

# Hall of Legends welcomes 12 natural industry pioneers in 2016

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New Hope Network



In 1986, Bob Quinn's company Montana Flour & Grains introduced the natural food industry to an ancient wheat obtained from Egypt called khorasan (similar to durum wheat). This grain was marketed under his brand name, KAMUT, the ancient Egyptian word for wheat. Through the trademark and his company Kamut International, Bob has been able to preserve an ancient grain and guarantee it has not been genetically modified or altered. KAMUT Brand khorasan wheat is grown under strict production guidelines and is exclusively grown organically.

Today, there are over 2,000 different KAMUT Brand khorasan wheat products marketed through the world, providing a new, sustainable crop for many organic farmers.

Continuing to be at the forefront of farming developments, Bob works closely with various agricultural research institutions on testing of crops, including dry land vegetables for local markets, as well as new farming methods. These systems may be the next wave adapted to the northern plains and will provide a substitute for the use of conventional fertilizer, pesticides, summer fallow and diesel fuel.

On a mission to educate and farm eco-consciously, Bob is currently working on a project designed to grow and process high oleic safflower on his farm, sell it to restaurants and then recover the waste oil to run all his tractors and combines. His goal is to develop a model that could be adapted to farmer owned co-ops throughout rural America.

Bob is recognized as a progressive leader in promoting organic and sustainable agriculture throughout the state of Montana and the rest of the world. Bob helped form Montana's first Organic Crop

Improvement Association chapter in 1987 and served as its first president as well as on the international board of directors, receiving its outstanding member award in 1991. He was the 2007 recipient of the Montana Organic Association Lifetime of Service Award. He served on the first U.S. Department of Agriculture National Organic Standards Board and has served on a USDA agriculture research advisory committee. The Organic Trade Association awarded Bob with the “2010 Organic Leadership Award” for his contributions in the “Growing Organic Agriculture” category, and in 2013, he was named the recipient of Rodale Institute’s Organic Pioneer Award.

Kamut International celebrates 30 years exhibiting KAMUT wheat at Natural Products Expo West 2016. Bob continues to farm and promote organic and sustainable agriculture, locally produced food and fuel as well as promoting the idea that food should be our medicine and medicine should be our food. He promotes food production systems based on producing high nutrition and quality rather than high yields. For Bob, experimenting with crops is the most enjoyable part of farming. He earned a PhD from the University of California at Davis in 1976 and studied to be a plant scientist. Academically, his first love is growing plants, and his whole farm is his laboratory. His love of the land continues to fuel his desire to change the agricultural landscape of America—one grain at a time.