



A GREENER WORLD
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CONTACT: Stephanie Wuorenma
Phone: 202-446-2138
Email: mediarelations@agreenerworld.org
Website: www.agreenerworld.org

LARGEST PASTURED PORK COOPERATIVE IN SOUTHEAST CELEBRATES 10 YEARS

--Since 2007, the North Carolina Natural Hog Growers Association has produced pork outdoors on pasture using sustainable, high-welfare management practices--

BEULAVILLE, NC (SEPTEMBER 22, 2017)-- The North Carolina Natural Hog Growers Association (NCNHGA), a cooperative of Certified Animal Welfare Approved by A Greener World (AGW) and Certified Non-GMO by AGW hog producers, celebrates 10 years of sustainable and high-welfare pork production this year.

The NCNHGA was established in 2007 when a group of North Carolina hog farmers banded together to pool their resources and build markets for their high-quality, high-welfare pork products. Collectively, the group now manages hogs on approximately 4,000 acres of pasture and range in North Carolina, using sustainable farm management practices that have known benefits for the animals, people and the environment.

Members of the NCNHGA have long recognized the growing consumer interest in how animals are raised on farms. In 2009, the group decided to make Certified Animal Welfare Approved by A Greener World certification a centerpiece of their operation--and make certification a requirement for all members--to help communicate their high-welfare and environmental management practices to customers. Certified Animal Welfare Approved by A Greener World is the only truly pasture-based certification and food label--no cages, crates or feedlots. No other food label--not even Organic--can offer this assurance and level of transparency in a food label.

Never resting on their laurels, the pioneering NCNHGA recently became the first farming cooperative in the U.S. to commit to being Certified Non-GMO by A Greener World (AGW). This is the **only** certification and logo in the U.S. and Canada that guarantees food is produced

without the use of genetically modified feed, supplements or ingredients, *and* comes from animals raised according to the highest welfare and environmental standards. The rigorous process involves every farm in the cooperative undergoing annual audits and input testing to ensure the integrity of the non-GMO claim. The group expects to achieve Certified Non-GMO by AGW certification for all members by the end of 2017.

James West, NCNHGA farmer and cooperative member, says,

"Certified Animal Welfare Approved by A Greener World certification is the cornerstone of the NC Natural Hog Growers Association's success, and it is a central requirement for all members. From early on we realized that having meaningful accreditation was vital to our future. Our Certified Animal Welfare Approved by AGW and new Certified Non-GMO by AGW logos show existing and potential customers that we are passionate about sustainable family farms, our environment and our future."

Sam Suchoff of Lady Edison and The Pig says,

"Working with the farmers of the NCNHGA has made it possible to offer sustainable pork of the highest quality to my customers, while supporting pasture-based, high-welfare and truly independent farmers. Partnering with the NCNHGA has been central to the quality of our food--and our success--and I look forward to many more years of working these great farmers."

A Greener World Executive Director Andrew Gunther says,

"The collective accountability, integrity and ambition of the North Carolina Natural Hog Growers Association is absolutely unmatched in food production. Their work as farmers and members of this cooperative is changing the world, demonstrating the scalability of pastured production, and making it possible for high-welfare and sustainable meat to reach consumers across the Southeast. Happy 10th anniversary and we look forward to many more!"

Certified Animal Welfare Approved by AGW and Certified Non-GMO by AGW pork products from the NCNHGA are available at a variety of restaurants and retail outlets across the Southeast region. Check the AGW directory for details.

The NCNHGA is currently accepting new accounts from restaurant and retail customers. Contact NCNHGA@gmail.com for information on ordering Certified Animal Welfare Approved by AGW and Certified Non-GMO by AGW pork.

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ABOUT A GREENER WORLD

A Greener World (AGW) identifies, audits, certifies and promotes practical, sustainable farming systems by supporting farmers and ranchers and informing consumers. AGW's growing family of trusted certifications includes [Certified Animal Welfare Approved by AGW](#), [Certified Grassfed by AGW](#) and [Certified Non-GMO by AGW](#). Each program is designed to have positive and measurable impacts on the environment, society and animals, and to encourage truly sustainable farming practices. AGW's standards and procedures are robust, transparent and achievable.

A nonprofit funded by public donations, A Greener World offers a range of resources to help people make informed food choices, including an [Online Directory](#) of certified farms and products and [Food Labels Exposed](#)—a definitive guide to food label claims (available in print, online, and as a smartphone app). For more information visit agreenerworld.org.