Good Agricultural Practices

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GAPs

- USDA fresh produce audit verification program
  - focuses on best agricultural practices to verify that farms are producing, and packers are handling and storing fruits and vegetables in the safest manner possible to minimize risks of microbial food safety hazards.
  - USDA’s voluntary audit based program verifies adherence to the recommendations made in the Food and Drug Administration’s Guide to Minimize Microbial Food Safety Hazards for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

- Project website
- Cost-share program
The Process

- USDAGAP/GHP audit
  - Parts 1-4, 6, 7
  - Points 5, 10, 15
  - N/A
- Other companies
- Organic certification
- $92/hour
  - Conducting the audit, travel time and preparatory time
  - Unannounced 2nd visit
- Submit food safety manual for review

Opening Markets project

- 12 farms across NC with <30 acres
- One hour visits
- Self diaries
  - Flipcam
- Survey and onsite evaluation
- Pictures
## Participating farms

- Growing method
- Labor
  - Full/part-time
- Seasons in operation
- Commodity diversity
  - Livestock
- Market
  - Direct to market, wholesale
- Liability insurance

| NC Counties | Quantity of land | Growing methods | Labor | Multiple harvest seasons | Commodity diversity | Market | Water sources | Reference and land use
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<td>Acres with shrub</td>
<td>Certified Organic</td>
<td>Full/part-time</td>
<td>Spring, summer, fall</td>
<td>Livestock, poultry, and fruit</td>
<td>Direct market</td>
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Farm characteristics

- Dog on property
  - 5 out of 12
- House bathroom
  - 7 out of 12
- Growing method
  - 7 out of 12 certified organic
- Fencing
  - 3 out of 12 with no fencing
- Irrigation water
  - 4 out of 12 well water only
- Livestock on property
  - 5 out of 12
- Employees
  - 9 out of 12

What are the issues?

- Workers
  - Health and hygiene
  - Bathrooms
  - Traffic patterns
- Water and application method
  - Irrigation
  - Wash water
- Animals (domestic and wildlife)
  - Fences
    - Types and costs
    - Deterrents
What are the issues?

- Manure
  - Type of manure
  - Method
    - Time/temperature monitoring
    - Crop rotation
  - Weed and pest control
- Packaging
  - Reuse
  - Storage
- Traceability
  - Recalls
  - Quality
  - Sprouts

Barriers identified

- Time
- Documentation
- Language of the document
- Misinformation
- Buyer expectations
- Site specific risk recognition/audit requirements
Next steps

- Guidance document
- Economic impact of GAPs
- Risk reduction practices
- Spring/Summer 2012 audits

Thank You

- Food safety infosheets
  - http://foodsafetyinfosheets.wordpress.com/
- Barfblog
  - http://barfblog.foodsafety.ksu.edu/barfblog
- Chapman food safety group
  - http://chapmanfoodsafety.wordpress.com/

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