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## Certified Naturally Grown

Posted by [Joseph Martinez](#)

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[Joseph Martinez](#)

[Certified Naturally Grown](#)

February 20, 2023 10:04PM

Registered: 9 months ago

Posts: 3

Brittany Kordick asked me to share my experience with the Certified Naturally Grown (CNG) organization.

I've been a member of CNG since 2016. In my opinion, this organization is mainly focused on certifying small growers who follow OMRI standards and regenerative practices. Following their guidelines was easy because my orchard practices were already better-than-organic.

For me, there are two main advantages of being a member of the Certified Naturally Grown organization.

The first is the peer-to-peer inspection program. An annual inspection of my orchards is required - conducted by a CNG member. And I'm required to conduct an inspection on a CNG farm in my area each year. I've met some interesting farmers through the program who have become friends. The mandatory face-to-face encounters with other CNG farmers have been fruitful and inspiring.

Second, I sell apple cider vinegar to a couple of wholesalers who require an organic certification, or an equivalent certification. Fortunately, my wholesalers accept CNG as an equivalent to Organic Certification. CNG certification is much less expensive than Organic Certification.

Seeking and maintaining certifications can be a pain in the butt. I'm also certified as a 'Regenerative Farm' through the Robinia Institute which is affiliated with the Savory Institute. Although there is a financial cost, and it does take up some of my time, certifications have helped with marketing and sales.

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[Brittany Kordick](#)

[Re: Certified Naturally Grown](#)

February 21, 2023 08:19PM

Registered: 4 years ago

Posts: 211

Thanks so much, Joseph -- we're glad to hear how CNG is working for you, and are pleasantly surprised that this certification is being accepted as essentially equivalent to Certified Organic by your wholesalers. Our biggest concern was if we jumped through all the hoops and then found that it just confused people at best, so we ended up with some kind of meaningless certification for our efforts.

[Kordick Family Farm](#)

Westfield, NC

Zone 7a

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