Specialty Crops Inspection Division
Programs and Services

- SCI facilitates the efficient, fair marketing of America’s fresh, frozen, and processed fruits, vegetables, and other specialty crops by providing:
  - Grading, inspection, and certification services
  - Voluntary, audit-based services to verify good agricultural and manufacturing practices, HACCP, traceability, food defense, and export certification
  - U.S. grade standards and related guidance, and Commercial Item Descriptions for all commodities
- Services are voluntary (except when mandated by Federal marketing orders, or school lunch and other feeding programs)
- Services provided on a user-fee basis to anyone with a financial interest in product load
Delivering to Stakeholders

Specialty Crops Industry

USDA and Federal Agencies

State Departments of Agriculture

International Organizations

AMS Managers and Employees

AMS CPP FSIS FNS FSA FDA DoD NMFS

GFSI Codex UNECE USAID
SCI Field Locations
Inspection Services

• Inspect fresh and processed fruits, vegetables, nuts, and specialty crops products
• Certify class, quality, quantity, and condition of product upon shipping or receipt in interstate commerce
• Customers choose inspection type
   • U.S. grade standards or contract terms
   • Full inspection (quality and condition)
   • Condition only
   • Weight or count only
   • Temperature only
   • Custom certifications

We support an efficient marketing system that quickly moves wholesome, affordable agricultural products from farm to consumer
USDA GAP Audit Services

Meeting Buyers’ Needs

Buyer Requirement
- Adherence to Industry and FDA Best Practices
- FSMA Produce Safety Rule Alignment
- Produce GAP Harmonization Initiative Alignment
- Global Food Safety Initiative Technical Equivalence

USDA GAP Audit for You
- USDA Harmonized GAP Plus+ Audit
- USDA Harmonized GAP Audit
- USDA GAP & GHP
USDA GAP Audit Services

Harmonized GAP Plus+ Audit

• Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) technically equivalent
  - Reapplying for continued technical equivalency (March 2021)
• Produce Safety Rule alignment
• Produce GAP Harmonization Initiative
• Food and Drug Administration recommendations and industry-recognized food safety practices
USDA GAP Audit Services

Harmonized GAP Audit

• Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) technical standards
• Produce Safety Rule alignment
• Produce GAP Harmonization Initiative
• Food and Drug Administration recommendations and industry-recognized food safety practices
Audit Program Export Certifications

- Pre-Export Check Program for almonds destined for the European Union
- Aflatoxin control measures for peanuts destined for the European Union
- European Union Certification Program for Sprouts and Seeds for Sprouts
- Pistachio Export Aflatoxin Reporting (PEAR) Program
GAP Buyer Acceptance Project

• AMS, Michigan State University (MSU), and the Wallace Center at Winrock International collaborating to increase buyer acceptance of USDA GAP audits
• MSU survey of buyers, producers, and audit providers to determine current industry acceptance of USDA audits
• Pilot GAP program with national retailers and key buyers
• Working with Costco to assess alignment of USDA Harmonized GAP Plus+ audit with their supplier food safety requirements
Standardization Programs

• Develop and maintain 300+ U.S. standards for grades
  • Standards define quality and condition factors for fresh and processed fruits, vegetables, nuts, and other specialty crop products
• Develop and maintain 188 Commercial Item Descriptions (CID) for products in all commodity areas
  • CIDs are official U.S. Government procurement documents that describe the most important characteristics of a commercial product
  • Used by buyers to specify the product they want to purchase
SCION

- Specialty Crops Integrated Operating Network
- New automated business platform to support Specialty Crops Inspection Division grading, inspection, and audit business processes
- Comprised of three distinct applications for meet specific end-user needs
  - Applicant Portal
  - SCION Console
  - Inspector/Auditor App

One-stop-shop for SCI applicants to request services and access key information about their business.
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