

Feature Farmer

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Waimanalo, Oahu, HI

Area under Production Currently & How long have they been farming?

Answer: Total of 10-acres, plowable is 7-acres, currently in production 3-acres.

Number of Years in Production?

Answer: Since 1980 as paid farmers, but started after returning from Vietnam in 1967.

Crops grown, Animals raise, Other goods & Services.

Answer: For longtime crops were vegetables, lettuce, Chinese Spinach, and sweet corn pest pressure and market preference changed. **Currently,** Radish and Banana.

Number of Employees and/or Family Members Involved in the Operation?

Answer: Total 4 family members.

What is your production system and fertility management?

Answer: Sprinkler irrigation that was installed by late-father and still functioning till now. For fertility, various fertilizers were used over time, animal manure, tankage, cover cropping, and currently synthetic fertilizers.

Pest management Practices?

Answer: Both organic and synthetic. Often use BT in rotation with other products.

What is your process in complying with Food Safety Regulations?

Have adopted most of what was recommended in the food safety training to comply with FSMA requirements. Also, buyers require it.

What are your strategies for controlling costs?

Answer: Labor is the most cost and for having family members working together has been helping a lot. Pest management is the 2nd highest cost in production. Property tax designated as ag-land helps too.

Places you sell your products?

Answer: Wholesale and direct.

How do you promote and keep up with market trends?

Answer: Having a wholesale outlet been very helpful and eliminated the need for promoting the produce. Also, farmers market.

What does the future hold for your farm?

Answer: Currently, unknown. The new generation family members are not interested in farming.

What advice would you give to other aspiring farmers?

Answer:

- 1) Commitment to a full-time farming in order to exceed at it and make difference for yourself and the community.
- 2) Being part of an Ag-related organization (i.e. HFB) for a collective voice to advocate for farmers.