



GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES - GROUPGAP

The USDA Agricultural Marketing Service's Specialty Crops Inspection (SCI) Division provides quality assurance reviews, inspections, food safety audits, and develops national standards for fresh and processed fruits and vegetables and related products that facilitate the marketing of America's specialty crops.

GROUPGAP WILL REMAIN A PILOT PROGRAM UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

GROUPGAP

The USDA GroupGAP is a farm food safety audit program that allows a group of producers to attain GAP certification as a group.

To take part in the GroupGAP program, a group must:

- Operate under a shared Quality Management System (QMS) that incorporates the requirements of a food safety standard,
- Agree to be audited by USDA as one body,
- Perform internal audits of the member farms to ensure compliance with the chosen food safety standard, and
- Undergo annual USDA unannounced audits on a percentage of farms within the group.

THE POWER OF GROUPGAP

- Provides local and national market access by meeting buyers' increasing requirements for GAP certified suppliers.
- Verifies members' food safety compliance.
- Strengthens economies of small farmers and rural communities.

THE GROUPGAP ADVANTAGE

- Improves group members' accountability and performance by fully leveraging shared resources.
- Decreases documentation and maintenance requirements of group members who operate under a single QMS.
- Maintains members' compliance through internal audits.
- Saves group members money through cost and resource sharing.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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