

Calavo Growers, Inc. (Nasdaq-GM: CVGW)

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**CALAVO GROWERS EXPANDS VALUE ADDED DEPOTS,  
ADVANCED RIPENING CAPABILITIES IN TEXAS, NEW JERSEY**

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**Expansion of ProRipeVIP™ Makes Possible Delivery  
Of Ready-To-Eat Avocados Nationwide—‘A Boon To Consumption’**

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SANTA PAULA, Calif. (Jan. 3, 2007)—Calavo Growers, Inc. (Nasdaq-GM: CVGW), the global leader in packing and marketing fresh and processed avocados and other perishable food products, today reported that it has opened Value Added Depots (VAD) equipped with its state-of-the-art ProRipeVIP™ technology in San Antonio, Tex. and Swedesboro, N.J.

The new facilities join an initial VAD opened last year in Santa Paula and enable the company to ship fresh avocados pre-ripened to customers' precise specifications anywhere in the continental United States.

Calavo Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer Lee E. Cole said: "With the addition of these new depots and additional ProRipeVIP systems, Calavo now blankets the country with high quality, fresh avocados delivered to our wholesale, retail and foodservice customers specifically as ordered—anywhere from slightly pre-conditioned to ready-to-eat."

The most significant implication of the advanced ripening technology, Cole predicts, will be on avocado demand. "Pre-conditioned and pre-ripened avocados are an undisputed boon to consumption. Our research indicates that 85 percent of consumers purchase avocados that are ready to eat and that ripe fruit outsells its unripe equivalent by four-to-one," he said.

ProRipeVIP significantly advances the standard for avocado pre-conditioning and ripening, the Calavo CEO said. Previous ripening methods—and those principally used by company competitors—involve storing cartons of

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avocados in humidified rooms, similar to the process employed for bananas. In stark contrast, at the heart of ProRipeVIP is technology employing Acoustic Firmness Sensors that rely on sound waves and vibration to gauge the firmness and internal pressure of the fruit. The process enables absolute precision in measuring ripeness, resulting in a vastly superior product and higher customer satisfaction, Cole said.

“The investment in new facilities and technology underscores Calavo’s commitment to initiatives that advance our focused business agenda,” Cole said. “We’ve long believed that ready-to-eat fruit will be a driver for higher consumption, as mainstream acceptance and usage grows and the Hispanic population, which regards avocados as a staple, continues to expand in the United States. Programs like ProRipeVIP and the ability to meet this growing demand are a cornerstone of this strategy.”

### **About Calavo**

Calavo Growers, Inc. is the worldwide leader in the procurement and marketing of fresh avocados and other perishable foods, as well as the manufacturing and distribution of processed avocado products. Founded in 1924, Calavo’s expertise in marketing and distributing avocados, processed avocados, and other perishable products enables it to serve food distributors, produce wholesalers, supermarkets and restaurants on a global basis.

### **Safe Harbor Statement**

This news release contains statements relating to future events and results of Calavo (including certain projections and business trends) that are “forward-looking statements” as defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Actual results and events may differ from those projected as a result of certain risks and uncertainties. These risks and uncertainties include but are not limited to: increased competition, conducting substantial amounts of business

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internationally, pricing pressures on agricultural products, adverse weather and growing conditions confronting avocado growers, new governmental regulations, as well as other risks and uncertainties detailed from time to time in the company's Securities and Exchange Commission filings, including, without limitation, the company's Report on Form 10-K for the year ended October 31, 2005. These forward-looking statements are made only as of the date hereof, and the company undertakes no obligation to update or revise the forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

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