

Bartlett Farms Statement on the USDA Certified Organic Label

June 30, 2015 Revision b

You are USDA certified organic, right?

SHORT ANSWER

The US standards are not yet reliable. We use worldwide standards that probably cover what you really want. Details are on our website.

LONG ANSWER

The US standards are not yet reliable. We use worldwide standards (i.e., The Ten Commandments applied to agriculture) that probably cover what you really want.¹ Here is our reasoning:

1. The Cornucopia Institute has shown that the USDA certified organic label lacks integrity.⁴ Our participation would be a violation of the Ninth Commandment. The Westminster and Fisher references elaborate on such applications, which was common knowledge in the 17th through 18th centuries.^{2,3}
2. Federal control of Bartlett Farms would lower the quality of food produced. Allowing federal control of our farm would thereby violate both the Sixth and Eighth Commandments.
3. The USDA certified organic label implements an environmental and political agenda.⁵ There is a better agenda, which incorporates the good aspects of the green movement without violating any of the Ten Commandments.⁵
4. Producing grass-fed, pastured, healthy and pure food, using the worldwide standards:
 - a. Enhances biodiversity and ecological harmony.
 - b. Promotes the use of renewable resources.
 - c. Minimizes air, soil and water pollution.
 - d. Avoids vaccines, antibiotics, growth hormones, conventional pesticides, synthetic herbicides, bioengineering, ionizing radiation or anything known to have adverse health effects on people, plants or animals, in order to preserve life as required in the Sixth Commandment.
 - e. Uses cover crops, green manures, animal manures and crop rotations to fertilize the soil, maximize biological activity and maintain long-term soil health.
 - f. Uses biological controls, crop rotations and other techniques to manage weeds, insects and diseases.
 - g. Emphasizes biodiversity of the agricultural system and the surrounding environment.
 - h. Uses rotational grazing and mixed forage pastures for livestock operations and alternative health care for animal wellbeing.
5. Furthermore, regarding the environment, Bartlett Farms;
 - a. Considers the best interests of the earth in making decisions, as stewards.
 - b. Wants to hand down a better physical and spiritual environment for our children.

- c. Thinks we need to find the balance between civilization and wilderness, as man continues to fill the earth.
 - d. Believes that individual freedom and private property is important as taught via the Eighth Commandment.
 - e. Believes local environmental decisions should be made by local people who understand how to apply the Ten Commandments, not government or special interests who ignore these standards.
 - f. Believes the world is underpopulated, since God wants it filled (Genesis 1:26-28).
 - g. Believes carbon dioxide is not a pollutant.
 - h. Believes natural resources are infinite, considering the creativity and flexibility of man and how God provides for man.
 - i. Likes clean soil, water and air.
 - j. Believes human ingenuity together with individual and market freedom and Christian liberty can solve environmental problems without the aid of standardless government.
6. We believe that God's creation under man's stewardship should be beautified, liberated, utilized, and enjoyed.⁵
 7. The ultimate secure way to verify the quality and integrity of your food and food production system is to buy local, eat seasonally, know your farmer and then prepare, package and preserve your own unprocessed foods and medicines.
 8. Local churches could have an important role in ensuring the integrity of our food supply as they study, teach, and apply the Ten Commandments and church discipline.

References

1. Exodus 20:1-17.
2. Westminster Assembly, "The Larger Catechism," 1648, http://reformed.org/documents/wlc_w_proofs/index.html (28 June 2015), Q98-Q150.
3. James Fisher, "The Assembly's Shorter Catechism Explained," 1753, <http://reformed.org/documents/fisher/> (28 June 2015), Q39-Q84.
4. <http://www.cornucopia.org/>
5. <http://www.bluebeatsgreen.com/bluevsgreen/>