

## NEWS RELEASE



Pennsylvania  
Association for  
Sustainable Agriculture

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Three Springs Fruit Farm receives sustainability certification for apples, peaches, pears and cherries

**ASPERS, PA** - Food Alliance, a nonprofit offering a comprehensive third-party certification for sustainable agriculture and food handling practices, in partnership with the Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture (PASA), recently announced that it has certified Three Springs Fruit Farm. The certification of Three Springs Fruit Farm sets a precedent for other orchards and fruit growers in the eastern U.S.

Located between Gettysburg and Carlisle in Northern Adams County, Three Springs Fruit Farm ([www.threespringsfruitfarm.com](http://www.threespringsfruitfarm.com)) has been family owned and operated for over 100 years. Operating as a partnership between David, John, and Ben Wenk, the sixth and seventh generations to farm, Three Springs has a wide variety of apples, peaches, cherries, apricots, pears, small fruits, and vegetables available at farmers markets and the wholesale market.

Farming on 350 acres, the majority of their farm is planted in apples. Three Springs is committed to bringing the finest quality produce to all of their customers and being good environmental stewards of their land.

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

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 and water and energy conservation, reduction of waste, and protection of wildlife habitat. The certification requires continuous improvement in social and environmental management practices.

According to Benjamin Wenk, "It's one thing to say the right things and it's another to be able to back up those words with some kind of validity when it comes to sustainable agriculture. I also hoped that having validation regarding our growing methods, among other things, would open new opportunities to expand our business. Food Alliance specifically was a third party

certification that could not only provide this, but also support our claims in regards to employee relations and wildlife conservation. Also, Food Alliance certification appealed to me because the guidelines were challenging and the more challenging these guidelines are, the more worthwhile the certification.”

Members of PASA since 2009, Three Springs Fruit Farm has certified their apples, peaches, pears and cherries. This accounts for nearly all of their production, minus small fruit, berries, veggies, and a few stone fruit crops that are just coming into bearing. Altogether, there are approximately 260 acres of certified tree fruit.

PASA Executive Director Brian Snyder said, “We are excited to have Three Springs Fruit Farm to be one of first farm operations to receive Food Alliance certification in the Mid-Atlantic. The Wenk family has shown dedication to being good stewards of the land, and also a strong commitment to consumer education. They surely will be great ambassadors of the Food Alliance label.”

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#### **About PASA**

With nearly 6,000 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](http://www.pasafarming.org).

#### **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](http://www.foodalliance.org).