



Agricultural Marketing Service

Creating Opportunities for American Farmers and Businesses

Marketing Order Management Meeting September 20, 2017

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USDA-AMS Specialty Crops Program

Specialty Crops Inspection Division

- Provides quality inspection and audit services to the fresh and processed specialty crops industry
- Develops quality grade standards (US No 1, Grade A)
- Develops commercial item descriptions (CIDS)
- Provides inspection and sensory evaluations of DOD MRE (Meals Ready to Eat)
- Performs Industry Training

Specialty Crops Inspection Division

- Specific to MOAD, SCI performs quality inspections for domestic marketing order commodities, as well as imported commodities covered by 8e requirements.
- Performs quality inspections & food safety audits for commodity procurement purchases.
- Works with Food & Nutrition Service on child nutrition labelling requirements.

SCI Audit Programs

- USDA GAP Program
- Identity Preservation
- Plant Systems Audit (GMPs)
- Domestic Origin Verification
- Export Certification (Almonds)
- DLA, USAID



Good Agricultural Practices Program

- Provides a government based certification option which verifies that a farm/facility has implemented verifiable food safety practices according to FDA guidelines and industry best practices.
 - GAP audits are generally used to gain market access
 - Contractual requirement of buyer
- Non regulatory
- 100% User fee funded

USDA Good Agricultural Practices Program

- AMS-SCI has cooperative agreements with 42 state departments of agriculture to provide inspection and audit services in their states on our behalf
 - More cost effective
 - timelier service



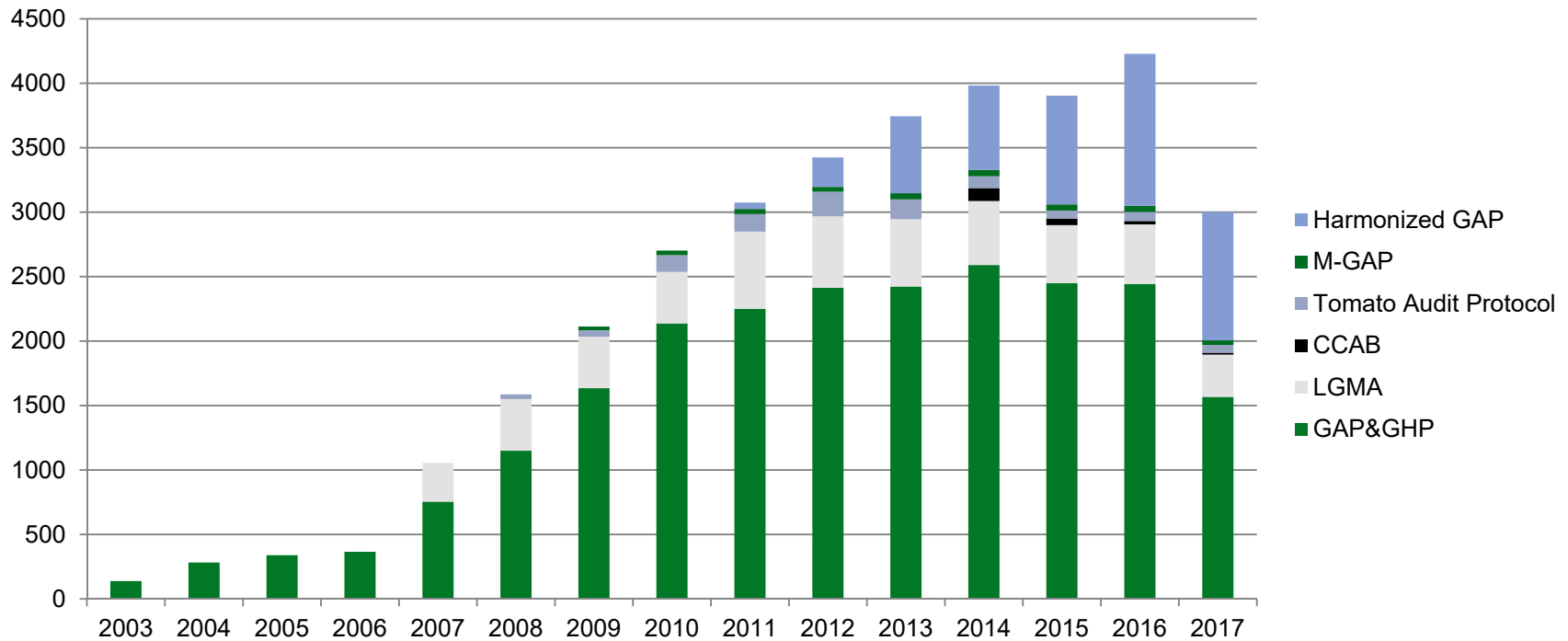
USDA GAP Program

Types of GAP Audits

- USDA GAP&GHP
- Harmonized GAP
- Tomato GAP
- Mushroom GAP
- LGMA (CA & AZ State Marketing Agreement Programs)
- CA Cantaloupe (CA State Marketing Order Program)

USDA GAP Program

USDA GAP&GHP Audits



Note: 2017 numbers through July 31, 2017. Anticipate exceeding 2016 numbers

Agricultural Marketing Service

USDA GAP Program

Audits performed in all 50 States



Marketplace Requirements for GAP Audits

- Buyer requirements
 - Audits conducted against generally accepted auditing practices (ISO 17065)
 - Recognized Food Safety Standard
 - Auditor Competence/ Evaluations
 - Impartial Certification Decisions
 - Increasing demand for alignment with GFSI

Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI)

- International Trade Organization whose mission is to “provide continuous improvement in food safety management systems to ensure confidence in the delivery of safe food to consumers worldwide.”
- March 2017 GFSI announced a technical equivalence for government certification programs.
- AMS working towards submitting application for technical equivalence.
- Greater acceptability of USDA GAP Program

Identity Preservation Program

- Audit based program to ensure the integrity of specialty crops which has a unique marketable characteristic that differentiates it from traditional crop.
- Currently used by 2 operations who produce heirloom tomato varieties. Ugliripe and Vintage ripe tomatoes.
- The FL Tomato Marketing Order has a provision that exempts heirloom tomatoes from meeting the shape and texture grade requirements if they participate in the IP Program.
- 3rd company has expressed interest in program for its new heirloom variety.



Almond Board of CA Pre-Export Check Program

- Audit based program which validates the requirements of the E.U. for pre-clearance of almonds exported to E.U. member states.
- ABC has a quality management system in place and conducts verification reviews of all signatory handlers exporting to E.U.
- ABC also manages the database used to generate E.U. Health Certificates which accompany shipments to the E.U. ABC Works in conjunction with AMS accredited labs to perform aflatoxin testing which are entered into db/listed on health certificate.
- SCI Division conducts annual audits of ABC QMS as well as verification audits of 10% of handlers annually.
- Health certificates signed by CDFA staff licensed by AMS.

Comments/Questions?

USDA-AMS

Specialty Crops Inspection Division

Audit Services Branch

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