

Julia Asherman

Our farm has been certified organic since 2015. We use and LOVE the paperpot system for transplanting certain crops-- a task that used to take our crew 2-4 people several hours now can be done by a single person in just 1-2 hours. This means that our labor costs have gone down, the physical work on our bodies is lower impact, and helps us be less dependent on the fluctuating labor availability (which for us in a very rural area is an issue.) Technologies like this help small organic farmers stay economically and emotionally viable, and we need to be allowed to utilize such efficiencies for organic standards themselves to be viable alternatives to conventional (or non-certified) farming practices. As a first generation, female owned and operated farm, using this system has been huge. We just had our first baby and being able to find ways of accomplishing big tasks with fewer people is imperative. We believe in keeping organic true to value, and we think this proposed rule does just that.