



6/03/2005

Food Alliance has partner

Food Alliance, a certifier of sustainable agricultural practices, has announced a partnership with International Certification Services to provide Food Alliance certification to farms, ranches and food processors nationwide.

Through the partnership, Food Alliance will transfer administration of its certification inspections to International Certification Services. Food Alliance will retain responsibility for the quality of the certification program, including the development of certification standards, promotion of the certification program, and service to certified businesses. ICS will take responsibility for recruiting and training inspectors, scheduling inspections, reviewing inspector reports, issuing certification decisions and maintaining certification records.

Food Alliance made the decision to outsource administration of its inspections as a means to manage the increasing number of requests for certification coming from across the United States, according to a press release.

With offices in Oregon and Minnesota, Food Alliance now has more than 200 certified farms and ranches in 16 states, representing approximately 3.3 million acres of farm and rangeland. The number of Food Alliance-certified farms and ranches has grown by an average of 34 percent in each of the last three years. ICS will begin administering Food Alliance certifications on July 1.