USDA Agricultural Marketing Service
Fruit and Vegetable Programs

Audit Verification Programs

Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)
Fruit and Vegetable Program

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USDA Audit Verification Programs

- On-Farm Production - Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs)

- Fresh-Cut Facilities – Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP)

- Food Processing Facilities – Current Good Manufacturing Practices (CGMP)

- Food Defense - Intentional Contamination

USDA Audit Verification Programs

- Audit results are valid for one year

- Audit results are posted to USDA website

- Safeguard confidentiality of information obtained in the course of audit activities

- Procedures for handling complaints, appeals and disputes

AMS Auditor Competencies

- Experienced - understand the unique challenges and complexities of the agricultural industry

- Adhere to international auditing principles and practices

- Keep in mind the client's operations and production schedules.

- Trained Staff with National Coverage

- Annual program-specific refresher training

- Ethics training annually

- Continual Professional Development 60 hours every 3 years

THE AUDIT PROCESS

- Initial Audit - scheduled

- Follow-up Audit – verification corrective action(s) have been taken to address any non-conformances observed during initial audit or unannounced visit

- Unannounced Visit – at least one **unscheduled** visit

PREPARING FOR AN AUDIT

•   **Conduct a Self-Audit –** Use the ***Sprout Specific Audit*** checklist.

•Find areas of improvement

•Take corrective actions before scheduling the USDA audit.

•Contact USDA representative at least two weeks in advance of anticipated audit date.

THE AUDIT

Auditor will conduct onsite visit of farm/facility while it is in operation.

Auditor will complete the **Sprout Specific Safety Audit** checklist.

Audit fee is $92.00 per hour.

THE AUDIT

Documents

- **SOPs -** Written standard operating procedures

- **Policy -** a written policy or procedure included in the operation's food safety plan.

- **Records**

  – of actions taken

  – Procedures completed

  – Corrective actions

THE AUDIT

Automatic Failure:

- Observation of immediate food safety risk
- Water not tested potable
- No proof of accepted seed treatment program
- No spent irrigation water sampling and testing as defined in the Sprout Safety Audit
- No program to hold sprouts until a negative return on the spent irrigation water tests
- Lack of FDA Reportable Food Registry policy
- Failure of trace-back program, mock recall
- Presence or evidence of rodents or excessive amount of insects in growing rooms or product
- Falsification of records

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QUESTIONS ?

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