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# Food Safety & Technology Council

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Tuesday, January 19, 2010

J.W. Marriott, Palm Desert CA

8:00 am – 5:00 pm



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# This morning's agenda

- Welcome and Self-introductions
- Reminder of Antitrust Guidelines
- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of September 9, 2009 FSTC Summary
- [reserved]
- Standards Harmonization
- [reserved]
- Break-out Groups

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# This afternoon's agenda

- Reports from Break-out Groups
- Traceability: Update on PTI
- FDA regulatory update
- Legislative Update
- Council Educational sessions in Las Vegas
- What Have You Heard?
- Next Meeting and Adjourn

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# **Standards Harmonization: Produce GAPs Harmonization Initiative**

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# Nov/Dec TWG meetings

- Technical Working Group Charter

## Technical Working Group (TWG)

### Sponsor

Produce GAP Harmonization Initiative ("GHI") Steering Committee

### Sponsors' Direction to the TWG ("Vision")

Develop a harmonized food safety standard and checklist and a globally-acceptable auditing process for GAP audits necessary to protect consumers from potential hazards that may contaminate produce at that stage of the supply chain, and to build efficiencies into the supplier audit process. The overall goal is one audit by any credible third party that can be acceptable to all buyers.

- Focused on food safety practices of pre-farm gate produce operations (as defined by the scope of the FDA GAPs);
- With clearly defined requirements that minimize opportunity for misunderstanding, misinterpretation and "standards creep" by operations and auditors;
- Globally recognized, but specifically applicable to North America operations;
- Requirements that are risk-based, science-based, attainable, auditable and verifiable;
- Considering all microbiological, chemical and physical hazards reasonably likely to occur, consistent with potential hazards addressed in FDA regulatory guidances;
- Scalable to all size fresh produce operations;
- Considerate of regional- and commodity-specific food safety needs;
- Sufficiently non-prescriptive to be accepting of equivalent food safety practices;
- Acceptable to a critical mass of customers requiring general produce food safety audits;

# Nov/Dec TWG meetings

- Technical Working Group Charter
- Identification of audit standards to consider in the harmonization
  - SQF 1000
  - GlobalGAP F&V
  - USDA GAP
  - SENASICA GAP
  - NSF Davis Fresh
  - Georgia GAPs
  - Mushroom GAPs
  - AIB GAP
  - SCS GAP
  - Silliker GAP
  - CA LGMA
  - Commodity Specific Food Safety Guidelines for Watermelon
  - California Strawberry Industry Food Safety Program
  - USDA National Organic Standard
  - CanadaGAP Combined Veg
  - AFDO Model Code for Produce Safety
  - California Tomato Farmers GAP
  - Steritech GAP/GHP



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# Nov/Dec TWG meetings

- Technical Working Group Charter
- Identification of audit standards to consider in the harmonization
- Identification of major, common audit categories

	Criteria
<b>Compliance Plan</b>	
a. Management Responsibility	
b. Food Safety Plan or Risk Assessment	
c. Documentation & Verification	
d. SOPs and SSOPs	
e. Review Period	
f. Worker Education and Training	
g. Traceability and Recall Programs	
h. Corrective Actions	
i. Self-audits	
j. Recordkeeping	
<b>Field Production</b>	
a. Management Responsibility	
b. Field History and Assessment	
c. Worker health/hygiene and Toilet/ Handwashing Facilities	
d. Ag Chemicals (pesticide, herbicide)	
e. Seed/Transplant/ Grafting	
f. Agricultural Water	
g. Equipment, Tools (Sanitation)	

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# Nov/Dec TWG meetings

- Technical Working Group Charter
- Identification of audit standards to consider in the harmonization
- Identification of major, common audit categories
- Request audit standard owners to “divide their standards across the matrix” to facilitate comparisons

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# Nov/Dec TWG meetings

- Technical Working Group Charter
- Identification of audit standards to consider in the harmonization
- Identification of major, common audit categories
- Request audit standard owners to “divide their standards across the matrix” to facilitate comparisons
- Provide a webpage for information about the Produce GAPs Harmonization Initiative

http://www.unitedfresh.org/

Google

United Fresh Produce Association

Former Florida Governor Jeb  
Bush to Keynote United Fresh  
2010

Registration Opens for United  
Fresh 2010

Industry Survey to Provide  
Feedback on Produce  
Traceability Initiative

Campaign to Grow  
**PRODUCE POWER**  
Learn More Here...



Produce for Better Health Foundation



### United Fresh Government Relations



Learn more about agriculture policy, food safety, nutrition, labor and immigration, and supply chain issues.



Produce GAPs  
Harmonization Initiative

United Fresh  
Food Safety Resource Center



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## Produce GAPs Harmonization Initiative

### Background

Many leaders throughout the produce industry have increasingly recognized the cost and inefficiency of multiple standards and audits now being used to measure compliance with Good Agriculture Practices (GAPs). Neither produce suppliers nor retailers and foodservice companies are well served when duplicative standards and audits raise total supply chain costs without enhancement of overall food safety.

In addition to general business leaders, the United Fresh Produce Association Food Safety & Technology Council, consisting of food safety and quality assurance experts across the supply chain, has looked at a variety of GAP standards and audits in use and under development, and has concluded that there is sound scientific potential for harmonizing basic GAP standards to meet the needs of these many stakeholders.

As a means to further explore the potential and accelerate the possibility for industry-wide commitment to harmonized standards, United Fresh hosted a *Global Conference on Produce Food Safety Standards* immediately following its annual convention in late April. Some 300 leaders from each stage of the produce supply chain, government, and third-party standard issuers and auditors from around the world

### United Fresh News

- ▶ [United Fresh Top Stories](#)
- ▶ [Member Alerts](#)
- ▶ [Press Releases](#)

### Policy and Regulatory Issues

#### Agriculture Policy & Programs

- ▶ [2008 Farm Bill](#)
- ▶ [Specialty Crop Block Grants](#)
- ▶ [International Trade](#)
- ▶ [Country of Origin Labeling](#)
- ▶ [AMS Fruit & Vegetable Programs](#)

#### Food Safety Policy, Technology &

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## Next Meetings

- February 17-18, Weslaco Research and Extension Center, Weslaco TX
- March 10-11, Taco Bell, Irvine CA
- April 7-8, Darden, Orlando FL
- April 19, The Venetian, Las Vegas NV
- May TBD, US Foodservice, Rosemont IL

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# Audits Benchmarking

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# Instructions to Break-out Groups

After break, until Noon (Lunch)

- FS&T Web Pages and other communication tools - Ram
- Lot definitions and response to pathogen-positive samples - Gombas

Reports and discussion after lunch  
(1:00 – 2:00)

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# FS&T Council Web Pages

- [http://www.unitedfresh.org/about/leadership/food\\_safety](http://www.unitedfresh.org/about/leadership/food_safety)
- [http://www.unitedfresh.org/about/leadership/food\\_safety\\_members\\_only](http://www.unitedfresh.org/about/leadership/food_safety_members_only)
- <http://www.unitedfresh.org>



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# FS&T Web Pages and other communication tools



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2010 Winter Leadership Meeting – Palm Desert, California

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# Lot definitions and response to pathogen-positive samples



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# Traceability: Update on PTI

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# FDA regulatory update

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# What's Coming from FDA?

- Produce Rule
  - Commodity Specific or “Broad Brush”?
  - Small farm exemption, or phase-in?
  - HACCP? HACCP-like?
  - Food Safety Plan
- Traceability
  - Already mandatory except for farms
  - End of the farm exemption?
  - PTI-like?

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# What's Coming from FDA?

- GMP Modernization
  - Will affect fresh-cut operations
  - “Preventive Controls”
  - Written Food Safety Plan, written records, written corrective actions
  - Mandatory Listeria controls?

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# Legislative Update

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# Council Educational sessions in Las Vegas

- Expert Council Seminar Series
  - Tuesday, April 21, 10:00 am – 11:15 am
  - FDA: What are the scientific bases of on-farm food safety practices and what are the gaps?
  - Other ideas?
- Food Safety Demo Center
  - Series of 15 minute round table discussions
  - Wed/Thurs, while Trade Show Floor open
  - S-294, Science Symposium



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# What Have You Heard?

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# Next Meeting

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Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Las Vegas, Venetian Hotel

8:00 am – 3:00 pm