

FROM FARM TO TABLE

Farm Stories

Googa Farms



Could you tell us a bit about yourself and your organic farm?

My name is Anthony Beutel and I run Googa Farms, a 200 hectare farm just outside of Blackbutt, 150 kilometres north-west of Brisbane.

What do you do?

The farm consists of 7,000 bearing avocado trees, with the rest of the farm being used for broad-acre and vegetable farming.

We produce around 50,000 trays of avocados every year, which is a lot of avocados! Other produce we have grown over the years has included snow peas, soybeans, peanuts, cereal crops, corn, zucchinis, beans, potatoes and chokos.



Tell us a bit about the processes you use to farm organically.

Our farm is located on rich red basalt soil up to 20 metres deep, making it perfect for farming. Our farm was converted to organic 8 years ago. Using organic farming techniques, we work with nature to achieve maximum nutrition in the soil, which naturally protects the plants from pests and disease. With conventional farming, you are working against nature, thus creating more work and problems in the long run.

Herbicides and pesticides hinder the plants' growth, and then fertiliser is needed to help the plant to grow again. These chemicals are poisonous to the soil and our health, and an added expense to production.

Describe a problem that you have had to face or tackle.

Organic farming can be more labour intensive and expensive in the beginning, especially controlling pests and weeds, though the effort is well worth it in the long run.

Do you have an interesting fact or story to share?

The organic avocados produced at Googa Farms are a testament that using mulch and organic farming practices give superior results. The soil is healthier and the trees are expected to last up to 30 years, a third longer than many conventionally grown trees.

What is the best part about your job?

Organic farming is common sense. Farming organically is healthy for us, our employees, consumers and the soil, which makes us feel good about what we are doing!