GAPs and the Opening Markets project

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http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSv1.0/GAPGHPAuditVerificationProgram

Fresh Produce Audit Verification Program

USDA Fresh Produce Branch audit programs brings a team of USDA licensed auditing professionals, uniformly developed and applied auditing standards and matrices, and independent third party verifications of produce suppliers throughout the production chain. USDA licensed auditors have performed thousands of verification audits nationwide to verify best agricultural practices and satisfy purchasing requirements of retailers and the food service industry.

The Good Agricultural Practices and Good Handling Practices (GAP/GHP) 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.

The USDA’s GAP/GHP Program is broken down into three major sections: Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) which examines farm...
Opening Markets
exploring and communicating food safety barriers

How to get to Audit day...
November 11, 2011

The ultimate goal of the project is to prepare the participating farms to pass a USDA GAP certification. USDA GAP auditors are a 3rd party (what that means is they are independent of both the organization being audited and any customers of the organization). They can offer resources to point you in the right direction to receive the guidance you need. Good resources for producers as they get ready for an audit are local extension agents, university representatives, or other farmers.

To schedule an audit in NC, complete and send this form (Request form) to NCDACCS marketing division grading services along with your proposed audit dates (4 weeks in advance at the minimum) and a copy of your food safety manual. Before the audit day, the auditor needs to know the type of audit requested (USDA GAP audit, Harmonized food safety standard, Tomato audit protocol (T-GAP), Leafy greens audit (LCMA), and Identity Preservation Audit); parts desired to be completed of the USDA GAP/GHF audit (Part 1&2 to be completed for GAP portion, Part 3&4 to be completed for GHP portion, Part 6 is for wholesaler distribution centers, and Part 7 is for preventative food defense procedures) and renewed your

http://gapsmallfarmsnc.wordpress.com/
The Process

- USDA GAP/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
- Providing food safety manual templates and other documents

***Funded by Carolina Farm Stewardship Association***
Participating farms

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

Farm characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quantity of land</th>
<th>Growing method</th>
<th>Labor</th>
<th>Multiple harvest seasons</th>
<th>Commodity diversity</th>
<th>Market</th>
<th>Water source</th>
<th>Rotational land use</th>
<th>House</th>
<th>Portable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Certified organic by Non Commercial Certification Services</td>
<td>Full/part-time</td>
<td>Year-round</td>
<td>Broccoli, lettuce, herbs, fruits and vegetables</td>
<td>Direct market/food service/wholesale</td>
<td>Well</td>
<td>Well and summertime pond</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Certified organic by Quality Certification Services</td>
<td>4-5 acres, seasonal or field</td>
<td>Spring, summer, fall</td>
<td>Vegetables and fruit</td>
<td>Direct market/food service/wholesale</td>
<td>Pond</td>
<td>Well</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Natural</td>
<td>0-1 acres</td>
<td>Year-round</td>
<td>Organic, root, flowers, vegetables, and fruits</td>
<td>Direct market/food service</td>
<td>Well</td>
<td>Well</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Natural</td>
<td>3 E S P</td>
<td>Spring, summer, fall</td>
<td>Vegetables, grapes, flowers, and fruits</td>
<td>Direct market/food service</td>
<td>Pond</td>
<td>Well</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Certified organic by Quality Certification Services</td>
<td>5 F</td>
<td>Year-round</td>
<td>Vegetables and fruits</td>
<td>Direct market/food service</td>
<td>Pond</td>
<td>Well</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

Risk reduction on the farm

- Workers
  - Health and hygiene
  - Bathrooms
  - Traffic patterns
- Water and application method
  - Irrigation
  - Wash water
- Animals (domestic and wildlife)
  - Fences
    - Types and costs
    - Deterrents
Risk reduction on the farm

- 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

- USDA fresh produce audit verification program
  http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSv1.0/GAPGHPAuditVerificationProgram
- Opening Markets website
  http://gapsmallfarmsnc.wordpress.com/
- NCDA&CS Cost-share program
  http://www.ncagr.gov/markets/NCgradesvc/

Questions??