



Homefields  
Care Farm

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# Homefields Care Farm is Certified Organic

(July 2022) Since opening in 1999, Homefields Care Farm has practiced chemical-free and natural growing methods as part of its mission. But it wasn't until this month that the community-supported agriculture (CSA) program was certified organic by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Pennsylvania Certified Organic (PCO).

Achieving certification is a multi-year process, requiring extensive planning, documentation, and multiple inspections. As a Care Farm, the focus of Homefields' staff is improving the life experiences of farmhands, some of whom have Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Autism. Between this mission and the challenges of making any small farm sustainable, our progress toward certification was gradual yet determined.

This achievement was worth the effort. Being certified organic benefits both the organization and its constituents. Although the produce at Homefields Care Farm has always been chemical-free, being certified gives its members additional peace of mind about the food they're providing to their families. Organic certification also opens doors, allowing Homefields to provide vegetables to new markets like Lancaster Farm Fresh Cooperative.

Now, Homefields looks ahead to funding important initiatives like its "Foster a Farmer" campaign, which will provide additional job stability for the farmhands who care for the land.

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