

Fruit and Vegetable Programs
Fresh Products Branch
Field Operations Section

The Field Operations Section of Fresh Products Branch provides grading, inspection and auditing services to the fresh fruit, vegetable and nut industry through a network of approximately 135 field offices across the United States. Grading and inspection services are provided on the basis of USDA grade standards or customer specifications. The results of grading and inspection services provides growers, packers, shippers, brokers, truckers, receivers, importers and other financially interested parties with quality, condition, temperature, count, net weight or other desired information pertaining to produce that may be ready for harvest, harvested, packed or already shipped to a destination. This information may be used for general information, to verify sales contract requirements, to obtain letters of credit or for compliance purposes with various regulations. Inspection results are provided on a legal document that is acceptable in all United States courts of law.

These services are available for a fee in the shipping areas, at in-transit or receiving locations and at ports of entry to the United States, and these inspection services may also be performed on an international basis by special arrangements through the National Program Headquarters.

Auditing services are available on a fee basis to verify a company's continuing performance to documented Good Agricultural Practices, Good Handling Practices and/or Facility Food Defense Programs. The Identity Preservation program offers participants a means to positively verify their products unique value added characteristics. Audit results are commonly used to improve the facility's agricultural best practices, provide customers with assurance of a functioning program and to meet various sales contract requirements, including government purchases or regulations.

For further information about any of these services, review our website at www.ams.usda.gov/freshinspections or contact the National Program Headquarters at the following:

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