



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **AgIS Capital Makes Strategic Investment in California Olive Ranch**

Boston, Nov. 10, 2014 – AgIS Capital LLC (“AgIS”), a Boston-based private equity firm that invests in farmland assets and related agricultural operating companies, announced today that it has completed a strategic investment in California Olive Ranch (“COR”), the leading grower of olives and the leading producer of certified extra virgin olive oil in North America.

AgIS will provide COR with capital in the future in support of its ambitious growth plans, which will include among other initiatives the development of additional olive groves. Financial terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

Kenneth Warlick, AgIS Capital’s Chief Investment Officer, said of the investment, “California Olive Ranch has great business and investment fundamentals as well as an impressive leadership team. At present, ninety-eight percent of the olive oil purchased and consumed in the United States is imported from other parts of the world. We believe this means there is a compelling opportunity to capture a sizable share of the domestic EVOO market, in particular, by investing in COR, which is already a market leader in the space. We are delighted to be in a position to support the growth of the company and the expansion of its brand, which we think has tremendous potential.”

Founded in 1997 and headquartered in Chico, California, COR operates in the Central Valley north of Sacramento. The company emphasizes the super high density method of growing olives on more than 4,000 planted acres owned by the company and an additional 8,000 from California family farms, and is the leading producer and marketer of California olive oil. Its oils have been recognized with over 50 awards in global competitions as well as prominent features in *Cooks Illustrated*, *Saveur*, and the *New York Times*.



“AgIS is committed to providing California Olive Ranch with capital and resources to support our efforts to continue with our growth plans, ” said Gregg Kelley, the company’s president. “Over the past 17 years we have established a great brand and a consistently strong track record of producing EVOO for the American consumer. We believe our partnership with AgIS will enhance our industry leading position and enable us to continue operating in accordance with our core values. We look forward to our joint efforts in growing the COR brand.”

In describing his firm’s rationale for investing in COR, AgIS Capital’s Warlick went on to say, “Because of the quality of its products and marketing capabilities, as well as its legacy of business success, COR has the potential to become a larger and more recognizable consumer food brand, not just in the U.S., but globally, and we are very pleased to be their partners in that effort.”

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*Source: California Olive Ranch and AgIS Capital LLC*

**About AgIS Capital LLC:**

*AgIS Capital is a Boston-based private equity firm that invests in farmland and agricultural operating companies. The principals of the firm have decades of experience in the farmland investment sector and have completed billions of dollars of transactions during the last 20-plus years. The firm focuses on \$50 to \$100 million transactions in the United States and other mature markets. For further information, please visit the firm’s web site at [www.agiscapital.com](http://www.agiscapital.com).*

**About California Olive Ranch:** *Founded in 1998, California Olive Ranch is a privately owned company inspired by new growing and harvesting methods which enable the production of high quality moderately priced extra virgin olive oil. It is the largest producer of extra virgin olive oil in the United States, is the fifth largest olive oil brand in the country and sales have more than quadrupled since 2010. It has been a leader in advocating for standards, certification and truth in labeling. Its oils have received numerous awards, have been featured in top publications, and are the oils of choice of many renowned chefs. For further information, see [www.californiaoliveranch.com](http://www.californiaoliveranch.com)*

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