

Dear Applicant:

This application has been designed to elicit responses that will help you describe how your farm or ranch is managed. In addition to fulfilling a requirement for Food Alliance certification, the application can be a helpful tool for farm/ranch management. Completing it will require you to collect and compile a wide range of production and stewardship information, and think carefully about your production practices.

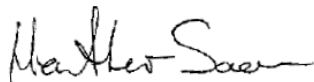
When filling out the application, please keep the following in mind:

- 1) Food Alliance uses a single application for all operations applying for certification. The application is not a "test", and it is okay if certain items do not apply to your operation. If you feel an item does not apply, please indicate so by marking the item non-applicable ("N/A") and provide an explanatory note.
- 2) The application serves as a screening tool prior to your inspection. It also helps the inspector prepare for your site visit. Providing detailed, comprehensive answers will make the application and inspection process more efficient. If your application is incomplete, or it is evident your operation is not in compliance with certain Food Alliance standards, you will be contacted. Your inspection will not be scheduled until apparent areas of non-compliance are resolved.

Once complete, your application will be sent to an independent, third-party site inspector, who will contact you to schedule an inspection date. ***Your completed application will be kept on file by Food Alliance and will remain strictly confidential.***

I look forward to working with you through the certification process. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need additional assistance.

Sincerely,



Heather Saam  
Certification Manager



**Food Alliance**

1829 NE Alberta St. Suite 5

Portland, Or 97211

Phone 503.493.1066

Fax 503.493.1069

[www.foodalliance.org](http://www.foodalliance.org)





# **Application for Food Alliance Certification: Farms & Ranches**

1829 NE Alberta, Suite 5  
Portland, OR 97211  
Phone: 503.493.1066  
Fax: 503.493.1069  
[www.foodalliance.org](http://www.foodalliance.org)

# Food Alliance

## Application & Instructions for Farms and Ranches

Greetings and welcome to the Food Alliance program. Food Alliance accepts applications on a continuous basis. However, inspections will only be scheduled when conditions are such that fields and pastures can be easily viewed and accessed.

### Instructions

#### **Step 1:**

Review Food Alliance Farm & Ranch Standards: [www.foodalliance.org/certification/standards.htm](http://www.foodalliance.org/certification/standards.htm)  
(Hard copies can be sent upon request.)

It is highly recommended that you review the following documents:

**“Standards Background Document”**—General description of the certification program

**“Whole Farm/Ranch Inspection Tool”**—All applicants are inspected according to the evaluation criteria found in this tool.

**“Crop Specific Inspection Tool(s)”**—Each product for which certification is sought is inspected according to its own set of evaluation criteria. View product specific tools for the products on which you are seeking certification.

#### **Step 2:**

Review and complete this Application. If you have any questions, please contact the Food Alliance Certification Manager (contact information below).

#### **Step 3:** Mail your:

- Completed Application
- The down payment on your inspection fee or annual fee<sup>1</sup>, \$400 (made payable to Food Alliance)

**To:** Food Alliance  
Attn: Certification Manager  
1829 NE Alberta, Suite 5  
Portland, OR 97211

**Step 4:** Host a Food Alliance farm inspection. The certification manager will confirm the receipt of your completed application. A Food Alliance inspector will contact you to set up a farm inspection visit. If you have any questions, or require any additional information, please contact:

Heather Saam, Certification Manager  
Phone: 503-493-1066 x23  
Fax: 503-493-1069  
Email: [heather@foodalliance.org](mailto:heather@foodalliance.org)

---

<sup>1</sup> See the Food Alliance Fee Structure for Farms and Ranches (next page).

# Food Alliance Fee Structure

## Food Alliance Certified Farms and Ranches

All Food Alliance certified farms and ranches are inspected every three (3) years.

- 1) Independent Producers.** Independent producers pay a single annual fee based on a percentage of gross sales. This single annual fee includes both inspection and licensing fees. The percentage is based on a sliding scale:

<u>Gross Sales</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
First \$175,000	0.5% or \$400 whichever is greater
Next \$125,000	0.25%
Additional Sales	0.1%

Food Alliance annual fees are applicable to the upcoming year. Billing options for annual fees are offered: fees are billable annually, semi-annually, or quarterly. A minimum down payment of \$400 toward the annual fee is required with the application. If the annual fee is more than \$400, the balance will be billed according to the schedule that you select.

- 2) Cooperatives and Producer Groups.** Food Alliance certified cooperatives and producer groups pay a single annual fee based on a percentage of the cooperative's gross sales. This percentage is based on a sliding scale and is identical to the above scale for independent producers.

In order to become Food Alliance certified, a cooperative/producer group must:

- Estimate its gross annual sales and submit an initial annual fee for the cooperative/producer group.
  - Identify all of the farms / ranches within the co-op/producer group covered by this annual fee.
  - All individual farm/ranches must complete and submit Food Alliance applications. Farm-members must pay an "at cost" inspection fee of \$810 for the 3-year certification term.
- 3) Contract Producers**  
Producers growing for contracts that require Food Alliance certification pay a flat \$810 for the 3-year certification. These producers are not allowed to label products or assert a claim of Food Alliance certification outside the contract.





## **Food Alliance Guiding Principles**

### **Protecting and conserving water resources**

Food Alliance certified producers protect water resources by using methods such as: creating buffer zones along waterways, reducing chemical and sediment runoff, managing animal wastes to prevent ground and/or surface water contamination, and using tillage practices that conserve organic matter and soil aggregation. Food Alliance producers conserve water by encouraging infiltration and storage of rainfall in the soil. Additionally, they increase irrigation water efficiency through soil moisture monitoring and the use of new irrigation technologies.

### **Protecting and enhancing soil resources**

Food Alliance certified producers reduce erosion and protect soils by optimizing plant cover throughout the year, by establishing permanent vegetative cover in orchards and vineyards, and by using pastures and management intensive grazing. Food Alliance producers use crop rotations that include cover crops in order to build soil organic matter and productivity. Finally, they select tillage technologies that minimize degradation of soil quality.

### **Reducing the environmental and health impacts of pesticides by practicing Integrated Pest Management (IPM)**

Food Alliance certified producers make informed decisions regarding pest management and pesticide use. They employ cultural and biological pest prevention strategies to reduce or eliminate the need for a pesticide application. When pesticides are needed, they select effective materials with fewer known environmental and health hazards. Food Alliance producers properly maintain application equipment to ensure precise applications and monitor weather conditions to prevent pesticide drift. When combined, these practices create an Integrated Pest Management strategy adapted to local farm/ranch conditions.

### **Conserving and enhancing wildlife habitat**

Food Alliance certified producers foster vegetative cover, food, and water resources necessary for habitat by using methods such as establishing or maintaining biological corridors, managing mowing and grazing cycles, and restoring or protecting wetlands, prairies and woodlands. They take steps to provide habitat for beneficial insects in order to reduce the need for insecticides.

### **Conserving and recycling nutrients**

Food Alliance certified producers conserve and recycle nutrients by converting organic wastes into productive uses and by seeking ways to generate nutrients on farm through such methods as cover cropping, on-farm composting, and integrating livestock into farm production.

### **Providing safe and fair working conditions for our employees and our families**

Food Alliance certified producers develop farm/ranch employment policies in order to establish open channels for communicating with employees about such issues as workplace safety and job satisfaction. They provide incentives and opportunities for the development of employee skills and incorporate quality of life issues into daily decision making for themselves, their families and employees.

### **Producing Food Alliance certified crops without the use of genetically modified organisms (GMO's)**

Food Alliance certified producers focus on fulfilling consumer expectations, seeing this as essential to their success in the marketplace. A majority of consumers express an aversion to agricultural biotechnology, citing concerns over potential ecological impacts or effects on human health. Therefore, inputs containing transgenic, genetically modified organisms may not be used in the production of crops or livestock products that are sold as Food Alliance certified.

### **Provide healthy and humane care for livestock**

Food Alliance certified producers raise livestock with the greatest respect for their needs and comfort. Food Alliance producers provide proper nutrition for excellent animal health and fitness. Living conditions and space allowances provide physical and thermal comfort, afford access to natural lighting and vegetated pasture (where appropriate), and enhance natural behaviors (including social contact among animals.). Food Alliance producers are competent handlers, minimizing animal fear and stress during handling and transportation. Use of hormone treatments is prohibited. Antibiotic use is restricted to treatment of occasional illness, and not as a substitute for healthy living conditions.

### **Continually improving farming/ranching practices**

Food Alliance certified producers set goals and assess their progress toward these goals by monitoring for impacts of decisions on their farm, family, employees and the environment. Food Alliance producers seek out new and innovative management techniques to integrate into their farm and ranch management. They respect their neighbors and take steps where possible to prevent agricultural production from being a nuisance. When possible they take leading roles in their communities by participating in community groups and industry associations, sharing information and expertise and serving as mentors to others.

# The Certification Process

## Review the Food Alliance Guiding Principles

Farmers and ranchers participating in Food Alliance certification are required to follow Food Alliance's guiding principles. In the application and during the site inspection that follows, applicants are asked to describe how they follow the guiding principles in their day-to-day management practices.

## Complete the Application

The application requires information on a number of different levels: contact info, marketing activities, and production practices. Most importantly, the information you provide helps prepare the site inspector for the on-site evaluation. Responses to questions in the application must be sufficiently detailed to allow Food Alliance staff and inspectors to easily understand the ways in which you follow Food Alliance guiding principles. All information provided in the application is strictly confidential.

## Site Inspection

A site inspection is conducted by an independent, third party, Food Alliance trained professional. Site inspectors have significant education and work experience in the cropping and/or livestock systems they are sent to evaluate, so they know what to look for and what questions to ask. Be prepared to show your inspector production records, landscape features and fields, and facilities. You and/or your staff can expect the inspector to ask a number of questions about production practices, management strategies and workplace issues. All information and observations made during the site inspection are strictly confidential.

## Reporting

Site inspectors use evaluation criteria created by Food Alliance's staff and Stewardship Council to score your operation during the evaluation process. Once the site inspector has reviewed your application and inspected the operation, s/he reports back to Food Alliance on the degree (score) to which your operation meets the certification criteria. Using the site inspector's written evaluation, a Food Alliance certification committee reviewer render a certification decision, and create a site report that summarizes your scores. The site report will detail where your operation scored lower on Food Alliance standards and provide you with suggestions for improvement using the language of the evaluation criteria. Again, all information discussed in the reporting process is strictly confidential.

## Certification

If all certification criteria are met, your operation will be certified for a 3-year term. You will receive a letter outlining the dates of the certification term and the products for which your operation is certified. You will also receive a written agreement governing use of the "certification seal" and the terms for labeling your products as "Food Alliance certified."

## Annual Update

Each year, Food Alliance certified producers are asked to report on their continual improvement goals (see the application and the "Continual Improvement" guiding principle). Additionally, certified producers are asked to report any unforeseen changes in production practices, or any special problems or successes encountered during the season. The annual update allows us to certify farmers and ranchers for a three-year term instead of the typical one-year term.

## Spot-Check

Food Alliance reserves the right to conduct random, unannounced visits for the purpose of ensuring that guiding principles are being followed on a consistent basis.

## **Frequently Asked Questions (F-A-Q's)**

### **Is the information I provide in my application or during the site inspection made available to anyone else?**

No. All documentation and information obtained during the certification process is held in strict confidentiality. Food Alliance site inspectors sign a confidentiality agreement. Food Alliance will not discuss applications or individual certification processes with any individual or government agency. Only those individuals involved in the certification program, including Food Alliance staff, Board of Directors, and site inspectors will have access to application records and documents.

### **Do I have to be present during the site visit?**

Yes. We ask that all farm and ranch decision makers be present at the time of the site inspection. In addition, we recommend the following to prepare for a site visit:

- Make sure that you have ample time for the inspection. It is important that manager(s) are present as well as the person(s) responsible for record keeping. Site inspections typically take from two to six hours, depending on the number of crops, livestock, and acreage evaluated.
- Have records ready to show site inspector. This includes but is not limited to pesticide/herbicide records, scouting records, records of irrigation activities, harvest records, reports of all inputs, veterinary/animal health records, and feed ration formulations.
- Be prepared to describe your strategies as they relate to Food Alliance's guiding principles, with special emphasis on your ideas about pest management, soil and water conservation, range and pasture management, animal handling, human resource management, and wildlife habitat/natural areas management.
- Be prepared to walk or drive around your property to show fields and pastures/rangeland; pesticide storage sheds; livestock housing and handling facilities; machinery; significant vantage points; riparian areas and other aspects of your operation relevant to the guiding principles.

### **Who are Food Alliance Site Inspectors?**

Food Alliance engages private contractors to perform on-site inspections for the certification program. Food Alliance has developed detailed evaluation documents and procedures for inspectors to use. These documents are designed to verify on-farm practices and help inspectors make fully informed decisions regarding the approval or denial of an application.

Qualifications for site inspectors include working expertise, educational background, and significant knowledge of sustainable/conservation agriculture management for the specific crops or livestock they are inspecting.

### **How long will the application process take?**

The application and certification process generally takes 7 to 10 weeks.

Upon receipt of the application, Food Alliance is responsible for the following:

- Assigning a site inspector
- Reviewing site inspection reports
- Awarding/denying certification
- Reporting back to applicants with inspection findings

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Food Alliance at (503) 493-1066.

### **How will I benefit from Food Alliance certification?**

Participants benefit from the certification program in a variety of ways, depending on the crops or food items they produce and their skill in marketing products as Food Alliance certified. Benefits include but are not limited to:

- Access to New Markets: Food Alliance has helped many producers gain market access by facilitating relationships with retailers, manufacturers and processors who support Food Alliance's mission.
- Retain or Increase Market Share: Food Alliance certification helps producers and retailers alike hold on to or expand their business opportunities. Food Alliance certification has helped producers to shift their business and marketing efforts in order to take advantage of the rapidly growing marketplace trend toward environmentally and socially responsible food products.
- Improved Public Perception: Food Alliance certification helps farmers, ranchers and food industry businesses project an image of social and environmental responsibility grounded in a rigorous and widely respected program. Program participants often receive media coverage, and benefit from emerging customer loyalty based on the Food Alliance certification seal.
- Product Differentiation: Food Alliance certification differentiates products in a crowded marketplace. Food Alliance certification is an inexpensive way to build value and brand identity in your products.
- Price Premiums: Food Alliance certification has helped some producers obtain a price premium.

### **Who creates the standards for the Food Alliance certification program?**

Food Alliance staff work with the Food Alliance Stewardship Council to create the standards and evaluation criteria. Farmers, ranchers, consumer group representatives, scientists, farm labor representatives, and environmentalists staff the Stewardship Council. For a list of Stewardship Council members see: [www.foodalliance.org](http://www.foodalliance.org). Food Alliance also contracts with researchers to create product specific standards. The practices and concepts found in the standards come from "best management practices" developed by public agencies and land grant universities. When creating standards, the goal is to have farmers and ranchers provide input wherever possible, including testing the standards on their operations.

**What happens if I don't pass?**

If an applicant's operation doesn't meet the criteria for certification, Food Alliance will give the applicant one year to make changes in practices and procedures. Along with a denial of certification letter, the applicant will be provided with a detailed report describing changes that would be required to meet Food Alliance's certification criteria. When the applicant has made the changes detailed in the report, s/he can contact Food Alliance to schedule another inspection.

# Application

## Table of Contents

Licensing Agreement .....	2
General Information .....	5
Farm/Ranch Map .....	7
Production and Marketing .....	9
Fixed Standards.....	12
Management Practices .....	14
Guiding Principle I: Reducing pesticides by practicing Integrated Pest Management .....	15
Guiding Principle II & III: Protecting and conserving soil and water resources.....	21
Guiding Principle IV: Conserving and recycling nutrients.....	26
Guiding Principle V: Providing safe and fair working conditions .....	28
Guiding Principle VI: Wildlife Habitat Conservation.....	35
Guiding Principle VII: Provide healthy and humane care for livestock.....	39
Guiding Principle VIII: Continually improving farming/ranching practices.....	41

# Licensing Agreement for Food Alliance Certification

It is a condition of Food Alliance certification that all licensees sign agreement to the following conditions at application and on renewal of certification.

**On Behalf of (Company name):** \_\_\_\_\_

**I agree to the statements given below**

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Print Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

As the designated representative of this operation, I hereby acknowledge and agree to the following:

## 1. General

1.1 All parties responsible for compliance have read and understand the standards and policies of Food Alliance and confirm that requirements described therein will be observed for the term of certification, including labeling requirements.

1.2 Information provided in the accompanying application and during the resulting inspection is accurate and fully describes this operation's management practices to the best knowledge of the people supplying it.

1.3 This operation is fully responsible for adhering to all relevant local, state, national, and international laws. While Food Alliance may address related issues as part of the certification process, it is not Food Alliance's responsibility to ensure that this operation is compliant with law. This operation shall in no way hold Food Alliance responsible for any failure to comply with law.

1.4 On request, this operation will make available to Food Alliance any reports, recommendations, licenses, etc. from statutory authorities.

1.5 This operation will inform Food Alliance of any current, recent (within the last 12 months) or pending investigations or prosecutions which may have a bearing on its certification.

1.6 This operation will notify Food Alliance promptly of any and all changes that may affect its certification status, including changes of ownership or management, or changes to production and storage facilities, products, composition and labeling of products, or operating procedures. Notification is required within one week for contamination or other events that might affect the integrity of Food Alliance Certified product claims.

## 2. Data Protection and Use of Information

2.1 The information this operation provides in the application and inspection process will be treated as confidential by Food Alliance and its contracted inspectors. Confidentiality will be maintained regardless of the results of the certification inspection or the operation's certification status.

2.2 Food Alliance does maintain a list of certified entities that consent to have their contact information published or supplied to third parties, (e.g. other certified businesses, commercial food buyers, etc.). This information may also be published on Food Alliance's website.

Please check this box if you **DO NOT** want to be included on this list.

## 3. Sub-Contractors

3.1 This operation will assure that all products sold as certified by Food Alliance comply with the requirements of the Food Alliance program.

3.2 A list and a description of the activities of all subcontractors involved in the production or preparation of Food Alliance certified products will be provided to Food Alliance, and this operation will ensure that subcontractors are inspected and certified by Food Alliance as appropriate.

## 4. Access

4.1 This operation will provide access during normal working hours, for either arranged or unannounced visits, to inspectors appointed and/or contracted by Food Alliance for the purpose of carrying out inspections and to provide access to any areas or information deemed necessary for the purposes of the inspection.

## 5. Sampling

5.1 This operation agrees to permit Food Alliance to take samples for testing of products or for checking production techniques or for detecting possible contamination by unauthorized ingredients and to provide the results of its own voluntary inspection and sampling programs on request.

## 6. Use of License and Food Alliance Certification Seal

6.1 I will make claims regarding certification only in respect to enterprises and products that comply with the requirements of Food Alliance and for which certification has been granted.

6.2 I will endeavor not to make any statement or claim regarding certification which Food Alliance may consider misleading or unauthorized.

6.3 I will ensure that references to certification on packaging and marketing materials comply with the requirements of Food Alliance by submitting them to Food Alliance for approval before use.

## 7. Cancellation or Suspension of Certification

7.1 This operation has the right to voluntarily withdraw from Food Alliance certification at any time without penalty, notwithstanding costs incurred by Food Alliance for services rendered up until the time of voluntary withdrawal. Voluntary withdrawals will be submitted in writing.

7.2 If this operation's certification is terminated or suspended or if a crop or batch of produce/product loses its certified status, Food Alliance may publicize that fact.

7.2 Upon cancellation or suspension of Food Alliance certification, this operation will discontinue the use of all marketing and other materials that contain reference to Food Alliance and return certification documents as required by Food Alliance. Furthermore, this operation will inform buyers of certified products of its change in status in writing and in good time to ensure that references to Food Alliance certification are removed from products in inventory.

## 8. Payment of Fees

8.1 This operation will pay all fees and costs related to certification as determined and published by Food Alliance.

## 9. Use of Food Alliance Brand Collateral

9.1 Food Alliance is the owner of the name 'Food Alliance,' of the Food Alliance certification seal, and of the phrase 'Food Alliance Certified.' Use of the name 'Food Alliance,' of the Food Alliance certification seal, and of the phrase 'Food Alliance Certified' for commercial, promotional or educational purposes must be specifically authorized by Food Alliance.

9.2 The Food Alliance certification seal may be used only for identification and promotion of Food Alliance Certified products. The certification seal may be used on Food Alliance Certified products, on product packaging and in point-of-sale materials for Food Alliance Certified products. **All uses must be submitted to Food Alliance for review and approval before production and distribution.** Please allow at least 5 working days for a response. Use of the Food Alliance certification seal for generic materials or promotions where viewers may wrongly assume certification for non-certified products or facilities will not be approved.

9.3 Failure to seek approvals for use of Food Alliance brand collateral may be grounds for suspension or revocation of certification.

## General Information

Business name \_\_\_\_\_

Primary contact name \_\_\_\_\_

Owner(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Manager(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip, County \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile/Other \_\_\_\_\_

FAX \_\_\_\_\_

Email/Website \_\_\_\_\_

How did you find out about Food Alliance certification?

- Another farmer / rancher       Friend       Extension       Presentation  
 News article       Print ad       Radio       Other \_\_\_\_\_

1. Please describe the history of your farm or ranch, and how you learned to farm/ranch.

2. What is your farm/ranch striving for socially, economically, and environmentally in terms of:

Socially—Quality of life desired by owners, managers, employees (if applicable), and the community.

Economically—Forms of production you would like to see on the ranch.

Environmentally and aesthetically—Describe the landscape that would best lead to the above ideas.

3. What is the total acreage of your farming/ranching operation? \_\_\_\_\_

*Please specify:*

Acres owned \_\_\_\_\_ Acres rented or leased \_\_\_\_\_

Acres in public land permits \_\_\_\_\_

4. Of your total acreage, how many acres are in:

Cropland \_\_\_\_\_ acres

Pasture \_\_\_\_\_ acres

Rangeland \_\_\_\_\_ acres

CRP, RIM, CREP or other conservation programs \_\_\_\_\_ acres

*please specify:*

Woodland \_\_\_\_\_ acres

Wetland \_\_\_\_\_ acres

Streams \_\_\_\_\_ miles

Ponds or lakes \_\_\_\_\_ acres

Farmstead \_\_\_\_\_ acres

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## Farm/Ranch Map

Please sketch below or attach a map of your operation. Include: perimeter, fields, adjacent properties, wells, bodies of water, drainage patterns, roads, outbuildings, on-site worker housing, crops and fields, pesticide storage facilities, irrigation systems, wildlife habitat, riparian areas, and any other information you feel is pertinent to your operation.\*

\*Note: If you do not have a map and you have access to the internet, you may be able to print one at <http://terraserver.microsoft.com/> A hand drawn map with a description of the operation and/or a legend is also acceptable.



## Production and Marketing

1. Please list **all** of the **food** crops/products that you produce and indicate if they are used in your livestock operation (if applicable):

	Seeking Food Alliance certification?	Used in Livestock Operation
Crop: _____ Acreage: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Crop: _____ Acreage: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Crop: _____ Acreage: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Crop: _____ Acreage: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Crop: _____ Acreage: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Crop: _____ Acreage: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Crop: _____ Acreage: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Crop: _____ Acreage: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Crop: _____ Acreage: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Crop: _____ Acreage: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Crop: _____ Acreage: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Crop: _____ Acreage: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Crop: _____ Acreage: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Crop: _____ Acreage: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Crop: _____ Acreage: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Crop: _____ Acreage: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Crop: _____ Acreage: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Crop: _____ Acreage: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Crop: _____ Acreage: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

*Please write additional crops on back of this sheet if needed.*

2. What are the average numbers of income-producing livestock you expect to have on your farm / ranch during the period of this certification?

	Do you use hormone implants or other growth stimulating chemicals?	Are these livestock fed antibiotic enriched feeds?	Seeking Food Alliance Certification?
<b>Cattle</b>			
Cows/Calves _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Feeder Cattle _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dairy Cows _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Steers _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Poultry</b>			
Layers _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Broilers _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Turkeys _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ducks _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Geese _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Pigs</b>			
Sows _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Feeder Pigs _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Market Hogs _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Goats _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sheep _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Livestock _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. Please complete the following table describing how you sell your products, by percentage.

Farmers market	Percentage: _____
Farm stand	Percentage: _____
Direct to retail	Percentage: _____
Through wholesaler/commodity broker	Percentage: _____
Direct to restaurants	Percentage: _____
Food service suppliers (e.g. SYSCO)	Percentage: _____
Processors	Percentage: _____
Mail order	Percentage: _____
Through a cooperative/packinghouse	Percentage: _____
Other:	Percentage: _____

This should total:            100%

4. Do you market any products NOT PRODUCED on your farm/ranch?     Yes     No  
*If yes, what percentage of your total marketable product is produced off-site?*

5. Please explain any post-harvest handling, on-farm handling or processing procedures that take place on your farm/ranch.

## Fixed Standards

*Food Alliance Fixed Standards provide the first level of screening for acceptance into the Food Alliance certification program. All of the following fixed standards must be adhered to.*

### **Please indicate your compliance to the following Food Alliance Fixed Standards:**

#### No GMO seeds (or breeds) are used

Crops and livestock products bearing the Food Alliance certified label must not be produced with genetically modified organisms. Site inspectors will examine records to see if any of the seed varieties or livestock semen, embryos, or other genetics have been produced with genetically modified technologies. Animals may be fed with GMO feeds; however, applicants are encouraged to source non-GMO feeds if they are available. Based on our understanding of the supply of livestock feeds (nearly all are formulated from commingled supply), it currently appears unreasonable to require participants to feed non-GMO feeds.

Check the following as applicable:

- There are no GMO plants or animals produced on the farm / ranch.
- GMO plants or animals are produced on the farm / ranch, but will not be sold as a Food Alliance certified products (e.g., GMO soybeans are grown, but certification is only sought for Beef Cattle).
- If GMO plants or animals are produced on the farm / ranch, please list them here:

#### No hormones or non-therapeutic (feed additive) antibiotics used

Use of hormones and non-therapeutic antibiotics ("antimicrobials") is prohibited in products bearing the Food Alliance certified label. Non-therapeutic antibiotic use is defined as any use of an antibiotic as a feed or water additive for an animal in the absence of a clinical sign of disease. Non-therapeutic uses generally include growth promotion, feed efficiency, weight gain, improved pigmentation, routine disease prevention, or any other routine purpose. Antibiotic uses for disease prevention are considered non-therapeutic unless it can be shown that one or more animals within a barn, pasture, or feedlot carry a disease, or unless an infection likely to occur because of a specific, non-customary situation (e.g. injury to an animal). If animals are ill, they may be given therapeutic medicines until they recover. If animals are receiving antibiotics due to illness at the time of slaughter or during milking, these food products cannot be labeled Food Alliance certified. Site inspectors will examine production and veterinary records to ensure fulfillment of this fixed standard.

Check the following as applicable:

- Growth-promoting hormones are **not** used in animal production on the farm / ranch.
- Growth-promoting hormones are used on the farm/ranch on the following:

Check the following as applicable:

- Non-therapeutic antibiotics are **not** used in animal production on the farm / ranch.
- Non-therapeutic antibiotics are used on the farm / ranch.
- Therapeutic antibiotics are used on the farm / ranch. If checked, please list antibiotics here and how they are administered:

No prohibited pesticides used

Participants in Food Alliance’s certification program may not use the following pesticides (in decreasing order of acute toxicity): (Criteria for Prohibition: Laboratory tests results—as supplied to the US EPA for product registration—show the LD<sub>50</sub> for acute mammalian toxicity is 30 mg/kg or lower.)

Please **check** any of the following pesticides currently used on your farm / ranch:

Check If Used	Active Ingredient	Chemical Class	Use	Acute Toxicity LD <sub>50</sub> (mg/kg)	Common Trade Names	Common Manufacturer
	Aldicarb	Carbamate	I	0.5	Temik.	Rhone-Poulenc Ag. Co.
	Phorate	Organophosphate (OP)	I	2	Phorate 10G, Rampart, Thimet.	American Cyanamid Co.
	Terbufos	OP	I	2	Counter.	American Cyanamid Co.
	Disulfoton	OP	I	3	Disyston, Disystox.	Sanex, Inc.
	Methyl Parathion	OP	I	6	Parathion, Metaphos, Pennacap-M	Drexel Chemical Company
	Oxamyl	Carbamate	I,N	6	Blade, Oxamil, Vydate	DuPont Agricultural Products
	Ethyl Parathion	OP	I	6.8	Niran or Phoskil	Cheminova
	Carbofuran	Carbamate	I	8	Furadan, Rampart.	FMC Corporation
	Methyl bromide	Not available	I	15	Brom-o-Gas, Bromomethane	(Agrilience)
	Fenamiphos	OP	N	15	Nemacur, Phenamiphos, and formulations	Miles, Inc.
	Azinphos-methyl	OP	I	16	Guthion	Miles, Inc.
	Methomyl, metomil and mesomile	Carbamate	I	17	Lannate	DuPont Agricultural Products
	Ethoprop	OP	I	26	Mocap	Bayer CropScience
	Strychnine	Not available	R	30	(Sometimes Nux Vomica)	Many

**Use Key: Insecticide = I Nematicide = N Rodenticide = R**

Check the following as applicable:

- Prohibited pesticides are not used on the farm / ranch.
- Prohibited pesticides are used on the farm / ranch, but crops receiving these pesticides, will not be sold as Food Alliance certified products.

## Management Practices

This section is designed to collect information on how your operation's management practices reflect Food Alliance Guiding Principles. Each set of questions begins with a description of a particular Guiding Principle, and is followed by:

1. A set of essay questions: These questions are designed to help you think about your operation in a way that will help you communicate effectively with the site inspector.
2. A list of the evaluation criteria that an inspector will use on your farm/ranch. As you read through the evaluation criteria and related management practices, please check all appropriate boxes and/or language that best fit your operation. If a practice is non-applicable (N/A) to your operation, please mark it as such.

## **Guiding Principle I: Reducing the environmental and health impacts of pesticides by practicing Integrated Pest and Weed Management (IPM)**

---

Food Alliance certified producers make informed decisions regarding pest, disease, and weed management and pesticide/herbicide/fungicide use. They employ cultural and biological prevention strategies to reduce or eliminate the need for chemical applications, and thus minimize negative impacts on the surrounding ecosystem. When chemical applications are needed, they select effective materials with fewer known environmental and health hazards. Food Alliance producers properly maintain application equipment to ensure precise applications and monitor weather conditions to prevent drift. When combined, these practices create an **Integrated Pest/Weed Management** strategy adapted to local farm/ranch conditions.

**Note:** This section refers to integrated pest management practices and herbicide, fungicide, and insecticide usage in crop production and pasture/range management only – insecticide usage on livestock (e.g. for controlling parasites) is addressed in another section.

1. Please describe your approach and overall goals for pest, disease, and/or weed management on your farm/ranch:

2. Describe how your pest/disease/weed management approach minimizes negative impacts on the surrounding ecosystem:

## IPM Evaluation Criteria

### Continuing Education For Reducing Chemical Usage

The farm/ranch owner or manager has attended education seminars on the following subject matters (check all that apply):

- Biological pest control (using natural enemies to control pest and weed populations—e.g. aphid control with beneficial ladybugs, rangeland weed control with flea beetles).
- Low risk pesticides/herbicides/fungicides.
- Innovative crop rotations.
- Variety selection.
- Pesticide handling and application safety.
- Techniques to reduce amounts of chemical applications.
- Pest, disease, or weed management strategies.
- Other \_\_\_\_\_
- N/A - Not applicable to our farm / ranch because:

### Integrated Pest, Disease, and Weed Management Planning

Check all of the IPM practices used on the farm / ranch:

- Pest and disease resistant varieties used.
- Important weather parameters are monitored on site, or a site specific weather service is employed
- Field or rangeland scouting and/or monitoring is practiced.
- Crop rotation is practiced.
- Managed, rotational grazing is employed.
- Site selection is a criterion for crop establishment.
- Canopy humidity management (plant density, irrigation, raised beds) is practiced.
- Sampling (insects, weeds) informs pest management.
- Phenology/degree day modeling informs pest and weed management.
- Other \_\_\_\_\_
- N/A - Not applicable to our farm / ranch because:

### Crop and Pasture/Rangeland Monitoring and Scouting

Check all crop and pasture/rangeland monitoring or scouting strategies used:

- Pheromone traps / Sticky traps
- Sweep nets
- Hand lenses / Binoculars
- Field guides
- Mapping of weeds / pests
- Flags marking field sampling or treatment locations
- Scouting records
- Other \_\_\_\_\_
- N/A - Not applicable to our farm / ranch because:

### Lowest Effective Application Rates / Reducing Application Rates

Chemical applications are reduced by (check all that apply):

- Matching applications to the severity of the pest/weed/disease problem.
- Preserving beneficial insects.
- Using concentrate (low-volume) applications.
- Accounting for the density of plantings.
- Accounting for the size of plants and/or weeds.
- Border sprays.
- Spot sprays or backpack sprayers.
- Applications based on tree-row volume (canopy cover, tree size).
- Number or frequency of applications made.
- Using novel spray technology.
- Other \_\_\_\_\_
- N/A - Not applicable to our farm / ranch because:

### Chemical Selection and Justification

Check all that apply:

- Only pesticides/herbicides/fungicides registered in the state as approved for targeted pests or weeds, and crop are used.
- Pesticide/herbicide/fungicide mixtures prohibited by the label are not used.
- Pesticide/herbicide/fungicide chemistries / modes of actions are rotated to reduce risk of pest resistance.
- Reduced toxicity chemicals (e.g. labeled "Caution") are used.
- OMRI-approved, organic pesticides used.
- N/A - Not applicable to our farm / ranch because:

### Record Keeping for Pest/Disease/Weed Management

Farm / ranch pesticide application records include (check all that apply):

- Crop / weed growth stage
- Disease / Pest growth stage
- Purpose of the treatment, i.e. target pest
- Threshold used to guide treatment
- Current weather data, e.g. weather conditions on day of application
- Accumulated weather data, e.g. growing degree days to determine pest outbreaks
- Effectiveness of pesticide treatment
- Calibration records
- N/A - Not applicable to our farm / ranch because:

Application Equipment Calibration and Pesticide Drift Management

Check all that apply:

- Application equipment is calibrated at the start of each season.
- Application equipment is calibrated more than once per season or uses technology that continuously calibrates.
- Farm / ranch keep written calibration records.
- Custom sprayer keeps written calibration records.
- Surfactants are used to minimize drift when recommended by the label.
- N/A - Not applicable to our farm / ranch because:

3. Please list the **major insect pests** you've ***treated for and type of treatment used (both chemical and non-chemical methods) in the last three years.*** This section is essential to the on-site inspection. A complete listing will save time during the inspection.

<b><i>Crop Name:</i></b> (or pasture/ rangeland)	<b><i>Insect Name and treatment</i></b>	<b><i>Insect Name and treatment</i></b>	<b><i>Insect Name and treatment</i></b>	<b><i>Insect Name and treatment</i></b>
Crop Name:				
Crop Name:				
Crop Name:				
Crop Name:				
Crop Name:				
Crop Name:				

If you use ***chemical pest controls***, describe your system for deciding when and what kind to apply:

4. Please list **diseases** for which you **treated for (chemical and non-chemical methods) in the last three years**. This section is essential to the on-site inspection. A complete list will save time during the inspection.

<b><i>Crop Name:</i></b>	<b><i>Disease Name and treatment:</i></b>	<b><i>Disease Name and treatment:</i></b>	<b><i>Disease Name and treatment:</i></b>	<b><i>Disease Name and treatment:</i></b>	<b><i>Disease Name and treatment:</i></b>
Crop Name:					
Crop Name:					
Crop Name:					
Crop Name:					
Crop Name:					
Crop Name:					
Crop Name:					

If you use **chemical disease controls**, describe your system for deciding when and how much to apply.

5. Please list **weeds** for which you ***treated for (chemical and non-chemical methods) in the last three years.*** This section is essential to the on-site inspection. A complete list will save time during the inspection.

<b>Weed name:</b>	<b>Treatment(s)</b>
<b>Weed name:</b>	<b>Treatment(s)</b>
<b>Weed name:</b>	<b>Treatment(s)</b>
<b>Weed name:</b>	<b>Treatment(s)</b>
<b>Weed name:</b>	<b>Treatment(s)</b>
<b>Weed name:</b>	<b>Treatment(s)</b>
<b>Weed name:</b>	<b>Treatment(s)</b>

If you use ***chemical weed controls***, describe your system for deciding when and how much to apply.



- If you do not produce livestock or if livestock on your operation do NOT have pasture or range access, indicate so by checking this box, and skip the following questions 4-5.

4. What is your philosophy and goals regarding grazing management on your farm or ranch?

5. What is done on your operation to minimize grazing on growing grass and/or plants too soon?

### **Soil and Water Conservation Evaluation Criteria**

#### Continuing Education for Soil and Water Conservation

The farm or ranch owner / manager has attended education seminars on the following subject matters (check all that apply):

- Erosion prevention strategies.
- Managed grazing.
- Nutrient / manure management.
- Innovative irrigation systems and management.
- Soil quality monitoring.
- Precision application of plant nutrients.
- Composting.
- Cover cropping.
- Conservation tillage.
- Riparian habitat and buffer zones around surface waters.
- Carbon sequestration in agricultural soils.
- Building soil organic matter.
- Crop rotations.
- Other \_\_\_\_\_
- N/A - Not applicable to our farm / ranch because:

### Buffer Strips Around Waterways

Check all that apply:

- Cultivated areas are *less than* 25 feet from riparian areas/waterways.
- Cultivated areas are *greater than* 25 feet from riparian areas / waterways.
- Riparian buffer areas are an average of 50-100 feet in width AND these buffer zones are vegetated to prevent erosion and the movement of agricultural chemicals into surface waters.
- Windbreaks have been established.
- Grass filter strips have been established.
- Livestock access to riparian areas is controlled by fencing off OR through managed grazing.
- Other \_\_\_\_\_
- N/A - Not applicable to our farm / ranch because:

### Soil Erosion Prevention

Check all erosion prevention practices used on the farm / ranch:

- Grassed waterways and vegetative buffers bordering riparian zones.
- Diversion ditches.
- Contour planting and conservation tillage.
- Terracing.
- Windbreaks / shelterbelts.
- Adopting crops suited to farm / ranch's topography.
- Farm / ranch pond or wetland.
- Cover crops or inter-seeding are used.
- No-till is used.
- Strip-till, or other restricted tillage system is used.
- Grazing.
- Mulches are used.
- Organic matter (e.g. manures, composts) is incorporated into fields.
- Perennial crops are integrated into the farm / ranch.
- Other \_\_\_\_\_
- N/A - Not applicable to our farm / ranch because:

### Tillage Selection Practices and Soil Compaction Prevention.

Check all tillage practices that apply:

- Tillage methods are selected that result in crop residue left on the soil surface (e.g. conservation tillage).
- Tillage is restricted to specific portions of fields (e.g. strip tillage).

- Farm / ranch activities involving heavy machinery are not performed when soils are wet.
- Farm / ranch traffic is generally controlled (e.g. use of tractor paths and lanes within fields for machinery).
- Farm / ranch vehicles are operated with improved load distributions.
- Cover crops are planted to improve drainage and increase the tilth of the soil.
- Manures or compost are added to soils on a regular basis to improve tilth.
- Other \_\_\_\_\_
- N/A - Not applicable to our farm / ranch because:

### Irrigation Systems

Check all irrigation improvements used on the farm / ranch:

- Fields with furrow irrigation have been laser leveled.
- Fields with furrow irrigation use gated head pipe.
- Center pivot systems use drop nozzles.
- Sprinkler systems make use of low pressure, micro-sprinklers.
- Drip irrigation / trickle tape is used.
- Flood irrigation is used with gated pipe and perennial cover.
- Soil moisture sensors are used to monitor moisture.
- Crop modeling is used to predict plant demand.
- A weather data information system is used.
- Other \_\_\_\_\_
- N/A - Not applicable to our farm / ranch because:

### Water Conservation

Water on the farm / ranch is conserved by the following practices (check all that apply):

- Irrigation activities consider soil moisture, soil type, and infiltration rates.
- Weather information is factored into the timing of irrigation activities.
- Crop demand is factored into irrigation activities.
- Drought resistant varieties are selected.
- Soil moisture is conserved through reduced tillage and soil organic matter conservation.
- Crops are produced without irrigation.
- Mulches and ground covers are used.
- Manures (animal and/or green) are incorporated into fields.
- Animal watering systems incorporate on-farm / ranch water storage (e.g. ponds).
- Water is collected and recycled for other uses.
- Farmer/rancher participates in a local or regional body responsible for water issues.
- Other \_\_\_\_\_
- N/A - Not applicable to our farm / ranch because:

### Soil Organic Matter Management

Check all practices that apply:

- No-till, strip-till, or other restricted tillage practice.
- Planting of cover crops.
- Use of mulches (natural or synthetic).
- Regular additions of organic matter (e.g. animal manures, green manures, composts).
- Strip cropping with annuals and perennials.
- Integration of perennial crops (e.g. orchards, vineyards, berries).
- Banding or split applications of fertilizers.
- Other \_\_\_\_\_
- N/A - Not applicable to our farm / ranch because:

### Guiding Principle IV: Conserving and recycling nutrients

Food Alliance certified producers conserve and recycle nutrients by converting organic wastes into productive uses and by seeking ways to generate nutrients on farm through such methods as cover cropping, on-farm composting, and integrating livestock into farm production. Animal densities match nutrient recycling capacity of pastures and rangeland, and grazing is managed such that manure nutrients are evenly distributed across the landscape, which preserved water resources. While chemical fertilizer applications may sometimes be necessary in order to bring soil nutrient levels into proper balance, management practices lead to decreased use of commercial fertilizers over time.

1. Please describe your overall philosophy regarding nutrient management on your farm/ranch:

2. Please list any chemical fertilizer inputs you've used in the last 3 years:

<b>Crop name:</b> (can be pasture/ rangeland)	<b>Chemical fertilizer application(s)–type and rate</b>
<b>Crop name:</b>	<b>Chemical fertilizer application(s)–type and rate</b>
<b>Crop name:</b>	<b>Chemical fertilizer application(s)–type and rate</b>
<b>Crop name:</b>	<b>Chemical fertilizer application(s)–type and rate</b>
<b>Crop name:</b>	<b>Chemical fertilizer application(s)–type and rate</b>
<b>Crop name:</b>	<b>Chemical fertilizer application(s)–type and rate</b>
<b>Crop name:</b>	<b>Chemical fertilizer application(s)–type and rate</b>

### **Nutrient Management Evaluation Criteria**

The farm / ranch uses the following nutrient management practices (check all that apply):

- Plant tissue testing is completed at regular intervals appropriate to the crop.
- Soil pH is monitored and adjusted to ensure proper nutrient availability and uptake.
- Soil and/or manure is tested to determine fertilizer application rates and/or grazing timeframes.
- Proper animal:land ratios are maintained.
- Fertilizer and livestock manure applications comply with University or Extension recommendations for rates and timing to minimize leaching and runoff.
- Nutrient budgets have been calculated for fields/pastures/rangelands.
- Split and /or banded applications are used.
- Organic fertilizers are used (e.g. animal manures, green manures).
- Mulching is used to reduce nutrient leaching.
- Farm/ranch has a nutrient management plan describing nutrients used by crops/forage and (if applicable) those produced by animals. Farm/ranch has worked with local agencies to develop the plan and implement steps to balance nutrients on the farm.
- Other \_\_\_\_\_
- N/A - Not applicable to our farm / ranch because:

## Guiding Principle V: Providing safe and fair working conditions for our employees and our families

---

Food Alliance certified producers develop farm/ranch employment policies in order to establish open channels for communicating with employees about such issues as workplace safety and job satisfaction. They provide incentives and opportunities for the development of employee skills and incorporate quality of life issues into daily decision making for themselves, their families and employees.

1. What is your philosophy for developing human resources and/or enhancing quality of life issues on your farm?

2. If you have employees, how many:

Are seasonal or part-time employees? \_\_\_\_\_

Are full-time? \_\_\_\_\_

3. How long have these employees worked for you?

4. Do you use labor contractors?  Yes  No

5. In the past five years have you been cited for violations by OSHA, Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI), or any other authorities?  Yes  No

*If yes, what was the citation for, how did you address the citation, and what is your current status?*

6. Please list any special services or benefits you provide for your employees?

7. Do you provide housing for your employees?  Yes  No

If so, please describe:

8. Please fill out the following table as appropriate

<b><u>Human Resources Policies</u></b>	YES ✓		NO ✓
	Written policy	Verbally communicated	
Do you have a grievance policy, encouraging employees to raise concerns without fear of termination?			
Do you have a policy encouraging employees to suggest ways to improve the workplace?			
Do you have a policy expressing a willingness to receive suggestions from third-party representatives?			
Do you have a policy that gives employees flexibility in the case of family emergencies?			
Do you have a policy that keeps non-employees and under working age children out of the fields and/or workplace?			
Do you have a discipline process and policy?			
Are workers given job offer terms/contracts?			
Do you have a safety policy and/or program?			
Are farm / ranch policies and job expectations communicated to employees prior to start date?			

## Safe & Fair Working Conditions Evaluation Criteria

### Hazardous Material Storage

Check all management practices used on the farm / ranch to store hazardous materials:

- Empty hazardous material containers are triple-rinsed before return to supplier, disposal in an approved recycling program or licensed landfill.
- Tank rinsate is sprayed out on labeled crops at labeled rate or less.
- Storage size and organization is adequate to separate flammables from other materials.
- Pesticides are organized by insecticides, fungicides, herbicides, fertilizers, etc.
- Containers are organized to prevent spillage when storing/removing materials.
- Non-hazardous materials (e.g., seed, livestock feeds) are kept away from hazardous materials.
- Storage area is clearly marked on the outside with warning signs.
- Flammables are kept out of direct sunlight.
- Dry materials are stored above liquids.
- Storage area is locked.
- Storage area has a sealed floor.
- Storage area is well ventilated (no strong chemical smell).
- Inventory is managed on a first-in, first-out basis.
- A current written inventory is maintained and accessible in the event of an emergency.
- Other \_\_\_\_\_
- N/A - Not applicable to our farm / ranch because:

### Minors, children and family members in the workplace

Check all farm / ranch policies that apply:

- Employer only employs legal minors during non-school hours.
- Special training is provided for minors and/or farm family's children (see 4-H guidelines for child safety on farms).
- Children of farm/ranch family, when engaged in farming/ranching activities are directly supervised or assisted by adults.
- If non-family member minors are employed, employer communicates with parents of minors regarding the employment of their children.
- Employer provides childcare for employees' children.
- Other \_\_\_\_\_
- N/A - Not applicable to our farm / ranch because:

### Farm Worker Support Services

Farm / ranch works with groups of employees and/or third parties to improve workplace conditions (check all that apply):

- Employer meets with union representatives when asked by the employees.
- Employer meets with community groups to discuss health and welfare.
- Employer cooperates with groups to build workplace productivity and communication.
- Employer cooperates with groups to ID training needs.
- Employer cooperates with groups to ID safety concerns.
- Employer has addressed the recommendations of third party representatives.
- Other \_\_\_\_\_
- N/A - Not applicable to our farm / ranch because:

### Nondiscrimination policy

The farm / ranch has a written policy describing non-discrimination practices consistent with the law. The following items are discussed (check all that apply):

- Age
- Race
- Third party affiliation
- Religion
- Gender
- Sexual orientation
- National origin
- Disability
- N/A - Not applicable to our farm / ranch because:

### Hiring practices and communicating expectations and policies

The farm / ranch communicates job expectations and policies at the time of hire. Check all that apply:

- Expectations and policies are in English and applicable language for non-English speakers.
- New employees are given a sign off sheet acknowledging receipt of the policies.
- New employees are given a sign off sheet describing job expectations.
- New employees are given a sign off sheet detailing the terms of employment (pay rate, work day, and length of employment).
- Employer gives some limited job training and orientation specific to the task.
- Employer has an orientation checklist that is kept on file to keep a record of the orientation/training activity.
- Shows educational materials such as videos, manuals, etc, for safety and/or tasks specific to the jobs.
- Employer has taken a cultural sensitivity class in order to better relate with employees.
- Other \_\_\_\_\_
- N/A - Not applicable to our farm / ranch because:

### Compensation practices

The farm / ranch has a progressive compensation system (check all that apply):

- Employer adjusts piece rates to reward seniority or performance, or changing crop conditions.
- Employer gives bonuses to reward productivity of the group.
- Employer shares profits.
- Employer distributes work opportunities fairly, not giving favorite workers best opportunities.
- Employer conducts regular performance evaluations, rewarding good performance with pay raises.
- When employer gives pay advances to employees, they have system to communicate the expectations to prevent confusion on the part of the employee.
- Employer gives bonus wages to reward excellent work.
- Other \_\_\_\_\_
- N/A - Not applicable to our farm / ranch because:

### Employee benefits

The farm / ranch provides the following employee benefits (check all that apply).

- Health insurance
- Disability insurance
- Life insurance
- Subsidizes cost of or provides transportation to employees
- Arranges for community groups to provide assistance to workers
- Sick pay
- Vacation pay
- Reduced cost housing for full time employees
- Housing allowance, special compensation to cover housing costs
- Migrant worker/temporary worker housing at reduced rates
- Employer gives bonus wages to reward excellent work
- Other \_\_\_\_\_
- N/A - Not applicable to our farm / ranch because:

### Worker housing and family support services

The farm / ranch assists with worker housing (check all that apply):

- Employer provides housing and housing meets legal standards.
- Employer keeps a list of community resources to give to employees.
- Employer keeps a list of housing opportunities to give to employees.
- Employer offers childcare services or stipend.
- Employer participates at a high level (leadership, donations, etc.) in community groups dedicated to increasing housing opportunities.
- Employer donates money and other resources to local housing groups.
- Other \_\_\_\_\_
- N/A - Not applicable to our farm / ranch because:

### Pesticide/herbicide handler/applicator safety

Check all that apply:

- All legal requirements are met for protection of handler/applicators and others who handle hazardous materials including crop and livestock pesticides, fertilizers, fuel, lubricants, solvents, etc., including protective equipment, re-entry and pre-harvest intervals and posting appropriate signage.
- Appropriate workers have taken a pesticide application training course.
- Emergency eye washing facilities are provided near storage, mixing/loading and/or application sites.
- Showers and changing rooms are provided near storage, mixing, and application sites.
- Spare clean clothing is provided near storage, mixing/loading and/or application sites.
- Protective clothing is used and cared for properly (e.g., laundered as soon after use as possible, laundered separately from household wash).
- Respirator training and fitting.
- Respirator pads are changed regularly.
- Pesticide applicators applying highly toxic chemicals (e.g., pesticides labeled 'Danger') are equipped with powered filtered-air respirator systems and/or positive pressure cabs.
- When applicable, workers handling solvents, fertilizers, etc., with potential to cause injury, are provided appropriate safety equipment.
- Other \_\_\_\_\_
- N/A - Not applicable to our farm / ranch because:

### Hazardous materials emergency management

Check all that apply:

- All state or local legal requirements (if applicable) are met for emergency management of spills, fires or other emergencies related to hazardous materials.
- Emergency washing facilities (this can include the operator's home) such as showers, eyewash and spare clean clothing are provided near storage, mixing/loading and application sites.
- An emergency management plan contains:
  - Identification and phone numbers for persons who should be contacted.
  - Procedures and equipment to be used.
  - Copies of complete labels and MSDS sheets of hazardous materials used.
  - Location of fixed storage sites.
  - Policies requiring training for those who work with or around hazardous materials.
  - Other \_\_\_\_\_
- N/A - Not applicable to our farm / ranch because:

Sanitation and general safety

Check all that apply:

- Employer provides clean drinking water and clean latrines with handwashing stations to workers in fields and/or working areas.
- Handwashing stations or facilities have soap and water.
- Employers provide safety training consistent with the law.
- Employer provides a shower facility with warm water for employees to wash and change after the workday. (This can include the operator's home).
- Employer contracts with professional firms to provide safety training.
- Employer has developed training checklists specific to jobs to ensure each employee gets training.
- Employer sets goals for safety and tracks success.
- Employer gives bonuses when safety goals are met.
- Other \_\_\_\_\_
- N/A - Not applicable to our farm / ranch because:

## **Guiding Principle VI: Wildlife Habitat Conservation**

---

Food Alliance certified producers foster vegetative cover, food, and water resources necessary for habitat by using methods such as establishing or maintaining biological corridors, managing mowing and grazing cycles, and restoring or protecting wetlands, prairies and woodlands. They take steps to provide habitat for beneficial insects in order to reduce the need for insecticides. Predator control is managed using least impact possible, and trapping/slaughter is only used as a last resort.

1. What is your overall strategy for maintaining and/or increasing wildlife habitat and riparian areas on your farm or ranch?

## **Wildlife Habitat Conservation Evaluation Criteria**

### **Continuing Education for Wildlife Habitat Conservation**

Check all that apply:

- Farm / management relies on general interest Ag publications (newspapers and general newsletters, etc.) to learn about wildlife and habitat issues.
- Natural areas exist on the farm / ranch. Actions are limited to preventing agricultural activities from interfering with natural areas.
- Farm / management uses technical, subject matter-specific information sources or participates in seminars for habitat management, ID of habitat types or native vegetation, fish or wildlife management, etc.
- Farm / management participates (or has participated in the last 5 years) in on-farm testing of wildlife habitat conservation strategies or concepts to evaluate their performance.
- Farm / management participates implements proven wildlife habitat conservation strategies.
- N/A - Not applicable to our farm / ranch because:

## Habitat Conservation Improvements

Check all habitat improvements that apply:

### Low impact improvements

- Introduced insectary plants to encourage beneficial predator populations for IPM.
- Established bird perches on field edges to encourage predatory birds.
- Leaves standing deadwood for raptors and woodpeckers.
- Leaves wolf trees/den trees for wildlife.
- Built owl or bat boxes to establish predator populations.
- Established native vegetation along unused areas, fencerows, etc.
- Addressed terrestrial and aquatic habitat in a comprehensive farm / ranch plan.
- Fallow fields are left with plant cover to provide food, water, and/or cover; this includes cover crops, or crop residue left on soil surface.
- Uses native plants to landscape around buildings.
- Limits disturbances to wildlife, especially during breeding season.
- Leaves fields fallow for a year or more to provide wildlife habitat.
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

### High impact improvements

- Participates in set-aside programs such as "CRP" or other, **and** manages this area for habitat potential.
- Participates in WHIP or EQIP programs to conserve wildlife habitat.
- Has set aside and not converted priority habitat and manages to protect the habitat value of this area.
- Has set up buffers around aquatic areas with 25-foot minimum setbacks.
- Established or maintained a new natural area in the last 10 years.
- Has adequately vegetated a riparian area for water quality protection. Established wildlife habitat corridors between natural areas.
- Established pastures.
- Established agro forestry enterprises.
- Established windbreaks.
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

## Invasive/introduced plant species prevention and management

Check all that apply

- Farm / management has some knowledge of potential invasive species and has the ability to identify most common invasive species.
- Farm / ranch controls invasive species with prevention strategies.
- Manager performs rudimentary planning for invasive species control, with some inventory of existing problems.
- Manager establishes a policy or protocol designed to prevent establishment not just control of invasive species as problems arise.
- Manager only uses certified seed and composts to prevent weed seeds from coming onto farm / ranch.
- Manager works with state/federal agencies (e.g. Dept. of Natural Resources, Dept. of Agriculture) to develop and implement control plans.

- Manager discusses problems with neighbors to increase effectiveness of the control effort.
- Other \_\_\_\_\_
- N/A - Not applicable to our farm / ranch because:

### Threatened and endangered species protection

Check all that apply:

- Farm / management has some knowledge of endangered species habitat on farm/ranch, or in nearby areas from general interest publications (newspaper, newsletter, etc.)
- Farm / management can identify natural areas/habitat on the farm/ranch suitable for locally listed threatened and endangered species AND protects the habitat.
- Farm / ranch work is designed not to impact threatened and endangered species habitat areas. Habitat appears healthy.
- Manager works with state/federal agencies (e.g. Dept. of Natural Resources, Dept. of Agriculture) to protect threatened and endangered species habitat.
- Manager participates in regional/statewide effort to recover endangered species on/off farm.
- Other \_\_\_\_\_
- N/A - Not applicable to our farm / ranch because:

### Wildlife food, cover, and water

Check of all strategies that apply:

- Tall grasses un-mowed during migration or reproductive times.
- Vehicle traffic and activities around natural areas are limited during migration and reproductive times and/or when wildlife is present.
- Manager makes arrangements to supply water to farm / ranch ponds, rice paddies, etc. as needed.
- Management ensures that water resources on the farm / ranch are protected from contamination from/by farm operations.
- Wildlife crops for food are planted.
- Field rotations include a fallow period specifically designed for wildlife habitat.
- Crop residue/stubble is left standing to provide cover or food for wildlife.
- Small portion of the crop is left un-harvested for wildlife.
- Winter flooding of crop stubble.
- Ditch clearing is alternated from side to side, each year.
- Cover crops are planted to provide bird and other habitat.
- Field borders and/or windbreaks are maintained for habitat.
- Pastures are managed with a variety of forages that provide cover and food.
- Agro forestry areas are included on the farm / ranch and provide cover and food.
- Permaculture / perennial crop areas are included on the farm / ranch.
- Standing deadwood is left for birds to use.
- If otherwise healthy, natural areas are maintained, undisturbed.
- Other \_\_\_\_\_
- N/A - Not applicable to our farm / ranch because:

Linking individual wildlife habitat conservation activities together

Check all that apply:

- Farm / manager participates in watershed councils, soil and water districts, or other landscape activities promoted by state agencies, farming organizations, non-profits, or similar groups.
- Farm / manager has made habitat improvements in concert with nearby landowners **or** on their own in order to create large and/or connected patches of habitat.
- Farm / manager has made habitat improvements as a part of a regional plan that includes other landowners:
  - Watershed council plan
  - Eco-regional plan (e.g. created by groups like The Nature Conservancy, etc.)
  - Coordinated resource management plans
  - Soil and water district plans
  - Statewide habitat/biodiversity plans
  - Other \_\_\_\_\_
- N/A - Not applicable to our farm / ranch because:

## **Guiding Principle VII: Provide healthy and humane care for livestock**

---

Food Alliance certified producers raise livestock with the greatest respect for their needs and comfort. Food Alliance producers provide proper nutrition for excellent animal health and fitness. Living conditions and space allowances provide physical and thermal comfort, afford access to natural lighting and vegetated pasture (where appropriate), and enhance natural behaviors (including social contact among animals.). Food Alliance producers are competent handlers, minimizing animal fear and stress during handling and transportation. Use of hormone treatments is prohibited. Antibiotic use is restricted to treatment of occasional illness, and not as a substitute for healthy living conditions.

**If livestock are not a part of your operation, please check here and skip to the final page of this application**

### **Livestock management**

1. What type of livestock operation do you operate? (i.e.: seed stock, feeder, cow calf, lambing, farrow to finish, dairy, etc.)

2. What is your philosophy or overall goals regarding livestock management on your farm or ranch?

3. How many cows/ewes/piglets etc. were calved/lambbed/farrowed during your last season?

4. When do you plan calving/lambing/farrowing each year and why do you calve at this time?

5. Please describe your animal health program, including any vaccination and treatment for internal and external parasites.

6. Are antibiotics used on your livestock operation? If so when? Please include therapeutic as well as non-therapeutic use.

Please complete the following grid for your antibiotic use:

Antibiotic	Young stock treated within a month of birth	Young stock treated within a month of weaning	Adult Animals Treated	TOTAL
TOTALS:				

7. What have you done to reduce the use of antibiotics on your ranch?

8. What is done to minimize stress and optimize health of animals at:

- Calving/Lambing/Farrowing
  
- Weaning
  
- During severe weather
  
- During Transportation
  
- When vaccinating/giving medical care

9. Do livestock spend any part of the year in confined feeding situations? Please explain.

10. Do you have a written nutrient management plan? Yes  No

11. If you are required to have a CAFO permit under the EPA Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation Rules, is it current and in good standing?

Yes  No

12. Do you have any permanent manure storage structures? Yes  No  
If so, please describe

13. Describe how you determine the number of animals you can raise on your ranch/farm. How do you know if you have too many animals? Too few?

### Livestock Housing

17. Please describe the various types of livestock housing (including age groups, if appropriate) that are provided on your operation (e.g. deep bedded systems, hoop houses, calve hutches, freestalls, etc.).

### **Guiding Principle VIII: Continually improving farming/ranching practices**

---

Food Alliance certified producers set goals and assess their progress toward these goals by monitoring for impacts of decisions on their farm, family, employees and the environment. Food Alliance producers seek out new and innovative management techniques to integrate into their farm and ranch management. They respect their neighbors and take steps where possible to prevent agricultural production from being a nuisance. When possible they take leading roles in their communities by participating in community groups and industry associations, sharing information and expertise and serving as mentors to others.

Considering the Food Alliance guiding principles, please describe your goals for your farm/ranch in one, three, and five years from now.

One year:

Three years:

Five years:

The information provided in this application is accurate and true. I am the person responsible for the operational decisions of the farm/ranch making this application, and I have knowledge of the information contained in this application. I understand that any misrepresentation of the operation described herein may be grounds for denying this application and/or removing my farm/ranch from the Food Alliance certification program.

---

**Signature**

**Date**