



Application  
Submitted via website by:

---

## AQUAPONICS APPLICATION

### Farm Business Information

**Applicant\_Name**

**Applicant Email**

**Farm Name**

**Farm Location Address**

**County**

**Show Street Address?**

- Show street address on public profile

**Display on Map?**

- Show farm location on the CNG map

**Does the farm have a different mailing address than the physical location above?**

**Do you have additional physical locations for this farm?**

**Farm Phone Number**

---

**Cell Phone?**

**Make Public?**

**Farm Phone Number (alternative)**

**Cell Phone?**

**Make Public?**

**Website**

**Facebook**

**Instagram**

**Twitter**

**TikTok**

### **Production History**

**Please briefly tell us why you are applying to be part of the Certified Naturally Grown (CNG) program:**

**Are you currently third party Certified for your produce operation by any other organization (Organic, Biodynamic, etc.)?**

**Have you held any certification/s in the past that you don't currently hold?**

**Have you ever been denied certification?**

**How did you hear about CNG?**

**Please provide some more details. It's great for us to know how our grassroots movement is spreading.**

**For how long have you been growing and selling aquaponic produce?**

## CNG Experience Requirement

**How did you learn to grow aquaponic produce? What has prepared you to do this successfully according to CNG standards?**

## **Crops and Markets**

**Please check all crops you grow in your aquaponic system.**

**List any crops you grow that will not be listed as CNG and explain why you're not seeking to certify them.**

**Please check all markets you grow for (this will be displayed on your farm profile to help potential buyers find you).**

## **System Design and Management**

**Please indicate what type of system you use (for hybrid systems, check all that apply):**

**What materials are used for root support, growing media, tubing and pipes, tanks, troughs, and other materials that come into direct contact with system water? (check all that apply)**

**If you use soil or compost in your system, where is it used? Is it used only in the dead-end portion, or also in the recirculating sections of the system?**

**If you use compressed grow plugs, what is (are) the product/s name/s? Have you been able to confirm with the supplier that it/they do not contain synthetic nutrients?**

**If your system contains cement, does it come into direct contact with the water? Please describe how cement is a part of your system.**

**If you use wood in your system, is it treated wood? Does it come into direct contact with the water? Please describe how wood is a part of your system.**

**If your system includes IBC totes purchased used, have you been able to confirm with your supplier that**

they were used only for food grade uses? If so, how have you confirmed this? If not, how do you intend to confirm this?

Please note that while IBC totes can be grandfathered in when they're in already in use at the time CNG certification is sought, CNG standards prohibit the introduction of IBC totes once CNG status is obtained. Please indicate that you understand this restriction on IBC totes by checking the box here.

Does water circulate at a rate sufficient so that the water volume of the fish tanks(s) recirculates each hour? If it recirculates at a lower rate, please explain.

Describe how your system achieves appropriate aeration.

Describe how your system achieves appropriate degassing.

Does your system include any of the following: roofing materials, recycled plastics, or plastics that contain BPA?

## Water Sources

CNG standards vary according to water source. Please indicate below ALL water sources you use for your aquaponic system, and answer the corresponding questions.

Do you use Municipal water?

Do you use well water?

Do you use rainwater?

Do you use surface water?

If you use a water source that is not named here, please elaborate.

## Water Quality: Nutrients, pH, solids

How do you ensure a good match between stocking density and crop production?

**Please describe how you design and operate your system to provide biofiltration that corresponds to production of fish waste and crops.**

**Do you ever add supplemental nutrients? If so, what materials or products have you used? For each input, list the product name, manufacturer, and OMRI status. How much of these do you use? How frequently?**

**Do you use worms in your system?**

**What materials do you use to buffer pH?**

**What methods do you use to prevent the build up of waste solids in your system?**

**How often do you monitor pH?**

**How often do you monitor temperature?**

**How often do you monitor dissolved oxygen?**

**How often do you monitor ammonia?**

**How often do you monitor nitrites?**

**How often do you monitor nitrates?**

**Use this space if you'd like to share additional information about your water quality and monitoring practices.**

### **Seeds, Transplants, and Crop Health**

**Do you grow some or all of your own transplants?**

**Do you purchase some or all of your transplants?**

**Describe your primary insect pest challenges AND methods of prevention and control.**

**Describe your primary plant disease challenges AND methods of prevention and control.**

**CNG certification requires the use of certified organic or CNG seeds whenever available. Please indicate the suppliers from which you source - or will source - your seeds if your application is accepted and you continue the certification process.**

**Please indicate, by typing your initials, that you understand that CNG strictly prohibits the use of chemically treated or GMO seeds.**

**Please indicate, by typing your initials, that you will as a general rule purchase organically grown seeds, AND that you will only purchase conventional seed when the variety you wish to grow is not available in certified organic or CNG form. For each variety purchased in conventional form, you will identify (and keep records of) at least three commercial organic seed suppliers who do not carry that variety.**

## **Fish Management**

We do not offer certification for fish, but do set some limited standards for fish management where they might affect the produce and or quality of life for the fish.

**Does hormonal sex reversal treatment ever occur on-line / within the recirculating system?**

**Please describe the practices you use to prevent and treat fish disease.**

**Have you ever found it necessary to use antibiotics?**

**Please describe what kind of fish feed you use. Is it organically grown?**

**Do you use black soldier fly larvae or duckweed as supplemental feed?**

**Do you use any supplemental feed other than BSF larvae or duckweed? If so, describe it here, and indicate how you protect against contamination of your system.**

## Protecting Against Contamination

Is your operation partially or entirely indoors?

Do you share space (including fish tank, seedling starting, or plant production space) with other producers?

Is your operation partially or entirely OUTdoors?

## Waste & Energy

These questions will not determine certification status, but are intended to encourage producers to review our recommendations in these areas and to give credit to producers who have made investments in the sustainability of their operation.

How do you dispose of fish solid wastes?

When necessary during system change over, how do you dispose of nutrient-rich water?

What measures have you taken to conserve energy, improve energy efficiency, and/or use energy from renewable sources?

## Inspections & Networks

A core requirement of CNG certification is the on-site peer-review. Getting this completed is facilitated if you're a part of a network of aquaponics producers who might serve as your inspector. Are you a part of a network (informal or formal) of aquaponic producers in your geographic area?

Who do you have in mind to ask to conduct your inspection?

What qualifications do they have to conduct an inspection of an aquaponic operation?

## Agreements

Please indicate your agreement with the following statements by typing your initials into each corresponding text box.

I understand that only the produce, NOT the fish, can be labeled and sold as Certified Naturally Grown.

I will not label, or in any way lead consumers to believe that produce not raised in accord with CNG

**standards is Certified Naturally Grown.**

**I understand that I have to complete at least one inspection of another CNG aquaponic producer in my area each year, if there is one within a one hour drive.**

**I understand and will abide by the trading and repeat rules within the CNG Aquaponics Inspection Guidelines.**

**I have reviewed the Certified Naturally Grown aquaponic certification standards, I understand them, and I will abide by them. I understand that if I have any questions I may contact CNG for clarification.**

**You may use this space to tell us anything else you think we should know about your operation.**