Grimmway Farms Partners with CHEP to Boost Sustainability and Improve Operations

- Since 2009, partnership has eliminated more than 1.6 million pounds of solid waste and more than 1.2 million pounds of CO₂e.
- Circular supply chain model drives results, leads to sustainable operational improvements.

Atlanta, GA – January 29, 2018 – When Grimmway Farms, the world’s largest carrot producer, and CHEP, the global leader in pooling and supply chain management solutions, work together, the results are measurable and clear: improved sustainable practices and increased operations efficiency. Last week’s inaugural Global Organic Produce Exposition & Conference (GOPEX) featured both companies, together again. Since partnering with CHEP, Grimmway Farms has realized the economic and environmental benefits of moving from white wood pallets to pooled pallets.

“Grimmway Farms is always looking for sustainable options that improve operations,” says Jason Higbee, Director of Materials Management, Grimmway Farms. “CHEP understands the fresh produce industry, and the need to keep our supply chain moving as efficiently as possible so we can meet customer expectations while also cutting costs and carbon.”

For the global produce leader, the sustainability savings realized since 2009 from shifting 2.9 million pallets to CHEP’s circular model include:
- Elimination of more than 1.63 million pounds of solid waste.
- Reduction of more than 1.23 million pounds of CO₂e, the equivalent of eliminating 1.4 million miles driven by an average passenger vehicle in one year!

Building on that success, Grimmway Farms recently brought CHEP into its Cal-Organic Farms facilities to suggest process improvements for reducing pallet damage, cutting costs and further improving sustainability. The suggested changes, identified by the CHEP Supply Chain Solutions team and tested at the CHEP Innovation Center, include adjustments in pallet handling and sorting. Reducing pallet damage and properly sorting pallets creates several expected sustainability benefits, including:
- Reduction of natural resources (timber) needed in the first place.
- Less wood waste going to the landfill, reducing costs and carbon.
- Fewer returned pallets, reducing the frequency of trips and related costs and carbon.

“CHEP created one of the world’s most sustainable logistics businesses through the share and reuse of our products,” says Laura Nador, President, CHEP North America. “Our work protects forests and reduces landfill. By collaborating with Grimmway Farms, we can do even more to solve shared challenges – from taking out transport miles to fighting food waste. There’s no end to what we can achieve together.”

CHEP’s Supply Chain Solutions leverage the company’s end-to-end supply chain expertise to help customers improve efficiency, reduce costs and increase sales. CHEP Solutions include Transportation Optimization, Unit Load Optimization, Product Damage Reduction, Packaging Performance Testing, Environmental Sustainability and Customer Pallet Storage programs.
About Grimmway Farms
Family-owned and headquartered in Bakersfield, California, Grimmway Farms traces its roots to a produce stand opened by the Grimm brothers in the early 1960s. Grimmway is a global produce leader and the world’s largest producer of carrots. Grimmway supplies more than 65 organic, USA-grown crops year-round. Brands include Cal-Organic Farms and Bunny-Luv. Grimmway is committed to caring for customers and employees, honoring sustainable practices, and preserving natural resources for future generations. For more information, visit www.grimmway.com.

About CHEP
CHEP is a global provider of supply chain solutions serving the consumer goods, fresh food, beverage, manufacturing and retail sectors in more than 60 countries. CHEP offers a wide range of logistics and operational platforms and support services that are designed to increase performance and lower risk while improving environmental sustainability. CHEP’s 11,500-plus employees and more than 275 million pallets and containers deliver comprehensive coverage and exceptional value, supporting more than 500,000 customer touch-points for global brands such as Procter & Gamble, Kellogg’s and Nestlé. CHEP is part of the Brambles Group, the operator of a portfolio that includes specialized container solutions for the food, beverage and automotive sectors, as well as IFCO, the leading provider of Reusable Plastic Containers (RPCs) to the fresh food supply chain globally.

For more information, visit the company’s website at www.chep.com or follow us on Twitter @CHEPna or LinkedIn. Please also check out our YouTube channel.

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