GROUPGAP for Buyers

The Agricultural Marketing Services’ Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) Audit Programs help specialty crop buyers verify that suppliers follow industry-recognized food safety practices and recommendations from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The new GroupGAP Certification Program is an innovative service that will help buyers and retailers meet increasing consumer demand for local food and maintain strong food-safety standards.

What is GroupGAP?

GroupGAP is a robust certification program that allows producers of all sizes, including smaller producers and grower groups such as cooperatives and food hubs, to work together to be GAP-certified as a group. GroupGAP certification assures you that your suppliers are following industry-recognized food safety practices.

How will GroupGAP benefit me?

Broad Supplier Base. You’ll have access to new pools of small and mid-sized growers who demonstrate, through GroupGAP certification, that they meet your food safety requirements.

Stable Supply Stream. Broadening your supplier base means you will be more resilient in the face of supply challenges or disruptions.

Diverse Products. You will have access to a wider variety of products from more growers overall, and, within a group, from a number of certified growers rather than a single grower.

Meet Consumer Demand for Local Foods. GroupGAP-certified small farmers will provide an inventory of locally sourced food new to mainstream retail markets.

Ensure Compliance with Federal Regulations. GroupGAP certification ensures you that your suppliers meet the requirements of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s Food Safety Modernization Act.

How do I learn more about GroupGAP?

Call: 202.720.5021
Web: www.ams.usda.gov/services/auditing/groupgap
Email: GroupGAP@ams.usda.gov

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