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MONTGOMERY COUNTY FARMERS CELEBRATE 10 YEARS WITH LEADING FARM SUSTAINABILITY CERTIFIER

--Dale and Sharon Thompson of Hilltop Angus Farm in Mount Gilead, NC, celebrate 10 years of certification with Certified Animal Welfare Approved by AGW--

MOUNT GILEAD, NC (FEBRUARY 4, 2020)—Dale and Sharon Thompson of Hilltop Angus Farm in Mount Gilead, NC, are celebrating 10 years of certification with Certified Animal Welfare Approved by [A Greener World](#) (AGW), the leading animal welfare and sustainability label across North America.

Thompson has farmed all his life, first alongside his father and brother at Javondale Farm, established in 1956 by Thompson's father. This farm was a dairy farm and then a breeding cow-calf operation selling to the conventional market. In 2009, Thompson and his sons began looking at new opportunities in agriculture and created Hilltop Angus Farm, where they began raising beef cattle using pasture-based management practices and direct marketing beef. The Thompsons achieved Certified Animal Welfare Approved by AGW certification for the herd of beef cattle in 2010. The Black Angus cattle forage the farm's open pastures, grazing on high-quality and nutritious annual and perennial grasses. The Thompsons received a commemorative metal farm sign to acknowledge the decade of certification—and ongoing commitment to high-welfare, sustainable farming.

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.

Dale Thompson of Hilltop Angus says,

“I’m basically a grass farmer, not a beef farmer. I manage the grass and the cows take care of the rest of it. As our business has grown over the years, our Certified Animal Welfare Approved by AGW certification has been an important part of our direct marketing plan. We’re proud to celebrate a decade of certification with our family and our customers.”

AGW Executive Director Andrew Gunther says,

“We’re so proud to celebrate 10 years with Hilltop Angus Farm and we applaud their commitment to good stewardship, community values and transparency. Dale and Sharon Thompson have consistently been at the forefront of the growing market for verified sustainable products. As this market continues to expand, AGW farmers are leading--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 Hilltop Angus Farm, visit hilltopangusgrassfed.com, stay connected with the farm’s [Facebook page](#) and contact Dale and Sharon Thompson at eatgrassfed@hilltopangusgrassfed.com and (910) 439-5261.

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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](#), [Salmon Welfare Certified 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 and online). For more information visit agreenerworld.org.