USDA Group GAP & GHP Certification Program

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Let’s Take a Look

• What is the USDA Group GAP Program?
USDA Group GAP Program

The traditional USDA GAP & GHP Audit Program requires:

• One Audit – One Farm
• Certification goes to audited farm (auditee)
USDA Group GAP Program

In traditional GAP audit program, Auditee is responsible for:

• Developing food safety plan
• Performing risk assessments for water, soil, wildlife, etc.
• Training employees
• Payment for audit
USDA Group GAP Program

What is different about the Group Program?

The USDA Group GAP Audit Program requires:
• One System Audit – One Group
• Certification goes to Group
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Group can take responsibility for:

• Developing food safety plan
• Performing risk assessments for water, soil, wildlife, etc.
• Training employees
• Payment for audit
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Participation requires the Group to

• Develop and implement a Quality Management System (QMS)
• Employ internal inspectors to perform farm audits of all farm locations
• Implement policies and procedures needed to meet a food safety standard
USDA Group GAP Program

USDA is required to

• Review the Group’s Quality Management System
• Perform annual system audits of the Quality Management Systems
• Perform audits of a predetermined number of the farms
• Issue certification to all Groups that meet USDA requirements
USDA Group GAP Program

• Currently a pilot program, with participation by six Groups
• Groups are in various stages of QMS development
• USDA holding 3 – 5 internal inspector training sessions in 2014
USDA Group GAP Program

Expected outcomes from the 2014 pilot include:

• A USDA Group GAP Certification Program that can be offered to others in 2015
• Identified resources available for Farm Groups that participate in the Program
• An awareness of the Program by the wholesale and retail community
Questions?

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