



**2009
Oliver Atkins
Award of
Excellence**

Jim Lloyd Butler
Oxnard, California

Award presented by
Carl Stucky

Oliver Atkins was a well known avocado nurseryman in the San Diego area. Oliver was known for his cooperation, for contributing freely to the avocado industry, and for his desire to share information.

The Oliver Atkins Award of Excellence is given to members of our industry who exhibit the virtues that Oliver expressed in his life and work.

The recipient of this year's award has exemplified this spirit of cooperation by opening his own ranch for field research on avocados. It is a family run operation with quite a history here in Ventura County. Our recipient is a 5th generation Californian and a true gentleman grower. His family's estate home was purchased in the 1890's. He has been in agriculture his entire life.

We all spend a fair amount of money on research through our Avocado Commission assessments. We have great research resources in California through the University of California and the Cooperative Extension. The faculty, staff, and extension agents do an exemplary job. Much of this research on avocado production has been adopted throughout the world. State of the art avocado production methods are developed here in California.

In order for that research to happen, there needs to be grower/cooperators in the field who donate their land, their trees, their resources, and countless hours of care and labor to carry out research projects. The success of our industry in large part is due to these field cooperators who give so freely of their time, energy and resources.

It is an honor and pleasure for me to present this year's Oliver Atkins Award of Excellence to Jim Lloyd Butler.

Jim is a very fine, soft-spoken gentleman, who has never said no to a request by a researcher for cooperation, whether it be trials for rootstocks, pruning, fertilization, or irrigation technology. I know he has extended the same attitude of cooperation to other areas of agriculture and to the community at large.

Congratulations, Jim Lloyd Butler.