LGMA
CALIFORNIA LEAFY GREEN PRODUCTS
HANDLER MARKETING AGREEMENT

MEMBER
CA Leafy Greens
CDFA
CERTIFIED
CALeafyGreens.ca.gov
SM

Farm Food Safety Program for Lettuce and Leafy Greens

Membership Information

LGMA members are required by law to produce and handle leafy greens according to the LGMA Metrics, a set of rigoous, science- based food safety standards. Periodic audits verify compliance with these standards.

1 Do you qualify?

You must be a handler of leafy greens in the state of California.

A handler, or shipper, is any person or entity that handles, processes, ships or distributes leafy green products [iceberg lettuce, romaine lettuce, red leaf lettuce, butter lettuce, baby leaf lettuce (i.e. immature lettuce or leafy greens), escarole, endive, spring mix, spinach, cabbage, kale, arugula or chard] for market, whether as owner, agent, employee, broker or otherwise.

At this time the LGMA can only certify handlers whose product is grown in soil in outdoor environments.

2 Certification

The certification process realistically takes one to three months. To become certified you must complete an audit, provide any necessary corrective actions, and be re-audited if necessary. Audits must take place while you are harvesting product. Prior to the audit you must discuss your food safety plan with our Technical Director.

3 Cost

LGMA members pay a monthly assessment fee of $0.0110 per 24 count carton shipped or handled. There is no other membership fee.

4 What LGMA Members do:

Food Safety Practices

LGMA members are required to implement and adhere to the food safety practices outlined in the LGMA Metrics. These practices address many areas of operation, including: land history, adjacent land use, water quality, worker hygiene, soil amendments, and equipment sanitation.

Verification Audits

LGMA members are subject to regular and random audits by government auditors to verify implementation of the food safety practices. Each member has about four audits each year; this can vary depending on growing season and the size of the operation. Audits have a paperwork and field portion, and can take between 4 - 8 hours.

Corrective Actions

LGMA members are required to provide corrective actions on any audit citations. Flagrant violations, the most severe level of citation, can result in decertification from the program and public disclosure. Mexico, Canada, and many produce buyers only accept California leafy greens from certified LGMA members.

Important Links:
LGMA Food Safety Practices
Full Audit Checklist | Unnannounced Audit Checklist

www.lgma.ca.gov