



United States Department of Agriculture

USDA-AMS GAP&GHP Program Update

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USDA Fruit and Vegetable Industry Advisory Committee Meeting September 2015



- **March 2015 FVIAC meeting**
 - Overview of USDA GAP&GHP Program
 - Proliferation of audits & audit fatigue
 - Harmonization & Benchmarking
 - GAPs Harmonization Initiative
 - GFSI
 - Market Access vs. Regulatory Issues



- **Today's Presentation**
 - Marketing USDA GAPs Program
 - GroupGAP Implementation
 - GFSI Update
 - Finances



- **Marketing USDA GAPs Program**
 - SCI currently attends a number of local, regional and national grower meetings, trade shows, conventions, etc. to promote the GAPs Program. (14 in FY15).
 - State partners participate in local events as well.
 - Participated in PMA's local grower training program.



- **Marketing USDA GAPs Program**
 - Currently fine tuning a plan to promote GroupGAP at meetings this winter.
 - Grower outreach to 1890s Universities.
 - FSMA Work Groups.



- **GroupGAP Implementation**
 - Completing a successful 3 year pilot study looking at group certification options for grower groups.
 - Multiple Programs within AMS in conjunction with the Wallace Center at Winrock International collaborated on this pilot project.
 - 10 groups in 8 states participated.



- **GroupGAP Implementation**
 - “Official” Program announcement at PMA Summit in October.
 - Full Program launch April 2016.
 - Other outreach efforts over next 6 months, targeting food hubs, Strike Force states and tribal nations.
 - First webinar in November.

- **GFSI Update**

- GFSI announcement “Government Standard Equivalence Process” June 2015.
- GFSI Task Force commissioned to develop equivalence process, anticipated to be finalized in March 2016 at annual conference.
- SCI reached out to key stakeholders to request they provide formal feedback to GFSI on equivalency process.



- **GFSI Update**

- When implemented, should allow governments to go through equivalency process to show government food safety standard meets GFSI requirements.
- Ken Petersen is meeting with Task Force at the GFSI Technical Working Group meetings this week.



- **Finances**

- Ag Marketing Act requires SCI to collect fees to recover costs associated with providing service.
- Reasons for increased costs:
 - Industry expectations and demands for equivalence.
 - Standardization of audit process (ISO).
 - Harmonization of food safety standards.



- **Finances**

- SCI is pulling reserves from Inspection trust fund to cover losses in audit program. This is not a viable long term option.



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Questions?

