



Green Field Farms Amish Co-op Offers Delicious, Locally-Grown Organic Produce

FREDERICKSBURG, Ohio (June 25, 2007) – Amish farmers in the fertile hills of central Ohio are preserving a way of life and providing consumers with high quality organic products through the new Amish-owned, not-for-profit Green Field Farms cooperative. According to Wayne Wengerd, an Amish leader and board member for Green Field Farms, when American agriculture migrated toward large corporate farms with confined animals and crops stimulated and protected by chemicals, the Amish never gave up their sustainable agricultural practices.

Farmers in Wayne and Holmes counties who are members of Green Field Farms still graze their animals in lush, green pastures. They incorporate nitrogen-fixing legumes into their crop rotations, plant cover crops and use lime, other natural minerals and sea kelp to maintain trace elements in the soil.

They also use livestock manure to replace chemical fertilizers and work with the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC) in an Integrated Pest Management Program to prevent and control minor pest damage, which enables them to grow vegetables and berries without environmentally toxic pesticides.

These methods result in superior organic food products—including brown eggs, cheeses and seasonal produce such as berries, tomatoes and potatoes—that are delicious, nutritious and exceed all United States Department of Agriculture organic standards. Green Field Farms also certifies that every product is grown or raised by plain community families who use horse and buggy as their main source of transportation and adhere to strict Green Field Farms standards.

“As a community of Amish farmers, we understand how important it is to offer the same healthy and nourishing products that our own families enjoy everyday,” Wengerd said. “Our certified organic and specialty products are raised naturally and produced by families who have a heritage of farming and want to continue to farm for generations to come.”

Green Field Farms was established in January, 2003 to revitalize the Amish community’s family farms by providing customers with fresh and healthy foods. During the early 1980s, about 90 percent of Amish families relied on farming for their income. Today, that number has dwindled to about 10 percent full-time farmers.

“Farming is what many families want to do, but they have not been able to compete with their horse-drawn plows against large agricultural companies,” Wengerd said. “This trend, however, is shifting as consumer demand for natural and organic foods—preferably grown by local farms—

continues to grow. Small Amish farms are ideal for organic crops and animals grown without growth hormones, pesticides and chemical fertilizers.”

Today, Green Field Farms sells its organic products to more than 160 stores in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, West Virginia, Kentucky, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Tennessee and Florida. The number of outlets, however, is growing and the cooperative is expanding its product list and will soon offer value-added products such as noodles, soups and meats.

Consumers will find Green Field Farm products in the produce, dairy products and organic food sections of health food and grocery stores. Products are easy to identify because they bear the Green Field Farms logo, which features three work horses pulling a plow guided by an Amish farmer.

For more information about Green Field Farms and its line of organic products, visit www.gffarms.com or call 330-695-2462.

Holmes and Wayne counties are home to the largest Amish population in the world.

About Green Field Farms

Based in Fredricksburg, Ohio, Green Field Farms is a 100 percent Amish-owned, not-for-profit cooperative comprised of farmers in Wayne and Holmes counties dedicated to providing safe and wholesome organic products using traditional farming methods. The co-op, which includes a 20-member board, oversees the development of profitable markets for member products and building of a local economy that supports and enables the plain community to thrive. Equally important is ensuring the highest quality food products for its customers.

Membership in Green Field Farms is open to all Amish and Conservative Mennonite farmers. Members must use horse and buggy as their mode of transportation and maintain minimum production volumes and product quality standards.

###

For more information, please contact:

Monique Bowman

Fahlgren Mortine Public Relations for Green Field Farms

614-383-1607

monique.bowman@fahlgren.com

Marsha Hall

Fahlgren Mortine Public Relations for Green Field Farms

606-365-8393

marsha.hall@fahlgren.com