

Group certifies hundreds of tree fruit acreage as sustainable

Three Springs Fruit Farm gets Food Alliance certification

by *Sustainable Food News*
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Food Alliance said Wednesday that Three Springs Fruit Farm in Wenksville, Pa., had 260 acres of tree fruit certified as sustainable under the nonprofit's socially and environmentally responsible agricultural practice standards.

Portland, Ore.-based Food Alliance said it certified Three Springs' apples, peaches, pears and cherries, which account for nearly all production, minus small fruit, berries, veggies, and a few stone fruit crops just coming into bearing.



Farming on 350 acres, the majority of Three Springs' farm is planted in apples. The company is family owned and operated for over 100 years.

Food Alliance certifies farms, ranches and food processors for sustainable agricultural and production practices such as safe and fair working conditions, reduction of pesticide use and toxicity, healthy and humane care for livestock, no genetically modified crops or livestock and no hormones or non-therapeutic antibiotics.

The certification requires continuous improvement in social and environmental management practices.

Businesses that meet Food Alliance's standards, as determined by a third-party site inspection, are allowed to use the non-profit's green eco-label to claim social and environmental responsibility, which differentiates products and can strength brands.

There are over 330 Food Alliance certified farms and ranches throughout North America, raising beef, lamb, pork, dairy products, grains, legumes, and a wide variety of fruits and vegetables.

Three Springs joins Red Jacket Orchards in upstate New York as the second orchard in the Mid-Atlantic region to achieve Food Alliance certification.

The Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture (PASA), one of the largest U.S. sustainable agriculture organizations, recently partnered with Food Alliance to bring Food Alliance certification to the Mid-Atlantic region.