Global Gap and Food Safety Audits

Randy Long Certified Global Gap Lead Auditor
Reasons for a doing a Food Safety Audit

- Audits can help bolster the practices that growers already follow
- Show the public that food safety is important to you and your employees
- Being prepared for future requirements
- Meeting buyer and international standards
• What happens at an audit

• Paperwork review

• Harvest Crew witness

• Inspection of fertilizer and pesticide storage areas

• Visit packing house and cold storage areas if applicable
Paperwork review

- Food safety manual with risk assessments
- Standard operating procedures
- Training records for hygiene and safety
- Pesticide and fertilizer records
Harvest Crew Witness

- Inspect at least one crew for each type of product
- Inspect different types of crew
- Interview employees
- Monitor for employees following food safety protocols
Inspection of Fertilizer and Pesticide Storage

- Look for non-conformances to the standard of choice
- Check for proper decontamination and ability to contain spills
- Ensure that proper equipment is available
The Packing House (When applicable)

- Check for proper quality control and ability to trace product from field to consumer
- Look for pest control practices
- Interview employees
- Watch for employees following hygiene protocols
Cold Storage

- Inspect incoming and outgoing staging areas
- Check coolers for cleanliness and pest control
- Ensure that coolers are maintained at the proper temperatures
Certification

- Auditor conducts closing meeting to explain what is needed for certification and provides what corrective actions are needed.
- Auditor does not decide if certification is granted.
- Report is submitted to certification body.
- Producer has a timeline to fix corrective actions depending on severity of non conformances.
First steps to preparing for an audit

- Commitment!
- Assign an employee to be in charge of food safety
- Contact producer or marketing group for assistance
- Consider hiring a second party to assist
- Choose a standard that fits your program
Then...

- Preform and internal audit to the standard you have chosen
- Take corrective actions to fix major problems you have identified
- Find a certifying body to work with, do your research
- Schedule an audit
What an auditor looks for

- Commitment!
- All records present and easy to use
- Employee awareness of policies
- Cleanliness
Thank You

- First step done
- Questions?