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## THREE MEMBERS OF SOUTHEAST'S LARGEST PASTURED PORK COOPERATIVE CELEBRATE 10 YEARS WITH LEADING FARM SUSTAINABILITY CERTIFIER

--Dogwood Nursery Farms, LLC, GrassRoots Pork Co. and Albert D. Jones Farm celebrate 10 years of being Certified Animal Welfare Approved by AGW for their high-welfare, pasture-raised pigs--



*Photo Credit: Anna Carson DeWitt*

**KENANSVILLE, NC (AUGUST 22, 2018)**--The farmers at Dogwood Nursery Farms, LLC, GrassRoots Pork Co. and Albert D. Jones Farm are celebrating 10 years of certification with Certified Animal Welfare Approved by A Greener World (AGW), the leading animal welfare and sustainable label across North America. The farms are also members of the North Carolina Natural Hog Growers' Association (NCNHGA), a well-established group of farmers dedicated to high-welfare, sustainable pig production who require the Certified Animal Welfare Approved by AGW and Certified Non-GMO by AGW certificate for their members.

Nelson and Mary James of Dogwood Nursery Farms, LLC raise pastured pigs in Maple Hill. Nelson James is a third-generation family farmer; the 30 acres he and Mary farm has been in Nelson's family since the 1800s. Jeremiah and Jessica Jones of GrassRoots Pork Co. in Beulaville share a history of farming, along with multiple degrees from NC State University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. In addition to farming at GrassRoots Pork Co., Jeremiah Jones is president of the NCNHGA and Jessica Jones is instrumental in the cooperative's day-to-day operation. A.D. Jones of Albert D. Jones Farm in Chinquapin is an experienced farmer, with over 50 years in the business. He raises pigs outdoors on pasture in eastern North Carolina and is a founding member of the NCNHGA.

Dogwood Nursery Farms, LLC., GrassRoots Pork Co., and Albert D. Jones Farm decided to pursue Certified Animal Welfare Approved by AGW certification for their pigs back in 2008 to offer a verified, trusted source of high-welfare, sustainable pork to customers. The pioneering farmers were each presented with a commemorative sign and plaque acknowledging their decade of certification on Tuesday, August 14 at the monthly NCNHGA cooperative meeting in Duplin County (pictured above).

The Certified Animal Welfare Approved by AGW certification and food label lets consumers know farm animals are raised outdoors on pasture or range in accordance with the highest animal welfare standards in the U.S. and Canada, using sustainable agriculture methods on an independent farm. [Consumer Reports](#) has rated Certified Animal Welfare Approved by AGW as a "highly meaningful" label for farm animal welfare, outdoor access and sustainability. A recent report from the influential Hartman Group, a leading food and beverage market research company, reveals Certified Animal Welfare Approved by AGW label has the **highest impact** on consumer purchasing behavior of any current food certification label.

**AGW Executive Director Andrew Gunther says,**

"We're proud to celebrate 10 years with Dogwood Nursery Farms, LLC, GrassRoots Pork Co. and Albert D. Jones Farm and we applaud their commitment to good stewardship, community values and transparency. They are truly pioneers of the growing market for verified sustainable products. As this market continues to expand, A Greener World's farmers are at the forefront, offering trusted and verified products to a public hungry for honestly labeled meat, dairy and eggs. We celebrate our shared successes over the last decade--and look forward to the next!"

For more information about [Dogwood Nursery Farms](#), [GrassRoots Pork Co.](#) and [Albert D. Jones Farm](#), visit [agreenerworld.org](http://agreenerworld.org).

**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 and [membership](#), AGW 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](http://agreenerworld.org).

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