

PC1 Block 3

Commercial Vegetable Production

Thursday 15th August 2019

Introduction

Thank you for once again taking the time to see us. My name is Kylie Faulkner and I am the President of the Pukekohe Vegetable Growers Association (or the PVGA as it is often referred to).

Today a number of growers have come together to try and paint you a picture of the realities of Commercial Vegetable Production.

What we have done is split our presentation into subjects.

One grower will present on each topic and then what we would like to do is stop and give you the Commissioners a chance to ask us any questions on this topic. The topics we will cover today:

NZGAP – presented by me, Kylie Faulkner from PVGA and Sutherland Produce

Land – presented by Brent Wilcox from AS Wilcox

Nutrient Management – presented by Bharat Jivan from Jivan Produce

Good Management Practice and Farm Environment Plans – presented by Brendan Balle from Balle Bros

Land Process – presented by Peter Reynolds from TA Reynolds

Education, Innovation and Research – presented by Grant Ryan from Ryan Seeds

The People, the Passion and Feeding NZ – presented by me, Kylie Faulkner from PVGA and Sutherland Produce

We are also supported today by the following:

Mike Parker – Parker Gardens

Michelle Sands and Andrew Bristol - Hort NZ

Kiran Hari, RC Hari

Kelly Diehl – Environmental Services

Vijay Bhana – Bhana Farms

Does that plan sound okay with you?

I am here today representing the PVGA and it's 250+ members.

Our association is considered quite large and stretches from Warkworth in the North to the Southern Waikato. The majority of our members are inter-generational growers – 3 to 4 generations of families passing on their passion, knowledge and pride in growing food from the land.

We have an active executive committee of around 20 growers who are all volunteers. Our focus as a group is an ever-changing landscape but currently it is on sustainability, the environment and compliance.

What does the PVGA want from this process?

We want to see practical, cost effective land management systems developed for our members. We want a streamlined approach

We all have the same goal – to still be farming off our land in 100 years' time, to still be providing New Zealanders with fresh and healthy food at a reasonable price.

Continuous improvement to our growing is something we take very seriously.

We are supported in our roles at the PVGA by Horticulture New Zealand and our representative product groups.

Horticulture New Zealand (HortNZ) is an industry association representing New Zealand's 5,000 commercial fruit and vegetable growers.

HortNZ is funded by growers via a levy on sales, is governed by a board of eight, all of whom are growers and operates with a staff of 26 based in New Zealand's capital, Wellington.

I would now like to talk to you on the topic NZGAP.