

Update on AMS Food Safety Related Activities

Fruit and Vegetable Industry Advisory Committee
June 4, 2007

GAP & GHP Audit Verification Program

- July 1, 2007:
All fresh product vendors for USDA purchases required to pass a GAP&GHP and Food Defense audit within 10 days before first shipment

Processed Products Grading Service

- “Qualified Through Verification (QTV) Program”
Participants prove suppliers and intermediate handlers of produce and produce components have passed GAP&GHP audits
(Phase-in period of 12 to 18 months for current QTV Facilities)

GAP & GHP Audit Verification Program

Future Developments:

- Requiring more than one audit per year
- Unannounced follow up audits
- Strengthen Positive Lot Identification Program
 - More value to industry
 - Traceability to package level
- GHP Outreach on Terminal Markets

GAP & GHP Audit Verification Program

- **California Leafy Greens Marketing Agreement**
Grower education meetings held in Salinas, Santa Maria, Oxnard and El Centro, 111 Signatory Handlers
- **California Almonds**
Mandatory program under the Marketing Order that requires handlers to apply approved treatment to achieve a minimum 4-log reduction of salmonella
- **California Tomato Farmers** (a producer-owned cooperative)
Best Management Practices for the Production of Tomatoes

Requires USDA-licensed California Department of Food & Agriculture auditors to perform verification audits

GAP & GHP Audit Verification Program

- **Florida Tomato Growers**

State food safety regulations requiring compliance with Best Management Practices for the Production of Tomatoes

- **Specialty Block Grant Program**

Four proposals provide GAP&GHP grower education or money for third-party GAP&GHP audit

GAP & GHP Audit Verification Program

- **National GAPs Program**

Developing online GAP training for growers

Available November 2007

- **International Standards Organization (ISO)**

ISO 22006 Quality management systems-Guidelines for the application of ISO 9001:2002 in crop production

International vote on working draft Fall 2007

3rd Party Audit Requirements

Data Management:

- Some companies contracting with other companies to manage their food safety databases
- Audit information archived and accessible anywhere from a secured extranet site
- All costs associated with electronic submissions of audit data responsibility of 3rd party auditing entity

AMS Auditor Qualifications

Auditor requirements:

- **Personal attributes**
- **High school diploma or equivalent**
- **Completed 36 months experience**
- **Effectively communicate orally and in writing**

AMS Auditor Qualifications

Auditor requirements:

- **Successfully completed AMS-approved ISO 19011:2002 course**
- **Successfully completed specific audit program training as defined by AMS**
- **Participated in minimum of 3 complete audits**

AMS Auditor Qualifications

Continual Professional Development

- Participate in at least 2 audits each year as lead auditor
- Refresh knowledge and skills for a total of 120 hours during a 3 year period

Training & Performance Evaluations

- Auditor-in-training will have a training evaluation completed for each audit
- Auditor performance evaluation will be completed annually
- **Auditor license cards will issued for 3 years**

Association of Food & Drug Officials

Mission:

- To foster uniformity in the adoption of food safety laws, rules and regulations

Background:

- Approached by tomato industry
- Industry concern: potential patchwork of state/local regulations
- Develop a GAP model that addresses produce safety at farm and packing house
(commodity-specific and address regional conditions)

Association of Food & Drug Officials (AFDO)

Fruit & Vegetable Committee

- Federal: FDA, USDA
- States: Florida, California, Virginia, Ohio, North Carolina
- Academia
- Association of Fruit & Vegetable Inspection Standardization Agencies (AFVISA)
- Industry: Western Growers Association, United Fresh Produce Association, Food Marketing Institute, Grocery Manufacturers Association/Food Products Association, National Restaurant Association

Chaired by

- Dr. Marion Aller, Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services

QUESTIONS ?