

Expert Panel Finds LGMA Metrics are



SCIENTIFICALLY SOUND AND FDA COMPLIANT

The LGMA metrics were the subject of a 2015 scientific review panel. The panel came to the consensus that the current LGMA metrics represent the most current microbial food safety practices for the production and harvest of leafy greens. The panel also concluded that the current LGMA metrics provide the same level of public health protection as the applicable requirements in the FDA's new Produce Rule.

WHAT ARE THE METRICS?

LGMA members protect public health by reducing potential sources of contamination on the farm. At the heart of LGMA is a set of science-based food safety practices or metrics. Use of the metrics is verified through frequent government audits.

The metrics are practical food safety measures and procedures for lettuce/leafy greens growers and handlers to follow.

They address five risk areas:

 *On the farm – water use*

 *Soil amendments*

 *General requirements*

 *Worker practices / field operations*

 *Environmental assessments*

WHO ARE THE SCIENTISTS AND WHY ARE THEY QUALIFIED?

The review panel was comprised of four leading experts chosen for their research and work-related experience in the field of fresh produce food safety.



Dr. Robert E. Brackett

*Institute for Food Safety and Health at
Illinois Institute of Technology*



Dr. Michele Jay-Russell

*Western Center for Food Safety at
University of California Davis*



Dr. Kali E. Kniel

*University of Delaware Professor of
microbial food safety*



Dr. Manan Sharma

*Environmental and Microbial Food Safety Lab
at USDA Agriculture Research Service*

SCIENTIFIC REVIEW SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Overall the expert reviewers agreed that the current edition of the Guidelines represent the most current microbial food safety practices for the production and harvest of lettuce and leafy greens.

The independent team of experts was overwhelmingly supportive of the LGMA program, specifically attributing its success to the food safety practices.

The experts expressed confidence that the LGMA program will remain effective because the organization incorporates new research findings.

WHY DOES THIS MATTER?



DR. JAY-RUSSELL

asserts that the greatest strength of the LGMA program is:

“The timely engagement of multi-disciplinary experts and extensive review of the scientific literature used to develop and update the Guidelines.”



DR. BRACKETT

summarized his view on the relevancy of the Guidelines when he said:

“It is my opinion after a careful reading (of) the most recent draft of the Guidelines that the recommendations contained within the Guidelines do represent the most current microbial food safety best practices at this point in time and with existing technology.”