



# Agricultural Marketing Service

Creating Opportunities for American Farmers and Businesses

## GROUPGAP for Buyers

The Agricultural Marketing Services' Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) Audit Programs help specialty crop buyers verify that suppliers follow industry-recognized food safety practices and recommendations from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The new **GroupGAP Certification Program** is an innovative service that will help buyers and retailers meet increasing consumer demand for local food and maintain strong food-safety standards.

### What is GroupGAP?

GroupGAP is a robust certification program that allows producers of all sizes, including smaller producers and grower groups such as cooperatives and food hubs, to work together to be GAP-certified as a group. GroupGAP certification assures you that your suppliers are following industry-recognized food safety practices.

### How will GroupGAP benefit me?

**Broad Supplier Base.** You'll have access to new pools of small and mid-sized growers who demonstrate, through GroupGAP certification, that they meet your food safety requirements.

**Stable Supply Stream.** Broadening your supplier base means you will be more resilient in the face of supply challenges or disruptions.

**Diverse Products.** You will have access to a wider variety of products from more growers overall, and, within a group, from a number of certified growers rather than a single grower.

**Meet Consumer Demand for Local Foods.** GroupGAP-certified small farmers will provide an inventory of locally sourced food new to mainstream retail markets.

**Ensure Compliance with Federal Regulations.** GroupGAP certification ensures you that your suppliers meet the requirements of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Food Safety Modernization Act.

### How do I learn more about GroupGAP?

Call: 202.720.5021

Web: [www.ams.usda.gov/services/auditing/groupgap](http://www.ams.usda.gov/services/auditing/groupgap)

Email: [GroupGAP@ams.usda.gov](mailto:GroupGAP@ams.usda.gov)