



73.3%
of consumers
indicated they
would pay
extra for fresh
fruits and
vegetables
certified as
being grown
under safe
farming
practices.

- 2007 Cornell
University food
safety study

Many buyers are
requiring assurances
from growers that their
product is safe. This
program will help New
York's growers and
handlers certify that
they are following Good
Agricultural Practices
(GAP) and Good
Handling Practices
(GHP).

To obtain an application
for the Good
Agricultural Practices
Certification Assistance
Program, you can

- Download from the
Department's
website at
www.agmkt.state.ny.us
- Contact the Division
of Food Safety &
Inspection at
518-457-2090



Governor David A. Paterson
Commissioner Patrick Hooker

NYS Department of
Agriculture & Markets
10B Airline Drive
Albany, New York 12235
1-800-554-4501
www.agmkt.state.ny.us

Good Agricultural Practices Certification Assistance Program



Assisting
New York's
growers
and
handlers
by sharing
the cost of
on-farm
food safety
programs.

NYS Department of
Agriculture & Markets

New York State Good Agricultural Practices Certification Assistance Program

Background

Recent outbreaks of foodborne illness linked to produce have intensified both growers' and consumers' concerns about food safety. Many major retailers, wholesale buyers, foodservice companies, restaurants and schools now require produce suppliers to provide third-party certification of adherence to Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Good Handling Practices (GHP).

Certification

While voluntary, GAP and GHP standards are designed to minimize microbial contamination in the production of fresh fruits and vegetables. Growers and handlers are encouraged to obtain third-party audits to verify their compliance with GAP and GHP standards, and to assure safe potable water is used at their establishments.



Assistance

Food safety assurance comes at a price and therefore, the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets is offering to reimburse growers and handlers the cost, up to \$750, of GAP and GHP audits, as well as the costs of water testing. Funding for this program is available on a first come, first serve basis and is provided by the USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant Program.

What is eligible for assistance?

- Third-party GAP/GHP audits for farm review, field harvest, field packing, packing house, storage and transportation and/or traceback.
- Water tests, up to three annually.

What are the requirements?

- Must use a qualified entity for the audit/test.
- Applications for audits in 2009 must be received prior to the audit/test being performed.
- See www.agmkt.state.ny.us for more details.

How to receive assistance?

- Fill out the application form and send to the Department.
- Department will contact applicant to confirm receipt.
- Schedule audit or water test with a qualified third-party.
- If Department audits – send in payment form, and if cost is more than \$750, pay Department the difference. If not, nothing is owed.
- If a private company audits – pay them directly and send in payment form for reimbursement up to \$750.