

Tracking Your Produce—For Your Business and Health

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Tracking your produce for your farm/business

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TRACKING YOUR PRODUCE FOR YOUR FARM/BUSINESS

1. Quick Overview of GAP
2. Traceability

GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES (GAP)

Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) audit/certification focuses on good agricultural practices used in growing, harvesting, packing, and storage of fruits and vegetables to reduce the risks of microbial food safety hazards.

Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)

- This type of audit is being conducted throughout the United States and other countries.
- The auditors verify farm practices being used on the farm to reduce the risk of microbial contamination of produce.
- This type of audit is a snap shot in time.
- Some certification agencies will do announced and un-announced audits to verify farms are following the standard operating procedures set forth in your farm plan.

GAP

- Know your farm plan and the requirements of the audit you are seeking.
- Include in your plan the name of the person in charge of GAP on your farm.
- Document...Document...Document.

GAP

- Contact a GAP certification agency if you are planning to have an audit. Or if your buyer has requested as a condition of sale.
- Various certification agencies with similar audits, but they are not the same.
- Review the requirements of the certification/auditing firm.

GAP

- Compare to your (Organic) Farm Plan
- Have you met the requirements for GAP?
- What do you need to add? modify?
- Contact your Organic Certification Agency if you plan on making changes to your organic farm plan!

GAP and Traceability

- Good Agricultural Practices and Organic Certification includes traceability.



Traceability

What is Traceability?

- Traceability in produce means the ability to trace back using electronic or handwritten documentation throughout the production chain.

What is Traceability?

- For a farmer it means the ability to trace produce back to the farm, field or block, crew, date harvested, date shipped, receiver, etc. using his/her records.
- One step back
- One step forward



TagsLabels..... Shipping

documents.....

Traceability

- Your farm is unique!
- You can keep it simple or complex.
- Electronic or hand written.
- You may or may not be GAP certified.
- Implement traceability on your farm.

Basics for Traceability

- Give blocks, fields, farms a unique ID
- Track dates of harvest in field
- Add date of harvest + farm/field/block = ID for cartons containers leaving the field.
- Track dates shipped and to whom.
- Keep complete records which include all the above will allow you to traceback should a food safety outbreak occur.
- Be organized

Traceability

- Always include a invoice, delivery form, whatever you use with each shipment leaving the farm.
 - Farm/Grower
 - Date of Shipment
 - Harvest Date
 - Crop
 - Number of containers
 - Block/Field/Farm ID

Examples of documents

- The following three templates were created by Vicki Morrone, Outreach Specialist for Organic Production, and Mark Coe, Farm Manager to help simplify the traceability process for the farmer.

Old McDonald Farm

DAILY RECEIVING LOG

Date: _____ Crop _____

| # | Crew captain (multiple invoices from same supplier must be listed separately) | Time Received | Lug ID 's | Pallet ID | Gross Wt. | Placed in cooler (Y/N) | Inspected by: |
|---|--|------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------------------------|---------------|
| 1 | | | | | | | |
| 2 | | | | | | | |
| 3 | | | | | | | |
| 4 | | | | | | | |
| 5 | | | | | | | |
| 6 | | | | | | | |
| 7 | | | | | | | |
| 8 | | | | | | | |

Continue on additional sheets if necessary...staple all pages from a single day together and total on final page.

Signature/Print name
Weighed Pallets

Old McDonald Farm

| | | | |
|---------------|----------|--|------|
| Starting Date | Field ID | | Crop |
|---------------|----------|--|------|

Shipping Log

| Inventory in Cooler | | | | Pallet Packed for Delivery | | | | |
|----------------------|-------|--------|--|----------------------------|-------------|------------|----------|-----------|
| # Lugs or Containers | Lot # | Weight | | Date | Lugs/Pallet | Weight/lug | Customer | Invoice # |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |

Pickers Log

Date _____

| DAY? | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thur | Fri | Sat | Sun |
|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|
|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|

Time Start:

Stop:

Crew Leader

Field ID

| Crop | Area (ha) | Yield (kg/ha) | Quality (kg/ha) |
|--------|-----------|---------------|-----------------|
| Wheat | 100 | 2500 | 1500 |
| Barley | 50 | 1800 | 1000 |
| Oats | 30 | 1200 | 700 |
| Rye | 20 | 900 | 500 |
| Flax | 10 | 400 | 200 |
| Other | 10 | 300 | 150 |

| |
|------------------|
| |
| Field Crew Names |

Company picked for?

Lug ID

Pallet ID

Time Harvested

Gross Wt

Net Wt.



What must you do ?

Unique ID for marking containers

- Containers should be marked to uniquely identify:
- Farm
- Field or Block
- Date Harvested (Log and invoice will show shipped date)

Markings?



labeling/ marking cartons for Traceability

- Bill's Farm shipped 22 cartons of zucchini harvested on 8/28/11 from the home farm to a buyer. The cartons were a generic carton. You need to include in the code the identify of farm, field, date harvested.
- What could the code be?

labeling/ marking cartons for Traceability

- BF11HF828
- My code says Bill's Farm 2011 Home Farm harvested on August 28.

Logs and other documents for Traceability

- You log and invoice or shipping document will provide all the additional info you need for your traceability system.

Mock Recall

- Tell them you are performing a mock recall
- Test your system
- Does it work?
- Modify and re-implement if necessary
- Keep all communication records to verify that you did conducted a mock audit.

Mock Recall

- Include the response from receiver what you ask them for such as the following:
 - Produce type (yellow squash, cucumbers, etc.)
 - Code marked on cartons
 - Date shipped?
 - How many carton are left?
 - If an actual recall ask them to hold for pickup.

Mock Recall

- A mock recall for a farmer is successful when you are able to follow a container of produce from harvest to the receiver of your produce using electronic or handwritten records.

Why do any of this?

- One food safety incident can shut down an industry.
- Traceability is a requirement for Organic Certification and GAP.
- Shows due diligence.
- Helps market your product.
- Helps you make decisions on your farm based on records not your memory.
- Good records/documentation is good business.

Helpful Resources

www.michiganorganic.msu.edu

Vicki Morrone, Outreach Specialist for Organic Production, 303 Natural Resources, East Lansing MI, 48824, 517-353-3542/517-282-3557 (cell) , 517-353-3832 fax

<http://www.gaps.cornell.edu/eventscalendar.html>

Develop Your Own Farm Food Safety Plan

Cornell Cooperative Extension, New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, and National GAPs Program personnel collaborate to conduct 2-day workshops to help fresh produce growers learn about GAPs and write their own farm food safety plans. After attending the 2-day workshop, growers are invited to a mock audit during the growing season so they know what to expect from a third party audit.

<http://www.fda.gov/Food/FoodSafety/FoodborneIllness/FoodborneIllnessFoodbornePathogensNaturalToxins/BadBugBook/default.htm>

This handbook provides basic facts regarding foodborne pathogenic microorganisms and natural toxins. It brings together in one place information from the Food & Drug Administration, the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, the USDA Food Safety Inspection Service, and the National Institutes of Health.

Helpful Resources

<http://www.gaps.cornell.edu/Educationalmaterials/FApdfs/AssessmentSections/10-Compost-Use.pdf> Cornell educational material.

<http://sustainableagriculture.net/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/NSAC-Food-Safety-FAQ-June-2011.pdf> FAQs from NSAC about the Food Modernization Act.

<http://www.fda.gov/downloads/Food/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/GuidanceDocuments/ProduceandPlanProducts/UCM169112.pdf>

Guide to Minimize Microbial Food Safety Hazards for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSv1.0/ams.fetchTemplateData.do?template=TemplateN&page=GAPGHPAuditVerificationProgram>

USDA checklist Used by USDA auditors to conduct GAP audits

Helpful Resources

<http://www.mosesorganic.org/attachments/productioninfo/fslotnumbers.html>

Midwest Organic & Sustainable Education Service (MOSES)

Understanding

Farm Lot numbers explains and has examples of creating lot numbers.

<http://www.rodaleinstitute.org/course/M6/31>

Rodale Institute article on creating lot numbers.

GAP Certification/auditing Firms

GAP certification agencies

- <http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSv1.0/ams.fetchTemplateData.do?template=TemplateN&page=GAPGHPAuditVerificationProgram> USDA GAP
- <http://www.primuslabs.com/cus/index.aspx> Primus Labs
- <https://www.aibonline.org/> AIB
- <http://www.qmi.com/Default.asp?language=english> QMI
- http://www.nsf.org/business/nsf_agriculture/index.asp?program=NSFAgr NSF

Thank You



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