



**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](http://www.agmkt.state.ny.us)
- Contact the Division of Food Safety & Inspection at 518-457-2090



NYS Department of  
Agriculture & Markets  
10B Airline Drive  
Albany, New York 12235  
1-800-554-4501  
[www.agmkt.state.ny.us](http://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.
- Annual water tests as part of the GAP/GHP audit.

What are the requirements?

- Must use a qualified entity for the audit/test.
- Applications for audits must be received prior to the audit/test being performed.
- See [www.agmkt.state.ny.us](http://www.agmkt.state.ny.us) for more details.

How do I 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.
- Pay Department or private company for audits and/or water tests.
- Mail the following to receive reimbursement up to \$750.
  - Payment Authorization form,
  - NYS Standard Voucher, and
  - Paid receipts