

Hearthstone

Where ancient knowledge thrives

Organic / Regenerative Food Producer Criteria

1. **Selling food product commercially with a NZ food certificate (exempting food businesses that do not require NP1 by MPI frameworks)**
2. **Business located within the Waikato Region**
3. **Production criteria**

For primary producers

- a. A product must be produced without the use of synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, insecticides, antibiotics, growth hormones, food additives, and synthetic chemicals, GMO's and irradiation. Information must be supplied to confirm practices and how this is achieved. Note: If a producer is certified as Organic this requirement is met and organic certification is sufficient.
- b. Information must be supplied to display a focus on soil health (as the basis for nutrient dense food) and an outline with examples given to show how this is achieved. For example:
 - i. A full list of inputs used in food operation - including biologicals (required).
 - ii. Methods to minimise impact on or support the soil food web and microbial life.
 - iii. Rotational tracking systems to avoid nutrient depletion or support soil health.
 - iv. Growing practices adopted that support soil health i.e. permaculture, bio-intensive.
 - v. Soil testing or observational tracking that focuses on diversity, balanced ecological systems and soil health.
 - vi. Other supportive information or systems in place to support soil health.

For secondary producers

- a. All ingredients used must meet the production criteria above in clause 3a and 3b.

Applications are assessed on a case-by-case basis and may be subject to requests for more information.