CULTIVATING CHANGE THROUGH ORGANIC AGRICULTURE, EDUCATION, AND MENTORSHIP

For Ash-Lee, founder of Those Who Sow Farms, becoming USDA Organic Certified was more than a professional accomplishment. It was a commitment to growing food with integrity, caring for the land, and creating opportunities for other farmers to succeed in organic agriculture.

This year has been full of milestones for Ash-Lee and her Georgia-based farm. Following certification through CCOF, Those Who Sow Farms celebrated its first fall harvest as a certified organic producer, expanded growing space, and entered the Atlanta market to help meet increasing demand for locally grown organic food.





The farm continues to diversify its offerings beyond fresh produce, providing fruits, saffron, organic starter plants for home gardeners, and natural fertilizers produced from farm-raised rabbits and ducks. These additions reflect Ash-Lee's commitment to sustainable, closed-loop agricultural systems that prioritize soil health and environmental stewardship.

"Becoming certified organic has been one of the most meaningful decisions I've made as a farmer. Honestly, I believe it was one of the most responsible things I could do for the earth, my fellow farmers, and the consumers who trust us to grow their food with integrity."

While certification marked an important personal achievement, one of the most rewarding outcomes has been the opportunity to help others. Today, Ash-Lee is mentoring four farmers as they navigate the transition to organic production. From assisting with Organic System Plans and compost development to sharing no-till practices and hands-on field experience, she is helping make organic certification more accessible for the next generation of producers.

Ash-Lee credits much of her success to the support she received throughout her certification journey, particularly from De'Anthony Price of Rodale Institute and her mentor, Lefern Joseph. Their guidance, encouragement, and willingness to share knowledge helped transform what once seemed like an overwhelming process into an achievable goal.



Beyond the farm, education and community engagement remain central to Ash-Lee's mission. Recently, she spoke with one of De'Anthony Price's classes about sustainable farming and closed-loop agricultural systems, sharing lessons learned from her own organic farming journey.

As a member of SAAFON, Georgia Organics, the National Women in Agriculture Association, and the Organic Farmers Association, Ash-Lee remains actively involved in networks that support sustainable agriculture and strengthen local food systems.

Through organic production, mentorship, education, and community leadership, Ash-Lee and Those Who Sow Farms are demonstrating how one farmer's journey can create lasting impact far beyond the farm gate, inspiring others to pursue organic certification and build stronger agricultural communities.