

## About our farming practices

At Weaver's Orchard, we grow our fruit with your health in mind! We limit the use of pesticides as much as possible through a variety of methods called Integrated Pest Management or IPM. This is a series of evaluations, decisions & controls for managing harmful insects and diseases. We don't spray on a schedule, like most conventional farms and even some organic farms. We monitor all of our crops intently, looking for signs of disease, mold and insect presence. When chemical control is needed, we always try to use low toxicity pesticides that are specifically targeted to one insect while being safe for beneficial insects. Organic farming uses many of the same concepts as an IPM program, however they are limited to using only organically approved chemicals.

Check out our website and blog for further information on this issue.

*An IPM program controls pests by:*

- Reducing habitat for pests by keeping the orchard clean and mowed
- Scouting & trapping to monitor harmful insects and determine if control is needed (as shown)



- Using pheromones that mimic the insects' pheromones to lure insects & disrupt mating
- Using low-toxicity pesticides that are safe for beneficial insects
- Creating habitats for beneficial and pollinating insects (as shown)

### *The Decision Process*

A decision to use pesticides is made when the population of a pest or spread of disease would become detrimental to a crop and there are no other effective practices available.

If pesticides are needed, we start with the smallest application needed and follow guidelines by Penn State and adhere to all label requirements to achieve safe, effective pest management.



### *Hours*

#### **May - October**

Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-7 p.m.

Saturday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

#### **November - April**

Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

Saturday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

### *Directions*

We are just 12 miles south of Reading and 5 miles north of the Morgantown interchange on the turnpike, a half mile off of route 10 on Weaver Rd.

GPS users enter 741 Weaver Rd.



40 Fruit Lane  
Morgantown, PA 19543

**610-856-7300**

*www.WeaversOrchard.com*



*Fresh, local food  
grown with your health in mind*



*Come Experience  
fresh food & family fun*



# Local. Fresh. Organic. Free-Range. Hormone-Free. But what does it all mean?

## Local & Fresh

We are committed to selling you high quality, local foods from our own farm and other Pennsylvania farms whenever possible.

Several items can be grown locally all winter, such as mushrooms, butter head lettuce, pea shoots and greenhouse tomatoes. We also have local potatoes and our own apples throughout most of the winter.



Our produce experts work year-round to keep our shelves stocked with high quality products. We always strive to sell products from other farms that share our values and limit the use of pesticides. When products aren't available locally, we import only the highest quality products from around the world.

All of the meat and dairy products we carry come from local farms so that we can offer the freshest possible product. Knowing these local farmers, their farming practices and philosophy is essential. We asked these farmers a series of questions about their farming practices and shared the results in the following columns.

## Organic

Organic farming is a philosophy that only uses organically approved pesticides or chemicals and allows animals access to pasture. The farms we work with follow many of these practices. However, due to organic certification being expensive and difficult to maintain, many local farms are not certified organic. All of these local farms are part of the "Sustainable Agriculture," movement, which incorporates organic practices in small-scale farms.



## Ethically Raised Animals

Animals that are raised ethically are always treated with dignity, given room to move freely and never inflicted with any unnecessary pain or fear.

## Free-Range, Cage-Free, Pastured/Grass-Fed

Pastured animals are regularly allowed outside and are turned out to "pasture," or to graze on the lush grass. Cage-free animals are also allowed outdoors for frequent exercise, but are usually fed inside.

## Minimally Processed

Minimally processed products are very close to the way nature intended, with few added ingredients, preservatives, fillers or artificial flavors.

## Artificial Growth Hormone & Antibiotic Free

Artificial hormones refer to synthetic hormones given to animals to increase their milk production or speed up their growth. Antibiotics are administered when animals are unhealthy, so naturally, free-range animals rarely need antibiotics.



## Preservative & MSG-Free

Preservatives and nitrates are sometimes added to cheeses or cured meats to help extend its shelf-life. MSG is an additive to enhance flavor. Much research has been done with conflicting results on whether these items have adverse health effects.

## Processed On-Farm

Most dairy products can be processed on the farm to ensure freshness. Meats are often sent to local, trusted processors to be butchered due to many facility requirements and government regulations.

## Fresh & Local Meat & Dairy Products Available at Weaver's Orchard

Product:	Pork	Beef	Turkey	Chicken	Cheese	Milk & Eggs	Yogurt
Farm:	Country Time Farm	Lone Star Farm	Howe Turkey Farm	Valley View Farm	September Farm	Kreider Dairy	Pequea Valley Farm
City:	Hamburg	Gap	Downingtown	Northampton	Honey Brook	Manheim	Ronks
Ethically raised animals	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cage-free	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pastured/grass-fed	✓	✓		✓			✓
Diet also includes local hay or grains	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Artificial growth hormone- free	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Antibiotic-free	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Preservative-free	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
MSG-free	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
No artificial ingredients	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Minimally processed	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Processed on the farm			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓