



MEDIA RELEASE

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Increase in organic beef applications

Australian Certified Organic has recorded a 25 per cent increase in applications for organic certification from beef producers.

The certifier says it has received 60 requests from beef operations in the last two years.

Australian Certified Organic's Chief Certification Officer Michael Baker says, "Livestock applications are coming from western Queensland, western New South Wales, South Australia, Western Australia and the Northern Territory."

Andrew Walker from Moonbong Partnership, a third generation family beef operation based at Tambo in Central West Queensland, applied for organic certification in November 2012.

"We don't use buffalo fly spray and or hardly any other chemicals for that matter when we finish the bullocks, so we thought we might as well be finishing them with organic status," Andrew says.

"We decided to become organically certified because the returns are much more significant. We can expect to get 55 cents more per kilo for a two tooth bullock weighing 300-340 kilograms, from \$3.55 that we currently receive to \$4.10 with organic status."

The CEO of Arcadian Organic & Natural Meat Company, Alister Ferguson, says more beef producers are getting organic certification because of the increased profit margin and demand for this product.

"Eight years ago when we opened our doors, we started with 66 head of cattle a fortnight. Earlier this year we were at 1000 a week," says Alister.

"The reason is that producers can see a 40 per cent premium in it for them. They can also see huge markets, like the US, demanding organic beef with these orders still struggling to be filled. Our programs are currently growing by 20 per cent each year. The great unknown is China, which is just starting to come on board."

If you are interested in applying for organic certification go to austorganic.com for more information or call Australian Certified Organic 07 3350 5716.

Media: Kathy Cogo, Australian Organic, kathy.cogo@austorganic.com, 07 4771 3714 | 0466 015 183

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