

Australia's horticulture sector backs Fair Farms

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Since its launch in June 2019, more than 100 growers and other horticulture businesses from across Australia have joined the industry-developed Fair Farms Training and Certification Program demonstrating industry's commitment to stamping out workplace non-compliance and worker exploitation.

Fair Farms Program Manager, Thomas Hertel said Growcom was rolling out Fair Farms on behalf of industry in a bid to show who is doing the right thing and use market forces to drive out unethical and unlawful employment practices.

"We're excited about the strong take-up so far and congratulate our participating growers and other supply chain members for showing industry leadership on this important issue," Mr Hertel said.

"Of the businesses registered to date, over 60% have already completed the self-assessment against the Fair Farms Standard to identify areas for improvement.

"Fair Farms aims to have a critical mass of ethical suppliers certified against the Fair Farms Standard, so wholesalers and retailers can make the switch and start sourcing their fresh produce only from verified ethical businesses.

"Australian grown, Fair Farms certified, all the way to the grower level, is what we're working towards. When retailers and the consumer buy into that and reward ethical compliance, we expect to see real positive impact on the treatment of workers on farms."

Fair Farms is working closely with key stakeholders from across the supply chain including growers, wholesalers, participating retailers, trade unions, and industry-bodies AUSVEG and the National Farmers' Federation to ensure the successful roll-out.

"We thank Woolworths and ALDI for getting behind this industry-led initiative and are hoping to see other Australian retailers and the larger wholesalers join us soon." Mr Hertel added.

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Fair Farms is regularly publishing technical articles around key elements of the Fair Farms Standard that underpins the Fair Farms Training and Certification program.

Articles have covered topics such as:

- Providing accommodation to workers
- Managing worker fatigue
- Developing emergency procedures, and
- Effective inductions

These and many more can be found in the 'News & Resources' section of the Fair Farms website: www.fairfarms.com.au/news-resources

To find out more about how to get Fair Farms certified visit www.fairfarms.com.au or email us at fairfarms@growcom.com.au



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