



USDA Group GAP & GHP Certification Program

NGFN National Hub Collaboration

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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



USDA Group GAP Program

Group can take responsibility for:

- Developing food safety plan
- Performing risk assessments for water, soil, wildlife, etc.
- Training employees
- Payment for audit



USDA Group GAP Program

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



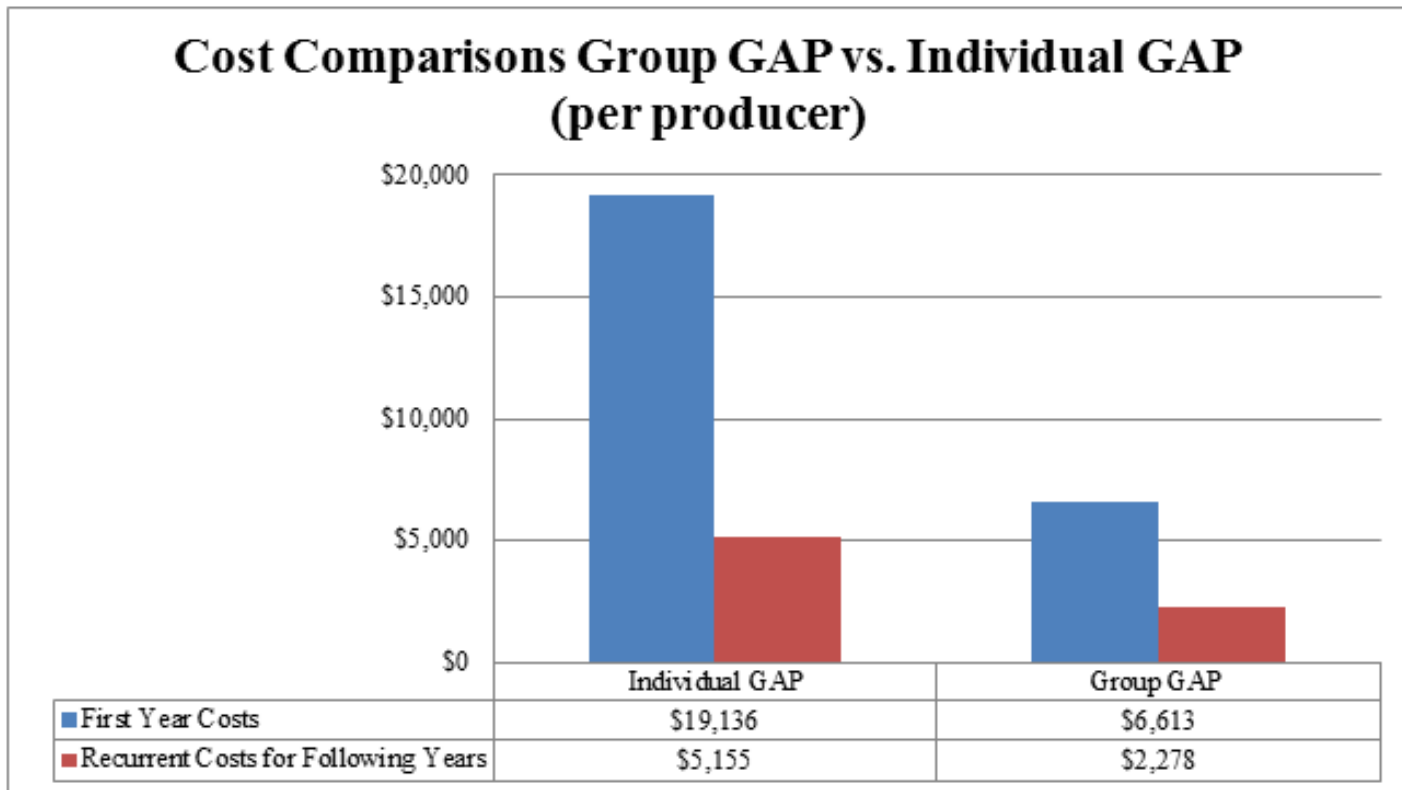
USDA Group GAP Program

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

GROUP GAP COST ANALYSIS

Summary of Costs – Group GAP and Individual GAP



Per AMS, Transportation and Marketing 2013 research

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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