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## PENDER COUNTY FARMERS CELEBRATE 10 YEARS WITH LEADING FARM SUSTAINABILITY CERTIFIER

--Nelson and Mary James of Dogwood Nursery Farms, LLC in Maple Hill, North Carolina, celebrate 10 years of certification with Certified Animal Welfare Approved by AGW--



**MAPLE HILL, NC (NOVEMBER 15, 2018)**—Nelson and Mary James of Dogwood Nursery Farms, LLC are celebrating 10 years of certification with Certified Animal Welfare Approved by [A Greener World](http://A Greener World) (AGW), the leading animal welfare and sustainable label across North America.

Nelson James is a third-generation family farmer; the 30 acres he farms with his wife, Mary, have been in Nelson's family since the 1800s. The couple has raised Certified Animal Welfare Approved by AGW pigs for a decade and recently achieved Certified Non-GMO by AGW status for their high-welfare, sustainably raised pigs. In addition to their pastured pork operation, the Jameses grow a variety of produce on the farm. They plan to diversify their farm even more in the future and continue sharing their knowledge of sustainable farming with next generation. On August 14, 2018, AGW's Director of

Communications and Outreach, Emily Moose, presented Nelson and Mary James with a commemorative metal farm sign to acknowledge their decade of certification--and ongoing commitment to high-welfare, sustainable farming (pictured).

The Certified Animal Welfare Approved by AGW 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—and the **only** animal welfare certification in which they have confidence. 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 food label.

**Nelson and Mary James of Dogwood Nursery Farms, LLC say,**

“The market for us has really changed for the better over the last 10 years. Before we got involved with AGW and the North Carolina Natural Hog Growers Association, we were selling pigs on the open market. With our Certified Animal Welfare Approved by AGW certification--and now our Certified Non-GMO certification--we’ve been able to get more customers who ask questions about how their food was produced. Our certifications help us stand out!

**AGW Executive Director Andrew Gunther says,**

“We’re so proud to celebrate 10 years with Dogwood Nursery Farms and we applaud their commitment to good stewardship, community values and transparency. Nelson and Mary are true 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](#), contact Nelson and Mary James at **910-471-7439**.

**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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