


USDA
Agricultural Marketing Service
Fruit and Vegetable Programs

Good Agricultural Practices & Good Handling Practices Audit Verification Program

Great Plains Vegetable Growers Conference
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What is the USDA GAP & GHP Audit Program?

- Established at industry request
 - Retailers began requiring suppliers to meet FDA's GAP & GHP, and Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP). Suppliers requested USDA to develop an audit program
- Voluntary, competitively priced user fee
- Verifies participant's efforts to minimize microbial hazards in fresh fruits and vegetables



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USDA SUPPLY CHAIN VERIFICATION PROGRAM

Commodity Specific Audit Programs

- CA Tomato Farmers Cooperative
- American Mushroom Institute
- CA Leafy Green Products Handler Marketing Agreement and similar program in Arizona



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GAP & GHP Program

- Effective July 2007, GAP & GHP are a requirement for all fresh fruit and vegetable purchases by the USDA AMS Commodity Procurement Branch

USDA
United States Department of Agriculture
Food and Nutrition Service



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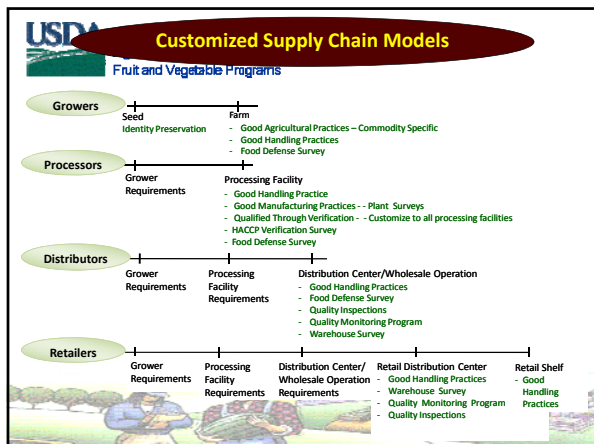
USDA SUPPLY CHAIN VERIFICATION PROGRAM

- Program covers entire production chain "farm to fork".
- Food Defense System Survey.









USDA SUPPLY CHAIN VERIFICATION PROGRAM

Good Agricultural Practices & Good Handling Practices Verification Audit

Based on established scientific principles & Food Drug Administration's guidance document

GAP & GHP Audit Program

- USDA works closely with:
 - Other USDA Programs such as the Agricultural Research Service
 - Academia; specifically the National GAPs Program <http://www.gaps.cornell.edu>
 - AFVISA
 - Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO)

Additional FDA Guidance Documents

- Fresh Cut Fruits & Vegetables
- Lettuce & Leafy Greens
- Melons
- Fresh Tomatoes

- To obtain copies of FDA guidance documents: <http://www.fda.gov>

USDA SUPPLY CHAIN VERIFICATION PROGRAM

Good Agricultural Practices

- Farm Review
- Field Harvest
- Field Packing Activities
- Traceback

USDA SUPPLY CHAIN VERIFICATION PROGRAM

Good Handling Practices

- House Packing Facility
- Storage & Transportation
- Traceback

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GAP&GHP

Traceback

track product throughout the supply chain

- Date of harvest
- Farm identification
- Who handled the product





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Industry Produce Traceability Initiative

Representatives of a broad cross section of the produce supply chain

- Agreed to use Global Trade Item Number (GTIN)
- Goal is to achieve traceability at the case-level by 2012



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USDA SUPPLY CHAIN VERIFICATION PROGRAM

Food Defense System Survey

utilizes Food and Drug Administration's guidance document




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Food Defense Training

EMPLOYEES are the FIRST LINE OF FOOD DEFENSE


www.cfsan.fda.gov/fooddefense



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Audit Scopes



- General Questions, Documented Program, Hygiene, Traceback
- Good Agricultural Practices (GAPS)
 - Farming Operations – Part 1
 - Harvesting Operations – Part 2
- Good Handling Practices (GHPS)
 - Packinghouse Operations – Part 3
 - Storage & Transportation – Part 4
 - Warehousing at Destination (Includes Repacking) – Parts 6 & 6A
 - Food Defense of Facilities (Part 7)



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Auditee Prerequisites


- Must have implemented a food safety program (Question G-1).
- Must have a designated person(s) to oversee implementation of program (Question G-2).

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Passing Score

- Must achieve a minimum passing score of 80% in order to “pass” the audit.
- Five automatic unsatisfactory “catch-alls”
 - Immediate food safety risk is present when product is grown, processed, packed, or held under conditions that promote or cause the product to become contaminated
 - Presence or evidence of rodents, excessive amount of insects or other pests in the produce during packing, processing, or storage




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Passing Score

Automatic Unsatisfactory Cont'd


- Observation of employee practices that jeopardize or may jeopardize the safety of the produce
- Falsification of records
- Answering General Questions 1 or 2 “no”



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FY 09 Requirements

- Effective October 1, 2007 an unannounced audit policy was implemented to verify continued conformance to GAPs.
 - 1 announced yearly audit as close to beginning of season as practical.
 - At least 1 unannounced audit performed sometime during the remainder of 12 month cycle.



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FY 09 Program Requirements


- Agreement between auditee and USDA
 - Allows for unannounced audits
 - Outlines expectations for each party
 - Must be signed before audits can commence



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FY 09 Program Requirements

- Corrective Actions
 - Any audit that does not meet minimum score or has an automatic unsatisfactory must file corrective action report before being re-audited.
 - Short term
 - Root cause




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Website



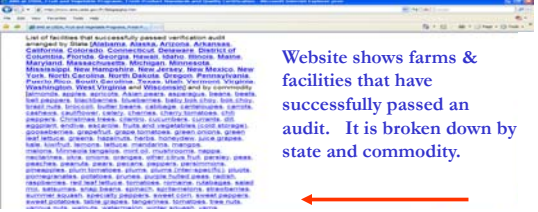
Website has general information, updates to the program, & most current checklist listed...

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/gapghp>



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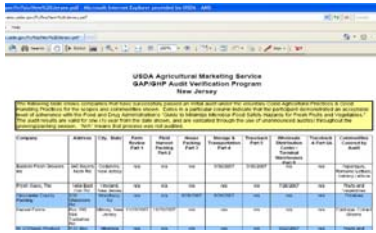


List of facilities that successfully passed verification audit arranged by state: Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia and Wisconsin and by commodity: Apples, Apricots, Avocados, Beans, Berries, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Cucumbers, Eggplant, Green Beans, Green Peas, Green Onions, Grapes, Honeydew Melons, Jicama, Kiwis, Lemons, Lettuce, Limes, Mangoes, Melons, Nectarines, Peaches, Peas, Peppers, Pineapples, Potatoes, Raspberries, Rhubarb, Snap Beans, Squash, Strawberries, Sweet Corn, Sweet Potatoes, Tomatoes, Watermelons, and other commodities.

Website shows farms & facilities that have successfully passed an audit. It is broken down by state and commodity.

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Website




Downloadable .pdf files for each commodity/state showing individual farm/facilities and the scopes they were audited to.

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Website Posting

- Policy effective October 1, 2007- Auditee must pass all scopes requested in order to be posted to USDA website.



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Audits



- Audits are performed by Federal and/or Federal – State Cooperators from the inspection offices throughout the country.
- Over 250 auditors available throughout the country.



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Auditors


- Selection Criteria
 - Education, experience, skills and attributes
 - Real-world agricultural marketing expertise
 - Must be USDA licensed fruit and vegetable inspectors




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Auditors (Continued)

- Training
 - Established curriculum ensures integrity and nationwide uniformity
 - Training based on leading-edge food safety related audit methods and procedures, including...
 - HACCP
 - Better Process Control
 - Facility Sanitation
 - GAP/GHP/GMP
 - Food Defense



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AMS & FPB Auditor Credentials

- 36 months post-high school experience in an agriculturally related field
- ISO 19011:2002 approved course
- Specific training in GAP & GHP program
- Minimum of 3 evaluation audits
 - 2 as Lead Auditor
- 12 months as a USDA F&V Inspector



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Requesting an Audit

Contact your local inspection office

- www.ams.usda.gov/fv
- Kansas City, MO 816-453-4926



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Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

USDA provides assistance to state departments of agriculture to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops.

Applications must be postmarked not later than March 5, 2009.



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Thank you!

Questions?

www.ams.usda.gov/fv

