

## **OGA Organic Farming Workshop arrives in Maleny, Friday 7<sup>th</sup> May**

The benefits and processes of gaining organic certification for small-scale producers will be made refreshingly clear at an organic certification workshop to be held in Maleny on May 7, 2010.

The day will be hosted by the Organic Growers of Australia, (OGA) a wholly-owned subsidiary of the not-for-profit group Biological Farmers of Australia (BFA), and Australia's first certification program that specifically caters for the needs of small-scale organic producers. The workshop will include the latest information on organic certification, organic growing practices and the market for organic produce.

The event is also an excellent opportunity for those who want to make key contacts and network with industry members, as well as those who would like a better understanding of organic certification and its beneficial impact on the consumers and the environment.

As well as an address given by Doug Haas, BFA and OGA Chairman, the workshop will include a guided organic farm walk at the O'Connor's property, offering a first-hand opportunity to observe the operation of a successful small organic farm as a link in the entire organic supply chain.

Gavin O'Connor says, embarking on a long process of trial-and-error to find "what worked" was the only way forward to achieving organic certification.

"We were essentially transforming a degraded, weed-infested property into something workable."

The process has delivered some remarkable results and the O'Connors are now an established point of reference for others seeking organic advice in the region.

This is a **FREE** event for those interested in the process of becoming certified organic.

**Light refreshments will be provided throughout the day.**

**When:** Friday May 7, 2010, 8:30am – 1pm

**RSVP:** Thursday 6th May 2010

**Where:** Terry, Jenny and Gavin O'Connor's Organic Farm, 27 Hilltop Crescent, Maleny

**Contact;** ph: 1300 331 309 ext 232 fax: 07 3350 5996 email: [events@bfa.com.au](mailto:events@bfa.com.au) or [www.bfa.com.au](http://www.bfa.com.au) for a booking form

### **Key Speaker**

Doug Haas, BFA and OGA Chairman BFA Chairman Doug Haas owns and operates a commercial vegetable farm, trading as Red Country Produce, North of Yeppoon, near Rockhampton. The property has produced a variety of certified organic produce including cucurbits, tomatoes, capsicums, eggplants, beans and hay.

Mr Haas first became involved in the BFA in 1992 and was asked to become a member of the BFA Board in June 1996. In 1997, he was appointed Chairman of the BFA Board, a position he has continued to hold ever since. During this time the BFA has experienced some of the most strategically important changes in its history. In 2009, in addition to his role as BFA Chair, Mr Haas accepted the responsibility of OGA Chairman, expressing that he is passionate about continuing the success of the OGA Small Producers' program.

BFA subsidiary company **Australian Certified Organic** is recent winner of the CHOICE Award for Best Food Endorsement Program 2010. The **Organic Growers of Australia Small Producers Program** was shortlisted for the same award.

**Ends**

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