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Mark Levick

I was born in the Waikato, living on a small dairy farm as a child, and later had experience as a “hands on” farmer and grower on my own lifestyle block, whilst working locally as an agricultural contractor. I achieved some tertiary training in sustainable land management, the Resource Management Act, and had specialist studies in soils, and soils management, and land use capability mapping.

Since attending University and specialising in Soil Science I have become increasingly involved in the management of natural resources – particularly sustainable land management.

I have for the last eight years worked for and by myself as a sustainable farm management advisor to small and large farmers.

My work includes advice to farmers and companies regarding meeting any legislative requirements (for example land & water use rights); the on-going training of their staff (OSH); and assistance with their long term planning for the sustainable (particularly soils, water, erosion management / tree planting) management of their properties.

I also provide internal audits for, and the maintenance of, and the ongoing improvement to NZFSA approved Food Safety Programmes.

Previously I have been a Regional Manager of AgriQuality New Zealand (AgriQuality Ltd. is a State Owned Enterprise that has assumed some of the responsibilities of the New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture (MPI), the original Certification Manager for BIO-GRO New Zealand (New Zealand’s original International Organic Certifier) for 15 years, Manager of Sustainable Land Management Systems and Procedures - and Occupational Health and Safety Manager at a major Hawkes Bay Orchard Co., Director ISO Quality Control / International Standards and Compliance in the USA; and I have worked in the EU as an organic farming auditor.

I have also worked as a tutor for a variety of educational institutions - HB Community College, Taranaki Polytech, and Manawatu Polytech. I have worked as a coach with Hawke’s Bay fruit producers to assist them with the achievement of EUREPGAP certification, as a voluntary Adult Reading and Learning (ARLA) educator from my home, and as a hands on farmer / agricultural contractor.

I helped to develop the Organic Crop Production course – as a technical specialist for The Open Polytechnic of New Zealand (Correspondence School). I have been an out marker for, and was also involved the detailed revision of course content and the development of course material for all elements of the revised course and the New Zealand Unit Standard 3023.

I have also facilitated advisory work in the Pacific Islands group (Western Samoa, Tonga and Fiji), regarding sustainable tropical production.

Today I work from home, which is our 4 ha. organic lifestyle block, currently being extensively planted as an example of small scale sustainable production.