FOOD SAFETY TRAINING FOR FARMER SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS, PART 3

FOOD SAFETY CERTIFICATION OPTIONS
FOCUS: GAP AS A GROUP

April 25, 2017
Presentation Outline

- Introduction
  Jeff Farbman
  Wallace Center at Winrock International

- Food Safety Certification Options
- Questions and Answers
- Upcoming Sessions
Facilitating Food Safety for Small, Sustainable Farmers

**Objective:** Strengthen capacities of professionals working with small-scale farmer on food safety compliance and counsel them on adoption on appropriate food safety certifications options, including GroupGAP.

*Project of the Agriculture and Land-Based Training Center (ALBA) in Salinas, CA Supported by Western SARE.*
WALLACE CENTER at WINROCK INTERNATIONAL

• Market based solutions to a 21st Century food system
• Work with multiple sectors – business, philanthropy, government
• Healthy, Green, Affordable, Fair Food
• Scaling up Good Food
NATIONAL GOOD FOOD NETWORK: VISION
NATIONAL GOOD FOOD NETWORK: GOALS

Supply Meets Demand
- There is abundant good food (healthy, green, fair and affordable) to meet demands at the regional level.

Information Hub
- The National Good Food Network (NGFN) is the go to place for regional food systems stories, methods and outcomes.

Policy Change
- Policy makers are informed by the results and outcomes of the NGFN and have enacted laws or regulation which further the Network goals.

http://ngfn.org | contact@ngfn.org
Presentation Outline

• Introduction

• Food Safety Certification Options
  Focus: Gap as a Group

  Phil Britton
  Michigan GroupGAP Network

  Lindsay Gilmour
  Organic Planet GAP Food Safety Consultant

• Questions and Answers
• Upcoming Sessions
There’s (Food) Safety In Numbers

CERTIFYING AS A GROUP

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YOUR CUSTOMER REQUIRES GAP CERTIFICATION

1. Get more information
   a. Which food safety standard or audit program?
   b. Do they have a preferred auditor (3rd party certification body)?

2. If your customer isn’t specific
   a. You decide which standard
   b. and who audits your farm.
WHICH STANDARD SHOULD I CERTIFY TO?

GAP/GHP or Harmonized GAP Standard
WHICH AUDITOR SHOULD I USE?

- USDA
- EQUITCERT
- Primus AuditingOps
- Commonwealth Quality Massachusetts
- SCS Global Services
- CeresCertifications International
- FSC Food Safety Certifiers
1. Find out which standards will your customers accept?

2. Talk to cooperative extension agents

3. Talk to your food safety savvy peers

4. Visit farms and facilities with food safety programs in place

5. Determine which standard is the best fit for your size of operation
CERTIFYING AS A GROUP

3 possibilities for USDA Certification as a group

0. Coordinated GAP
   • ALBA (in the past)

1. Clustering 2-3 farms
   • Lancaster Vegetable Farmers

2. Group as Single Entity
   • Mileston Cooperative

3. Group GAP
   • MI GroupGAP Network
2-3 Farms Working Together as 1 for Food Safety Certification

Farmer 1
Farmer 2
Farmer 3

One Shared Food Safety Plan

One Food Safety Manager

One Food Safety Audit

One GAP Certified Entity
2-3 Farms Working Together as 1 for Food Safety Certification

- Farmer 1
- Farmer 2
- Farmer 3

**Characteristics of Clustering**

- High level of trust btw farmers
  - All farmers have food safety training

- Working the same property or next door
  - Family members or close friends

- Very similar operations and crops
  - Growing and packing crops for the same buyer

- Sharing resources such as workers, packing house, chemical storage, cold storage, equipment sharing, seed purchasing...
1. 95-100 members
2. Two - five farms per cluster
3. Simple farming operations and low risk crops
4. Post harvest activities at central packing shed
LANCASTER VEGETABLE FARMERS COOP

SUCCESSES
1. USDA allowed it!!
2. Dramatic reduction in audit cost
   ➢ 30 cluster audits vs 100 individual audits

CHALLENGES
1. 5 farms too many – 2-3 better
2. Farmers needed to work on the collaboration
1. Taking clustering to the next level
2. Larger group of farms
3. With central management

- a cooperative of very small farms or an incubator farm
SINGLE ENTITY CERTIFICATION

One food safety plan
and
One food safety certificate
Covers the group as a single entity

vs

Each farmer having an individual plan and certificate
SINGLE ENTITY PROCESS FLOW CHART

Organization is the GAP Certified Entity

Food Safety Manager on Staff

1 Food Safety Plan
Develop Food Safety Plan covering all commodities on all farms

Farmer 1 = Field 1
Farmer 2 = Field 2
Farmer 3 = Field 3

1 Audit

1 Food Safety Certificate

Food Safety Training

Shared Facilities

Bulk Purchasing and Sharing of Inputs

Variety Selections / Chemical Inputs

Supply Chain Management Transportation, Marketing, Sales

INTERNAL VERIFICATION
GROUP GAP

Can be used by:

Cooperatives,
Food hubs, Distributors,
Marketing Associations,
a State, a Country...
GROUP GAP

Structure:

1. USDA
   - USDA Audit
   - Farm (Food Safety Plan)

2. Group (QMS)
   - USDA audits Group procedures and records
   - Each farm receives an Internal Audit
   - Farms (Food Safety Plan)

3. USDA audits representative sample of farms
Piece-by-Piece: “Central Entity”

- Manages the QMS activities
  - Record keeping and document control
  - Internal audits
  - Program integrity and quality
  - (More on May 16th!)
- Liaison to USDA
- Membership management
- Technical assistance
- Central admin stuff
GROUP GAP

Piece-by-Piece: Member Farms

- Food Safety Plan and related activities
- Group-specific practices

Farm
(Food Safety Plan)
Piece-by-Piece: USDA

- USDA audits procedures and records at the Central Group level
  - Does include auditor training records, audit reports (checked against USDA audits), and may include regional auditor interviews
- Representative sample is chosen from entire group
Characteristics that help to make this a viable option:

1. Group has:
   - Centralized management to develop and implement the program
   - Capacity to develop and maintain a QMS – internally and/or contracted externally
   - Access to qualified internal auditors or capacity to do this in-house
   - If needed - Capacity to provide food safety coaching
     - in-house, via coop extension, or contract with outside educator
GROUP GAP

- Cost – different approaches
- Regional Partner Model
  - Example: MI GroupGAP Network

Diagram:
- USDA audits representative sample of farms
- USDA audits Group procedures and records
- Central Group (QMS)
  - Coordinates with regional partners
- Regional Group performs internal audits
- Farm (Food Safety Plan)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Individual Certification</th>
<th>Coordinated Audits</th>
<th>Clustering</th>
<th>Single Entity Certification</th>
<th>GroupGAP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Training</strong></td>
<td>Farmer is on their own to find and pay for training</td>
<td>Up to the farmers to coordinate training</td>
<td>Up to the farmers to coordinate training</td>
<td>Entity organizes group and individual farmer training</td>
<td>Entity organizes group and individual farmer training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Food Safety Plan</strong></td>
<td>Required for each farm</td>
<td>Required for each farm</td>
<td>Required for each cluster as if one farm</td>
<td>One plan for the entity as if one farm</td>
<td>Required for each farm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>QMS</strong></td>
<td>Not required</td>
<td>Not required</td>
<td>Not required</td>
<td>Not required</td>
<td>Required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Internal Audits</strong></td>
<td>Not required</td>
<td>Not required</td>
<td>Not required</td>
<td>Recommended as verification</td>
<td>Required for all farms and the QMS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3rd Party Audits</strong></td>
<td>Required for each farm</td>
<td>Required for each farm</td>
<td>One audit for each cluster</td>
<td>One audit for the entity as if one farm with multiple growing sites</td>
<td>QMS and small percentage of farms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Who Pays?</strong></td>
<td>Individual farmers</td>
<td>Individual farmers</td>
<td>Group shares the cost</td>
<td>Group shares the cost</td>
<td>Group shares the cost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Certification</strong></td>
<td>Each farm certified</td>
<td>Each farm certified</td>
<td>Each cluster certified as one farm</td>
<td>One certificate for the whole entity</td>
<td>Group is certified as one body &amp; each farm can receive a GGP certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liability and Accountability</td>
<td>Individual Certification</td>
<td>Coordinated Audits</td>
<td>Clustering</td>
<td>Group as single Entity</td>
<td>GroupGAP</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Each farmer liable for their own operation</td>
<td>Each farmer liable for their own operation</td>
<td>Farmers share liability and accountability. One farm can fail the group. Possible to include nonconformance procedures into FS plan to mitigate some risk</td>
<td>Group carries liability. Management and farmers are accountable to each other. One farm may fail the group but procedures can be included to reduce risk of this. Internal verification, and nonconformance procedures in FS plan can mitigate some risk.</td>
<td>Group carries liability. Management and farmers are accountable to each other. QMS includes nonconformance policies and procedures. This plus internal auditing procedures can prevent one farm’s failure effecting the whole group.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RESOURCES

USDA GroupGAP Users Guide

USDA AMS GroupGAP Site
https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/auditing/groupgap

NGFN Food Safety Resources
http://ngfn.org/foodsafety
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One-on-One Technical Assistance
Interested Individuals

Kaley Grimland de Mendoza
ALBA Certification and Compliance Manager

Please email Kaley to schedule appointments:

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(831)758-1469
Food Safety Training for Farmer Support Organizations
All Sessions Start at 12:30 ET, 9:30 PT

- √ Tue 3/21
  Successful Farm Food Safety Audits

- √ Tue 4/4
  Water Requirements for FSMA and GAP

- √ Tue 4/25
  Food Safety Certification Options

- Tue 5/16
  Developing a Quality Management System

- Tue 6/6
  Equipment Sanitation: SSOPs and Practices
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