



A PRESS RELEASE FROM THE TRUSTEES

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Trustees Announces Vegetable Farms Now Officially Certified Organic



Boston, MA – October 29, 2019 – [The Trustees](#) today announced it has received official organic certification from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Organic Program for its vegetable farms at Appleton Farms in Ipswich, Chestnut Hill Farm in Southborough, and Powisset Farm in Dover. These nonprofit vegetable farms provide produce for the popular [Trustees Community Supported Agriculture \(CSA\) programs](#) and [farm stores](#) at each of these locations, as well as for the [Trustees Mobile Farmers Market](#). Trustees vegetable farms have generally followed organic standards for many years but were not certified organic. After careful consideration, the Trustees made the commitment to take the final step and become fully certified by participating in a rigorous application and inspection process. Certification was provided by [Baystate Organic Certifiers](#), a third-party nonprofit organization that works with the USDA to certify organic products.

“We have always managed our vegetable farms with the organic standards as a guide, but this year was the right time to take the next step and go through the inspection process,” says Liz Green, CSA Program Manager. “We’re thrilled to be officially certified and to share this great news with our customers and community.”

Sustainable agriculture is a key component of the Trustees mission of preserving vibrant farmland. Food on Trustees farms is grown with a focus on environmental practices that maintain healthy soil and conserve water and that support a strong local ecosystem where pollinators, birds, and wildlife can thrive in balance alongside crops.

Organic certification verifies that the Trustees meets all the USDA’s Organic Standards, including growing without the use of synthetic pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers, not using GMOs or treated seeds, and using safe irrigation and wash water practices. The certification process requires that the Trustees annually shares all seed records, sources for compost and fertilizers, water tests, planting schedules, purchasing details, equipment inventory, field maps, and much more with the inspection team, and also hosts a comprehensive annual farm inspection. More information on the USDA’s Organic Standards can be found on their [Organic](#)

[Production and Handling Standards Fact Sheet](#), and the complete Organic Standards can be found on the [USDA's Code of Federal Regulations page](#).

The Trustees is the nation's first and Massachusetts' largest conservation and preservation nonprofit and one of the largest private owners of farmland in the Commonwealth. As farmland continues to disappear due to development pressure and farmers face ongoing competition from lower-cost, mass-produced food from far-away places, The Trustees is committed to contributing directly to the sustainability of local farms and food systems through CSA programs, farm stands, and farmers' markets, as well as through farm-based educational programs. For more details on Trustees farms and Community Supported Agriculture programs, visit thetrustees.org/csa.

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More about The Trustees

Founded in the City of Boston by landscape architect and open space visionary Charles Eliot in 1891, The Trustees has, for more than 125 years, been inspiring generations to embrace nature, culture, and the great outdoors. As a steward of distinctive and dynamic places of both natural and historic value, The Trustees is the nation's first and the Massachusetts' largest preservation and conservation nonprofit, with 118 publicly accessible parks, gardens, farms, beaches, historic homesteads, campgrounds, inns and recreational sites that welcome millions of residents and visitors annually. www.thetrustees.org.