; we believe that both the National Organic Awards and National Organic Week do a vital job, not only in recognising the value of organic food producers but in building awareness of the importance of the organic food sector in this country."

Further information is available at [www.glenisk.com](http://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 Green Product of the Year Award 2008, Repak Award for Outstanding Practice 2008 and the Overall National Organic Award 2008.

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.