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Food Alliance finds partner to go national

by April Streeter

Food Alliance has certified more than 200 farms in 16 states during its 10-year tenure. Now the organization has partnered with International Certification Services (ICS) of Minneapolis, Minn., to boost its market share nationwide.

While the Food Alliance label doesn't enjoy the widespread consumer recognition of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's green-and-white organic label, it is popular with farmers and ranchers with a holistic stewardship approach to their land. Food Alliance standards incorporate employee working conditions and humane livestock care, as well as integrated pest management and soil, water and wildlife conservation.

Food Alliance said using ICS as its certifier will allow farms and ranches to get multiple certifications (such as U.S. or European organic) from a single inspection.

Food Alliance already maintains a St. Paul, Minn., office. Farms in Canada have also requested Food Alliance certification, and a Toronto based group is currently creating a Canadian label system inspired by Food Alliance.



Food Alliance Executive Director Scott Exo