

USDA Agricultural Marketing Service
Fruit and Vegetable Programs

Good Agricultural Practices & Good Handling Practices Audit Verification Program 2010 Update

GREAT PLAINS GROWERS CONFERENCE


January 8, 2011



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GAP&GHP Program Update

- Audit services continue to grow
 - USDA GAP&GHP Audits Performed
 - FY 2010- 2137 audits performed
 - Increase of 502 audits over FY 09 (24% increase)
 - Audits performed in 45 states, Quebec, CN and Colima, MX



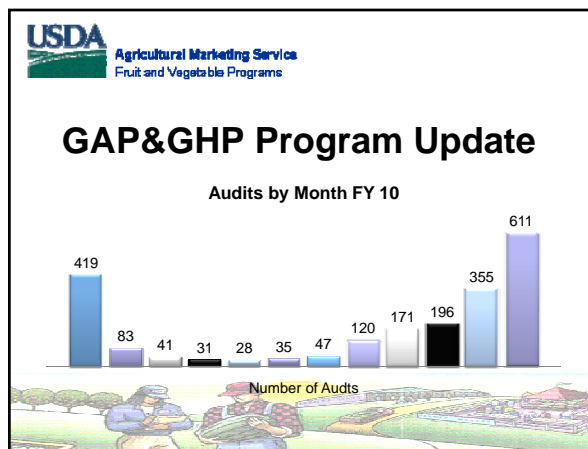
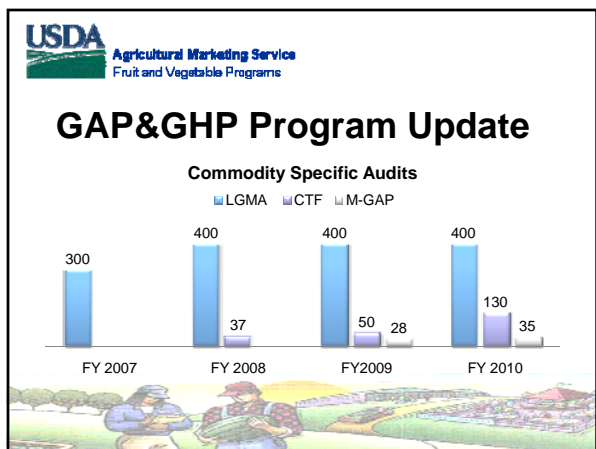
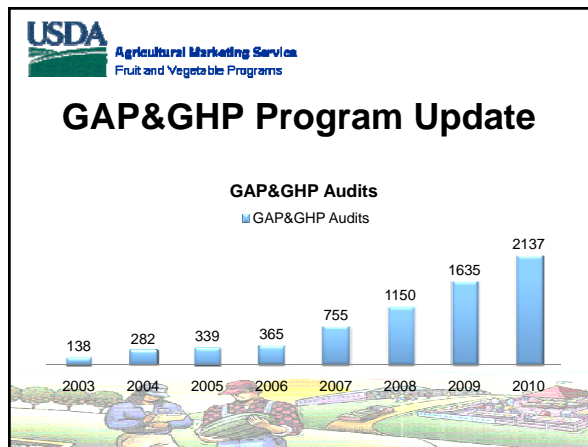
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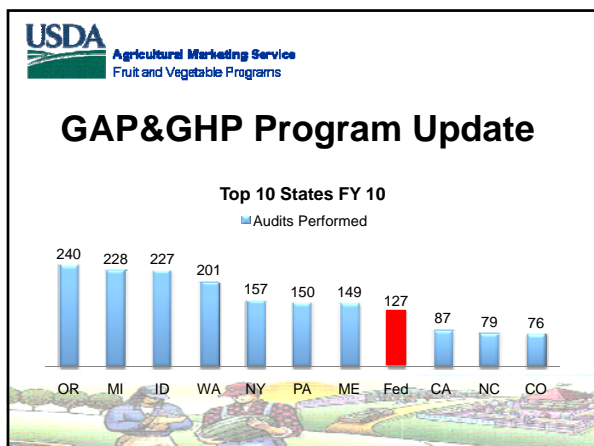
GAP&GHP Program Update

- Commodity Specific Audits
 - Mushroom GAP
 - Tomato Audits
 - CA&AZ LGMA









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- Staffing
 - In order to meet current and future demand for audit services, Branch added 3 positions to the audit staff.
 - Audit Program Coordinator (Jennifer Dougherty)
 - 2 Lead Ag Commodity Grader/Auditors
 - Alan Novakowski
 - Joe Sirchia

USDA
GAP & GHP
AUDIT PROGRAM
FRUIT & VEGETABLE PROGRAMS

USDA
IDENTITY
PRESERVATION
FRUIT & VEGETABLE PROGRAMS

Logo Use

OMB recently approved Information Collection Packet which allows auditees to utilize logo for Branch's audit based programs.

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- USDA**
GAP & GHP
AUDIT PROGRAM
FRUIT & VEGETABLE PROGRAMS
- Logo Requirements**
- Must sign a commitment statement.
 - Logo use must be addressed in manual and SOP's.
 - Must have attained program status for all scopes.
 - Must have an active traceability and recall program.
 - Logos used must be accountable.
 - Logos may only be used on clean bright containers w/o evidence of prior use.

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GAP&GHP Program Update

Current Projects

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- USDA**
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- Pilot Projects**
- Conducting 3 Pilot Projects to determine alternative solutions for small farming operations to obtain GAP certification.
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Pilot Projects



- Pilot Project 1- Utilizes traditional model of 1 farm to 1 audit. However, adds a training component to assist small producers in the development of their food safety plan and understand requirements of USDA GAP&GHP audit program.
 - 30 Iowa producers participated in this Pilot.




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Pilot Projects

- Pilot Project 2- Group certification. This Pilot allows a group of growers working under a common “umbrella” to become GAP certified.
 - 20 Amish/Mennonite Growers in Kansas City, MO area participating in this project working with Good Natured Family Farms

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Pilot Projects

- Pilot 3- Licensing Organic Certification Body to perform USDA GAP&GAP audits. Allows certification body to perform organic certification and GAP certification at same time, thus reducing costs to grower.




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Produce Safety Alliance

- Public-Private partnership founded by FDA, USDA-AMS and Cornell University
- Cornell University National GAPs Program will manage PSA, other organizations will join and participate on steering committee
- Provides produce industry with on-farm food safety knowledge and information bank of scientific and technical information



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GAPs Harmonization Initiative

- Industry led initiative to develop one “harmonized”GAP standard
 - Reduce the duplicative audits currently in use
 - Reduce costs
- FPB asked to participate in Initiative
 - Over past year participated in Technical Working Group Meetings held across the country




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GAPs Harmonization Initiative


- October 2010- Final Draft of Harmonized Standard and audit checklist released.
- Winter 2010/Spring 2011- FPB participating in Pilot audit to “shakedown” audit.




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United Fresh Website

- http://www.unitedfresh.org/newsviews/gap_harmonization



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Proposed National LGMA


- Spring 2009- USDA received formal request to implement National Leafy Greens Marketing Agreement
- Fall/Winter 2009- Public Hearings held to determine support for implementation of NLGMA



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Proposed National LGMA


- AMS Leafy Greens Working Group- currently reviewing hearing testimony and drafting Recommended Decision for Secretary's approval
- Anticipate late winter announcement on USDA's intention on whether to move forward or not



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Tomato Audit Protocol


- Over past 4 years, tomato industry has been developing the *Commodity Specific Guidelines for the Fresh Tomato Supply Chain*.
 - FPB has participated in this effort



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Tomato Audit Protocol

- Spring 2010- final version released and training offered to auditors by Tomato Working Group
- Summer 2010- California Tomato Farmers Cooperative utilized Tomato Audit Protocol in their USDA audit program
- 2011- Industry expecting widespread adoption of Tomato Audit Protocol



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United Fresh Website

- http://www.unitedfresh.org/newsviews/food_safety_resource_center/fresh_tomato_supply_chain



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FDA Food Safety Law

- —Allow the FDA to order a recall of tainted food. Currently it can only negotiate with businesses for voluntary recalls.
- —Require the agency to develop new safety regulations for producers of the highest-risk fruits and vegetables.
- —Increase inspections of domestic and foreign food facilities; the riskiest domestic facilities would be inspected every three years.
- —Require farms and processors to keep records to help the government trace recalled foods.



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- Traceability requires name and address on all packages or placard on bulk displays
- \$500,000 exemption to food safety regulations but not exempt to recall



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FY 2011 GAP Refresher Training


- This year's GAP refresher training will be a three day "Live Meeting" training class on one of three industry audit standards
 - Harmonized GAP Standard
 - Tomato Audit Protocol
 - LGMA



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FY 2011 GAP Refresher Training

- All licensed auditors need to take at least one of the 3 day classes
 - Audit staff will work with OICs and federal auditors to determine which class to take, based on need
 - i.e. 3 auditors in one office, each take a different standard so maximum coverage is achieved



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Questions?

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