



Barbour's Fruit Farm & Market Receives Sustainability Certification

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Food Alliance, a nonprofit offering a comprehensive third-party certification for sustainable agricultural and food handling practices, in partnership with the Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture (PASA), recently announced the certification of Barbour's Fruit Farm & Market.

Located on 132 acres in the Quaker Valley region of Adams County, Barbour's Fruit Farm (www.barboursfruitfarmandmarket.com) has been family owned and operated since 1963. Stephanie & Lee Welty are fifth generation farmers who took over management of the farm in 2008 and continue to grow a wide variety of apples, peaches, cherries, pears, small fruits and vegetables.



The Weltys are committed to bringing the finest quality produce to their customers and to being good environmental stewards. Barbour's joins Three Springs Fruit Farm in Aspers, PA and Red Jacket Orchards in upstate New York as the third orchard in the Mid-Atlantic region to achieve the esteemed Food Alliance certification. Barbour's Fruit Farm & Market has certified their apples, pears, peaches, plums, strawberries and cherries as well as their market garden/CSA production.

Food Alliance certification standards for farm and facility operations address a range of social and environmental issues including safe and fair working conditions; reduction of pesticide use and toxicity; soil, water and energy conservation; reduction of waste, and

protection of wildlife habitat. The certification requires continuous improvement in social and environmental management practices.

Said Lee Welty, "People want to know what you're doing to make a difference. Earning Food Alliance certification proves that our farm is committed to sustainability, as well as social and environmental responsibility." Welty noted his hope that the certification will bring further validation to the steps that Barbour's Fruit Farm has taken toward sustainability and will open new business opportunities from people increasingly concerned with the way their food is being produced.

"Increasingly, people want more information about how their food is grown and sold," said Food Alliance's Executive Director, Scott Exo. "Farmers like the Weltys are responding in kind, managing their farms carefully, and backing up their social and environmental claims with third-party certification that independently verifies their management practices against stringent standards. Customers can trust Food Alliance Certified products are produced in ways that ensure safe and fair working conditions, humane animal treatment, and careful stewardship of natural resources."

PASA Executive Director Brian Snyder said, "We are excited and proud that Barbour's Fruit Farm has joined a select group of forward thinking farmers in the Mid-Atlantic with the awarding of their Food Alliance certification. The Welty family has shown dedication to being good stewards of the land, and also a strong commitment to consumer education. They will indeed be great ambassadors of the Food Alliance label."

About PASA

With over 5,000 members, the Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture (PASA) is one of the largest and most active sustainable agriculture organizations in the U.S. Through business support and regional marketing assistance for farmers, advocacy, and public education, PASA seeks to promote profitable farms that produce healthy food for all people while respecting the natural environment. PASA's hallmark event, the Farming for the Future conference, draws thousands of participants from more than 30 states and six countries each February. For more information, visit www.pasafarming.org and follow PASA on Facebook, YouTube and Twitter.

About Food Alliance

Food Alliance is a nonprofit organization that defines sustainability in agriculture and food handling operations with a comprehensive third-party certification program that addresses a wide range of consumer and industry concerns. Food Alliance certification and the Food Alliance Certified seal help food producers and handlers communicate with customers and the wider public. Certification by an independent non-profit organization, like Food Alliance, with clear standards and criteria, is a simple and effective way of demonstrating socially and environmentally responsible food production practices. 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. For more information, visit www.foodalliance.org.