

WHAT IS BEING DONE TO KEEP YOUR LEAFY GREENS SAFE?



A FEW THINGS BEFORE WE GET STARTED...

APRIL WARD, MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

CALIFORNIA LGMA

- **Thank you for your time today!**
- All participants are in listen only mode
- All questions will be answered at the end
- BUT feel free to enter them into the question box at any time
- When we get to Q&A you can type your question or raise your hand if you prefer to speak
- We are recording the session and will share a copy to it in the days following the event

AGENDA

Welcome – Dan Sutton, CA LGMA Chairman

Overview – Scott Horsfall, CA LGMA CEO

Food Safety Verification – Teresa Lopez, AZ LGMA Administrator

LGMA Updates – Greg Komar, CA LGMA Technical Director

Farming Amidst a Pandemic – Sonia Salas, Western Growers VP Science & Tech

Government on the Frontlines – Natalie Krout-Greenberg, CDFA Inspection Services

Traceability – Jennifer McEntire, United Fresh, SVP Food Safety & Technology

Q & A - All

**WELCOME
DAN SUTTON, CHAIRMAN
CALIFORNIA LGMA**

**Farmers are focusing
everyday on food safety
and carefully
implementing
food safety practices on
the farm**





OVERVIEW

SCOTT HORSFALL, CEO CALIFORNIA LGMA

The Purpose of today's webinar is to make you aware of everything that the leafy greens community is doing to make sure leafy greens are safe.



10 THINGS BEING DONE TO MAKE LEAFY GREENS SAFE

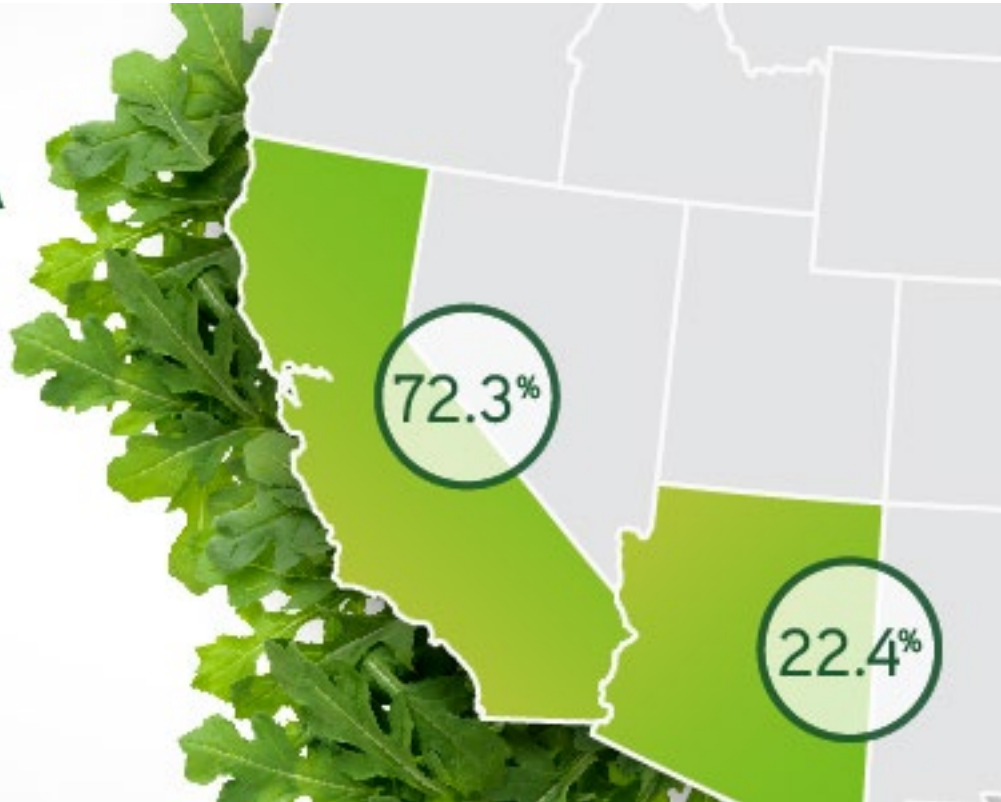
1. **LGMA AUDITS** are ongoing during COVID-19
2. California LGMA is **“HEAVYING UP” AUDITS** throughout the seasonal transition
3. LGMA requires **100% COMPLIANCE**
4. **2019 IRRIGATION WATER STANDARDS** are being implemented and enforced
5. **2020 FOOD SAFETY UPDATES** in the area of Farm Water Use and Field/Equipment Sanitation
6. CDFA & CDPH are **MONITORING COMPOST** used on leafy greens farms to ensure it is safe
7. AZDA & CDFA are working to verify **PRODUCE SAFETY RULE COMPLIANCE**
8. **LONGITUDINAL STUDY** of risks in the leafy greens farming environment
9. **LGMA VERIFIES TRACEABILITY** at every audit, information can assist government investigations
10. **LEAFY GREENS TRACEABILITY PILOT** to improve traceback in the supply chain

FOOD SAFETY VERIFICATION TERESSA LOPEZ PROGRAM DIRECTOR ARIZONA LGMA

LGMA's are important because they verify that an entire industry is following the same set of food safety practices.



THE IMPORTANCE OF VERIFICATION



- **LGMA verifies that an entire industry is following the same set of food safety practices.**
- **The LGMA audits individual companies, but more importantly the LGMA ensures that all members are following food safety rules.**



THE IMPORTANCE OF FOOD SAFETY VERIFICATION

- Practices are verified by government audit – using the state governments along with USDA
- 100% compliance is required – corrective actions are also reviewed and verified by government auditors.
- By only buying from LGMA Members, buyers can know that those companies have been found to be in compliance with the LGMA science-based practices



LGMA EFFORTS GREG KOMAR, TECHNICAL DIRECTOR CALIFORNIA LGMA

Updated food safety practices are now in full force being used by LGMA members and verified by LGMA audits.

THE NEW WATER STANDARD

LGMA has made significant changes to improve the safety of water used in farming leafy greens

The LGMA now requires all water from an open source -- such as a canal, reservoir or river – to be treated if it will be applied via overhead irrigation within 21 days of harvest.

- Food Safety Practices Approved by the LGMA in October 2019

	Audits Conducted	Audit Period	Citations	Corrections
Arizona	73	11/2019 – 04/2020	142	100%
California	69	04/2020 - now	64	100%

BUFFER ZONES EXTENDED


Lettuce farmers in California and Arizona have increased the required distance between crops and Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO).



Distance from a CAFO > 1,000 animals was tripled to 1,200'



Distance from a CAFO > 80,000 animals was increased to 5,280 feet (1 mile) – CA only



A more rigorous risk assessment is required when growing in proximity of a CAFO

OVER 50 NEW CHANGES MADE IN AUGUST 2020

Safety of water used during overhead application of pesticides and crop protection materials.

- This update is similar to changes made last year requiring that any water from open sources applied via overhead application must be treated to eliminate pathogens during the previous 21 days before harvest.

Monitoring requirements for water used in farming leafy greens

- ensure that regular water quality tests are conducted and that samples are collected throughout the irrigation systems used in leafy greens fields.

Furrow Irrigation

Added language to minimize the risk of water applied via furrow irrigation from coming into contact with any edible portion of the leafy greens plant.



OVER 50 NEW CHANGES MADE IN AUGUST 2020

- Updated best practices for cleaning harvest equipment, containers, tools and bathroom facilities in and near leafy greens fields.
- New language designed to prevent the cut end of leafy greens product from coming into contact with the ground during harvest.

Similar changes were also adopted by the Arizona LGMA.

Even though they aren't yet part of the audit, education and outreach will begin immediately.

California leafy greens farmers collaborate with the scientific community and government agencies to drive advancements in food safety practices and risk mitigation techniques. All updates to improve industry-wide food safety standards are designed to protect public health and are founded in valid science.





LGMA AUDITS TO HEAVY UP FOR FALL 2020

- The California LGMA is committed to auditing every member company during August, September and October
- Having boots on the ground during the transition time is critical
- The California audit team run by CDFA will continue with audits
- Auditors imported from Arizona and USDA will also come in to help conduct audits



LGMA AUDITS & COVID SONIA SALAS, ASST VP, FOOD SAFETY, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY WESTERN GROWERS

While COVID-19 is NOT a food safety issue, the produce industry remains **FOCUSED** on food safety controls and keeps adjusting as new guidance is developed.



CA LGMA Remote Desktop Audit *powered by* Western Growers Association

A COVID – 19 Initiative

August 31, 2020

In response to COVID-19, CA LGMA working with WG, agreed to deliver an audit program to facilitate LGMA audits during the pandemic. WG contracted with iFoodDS to deliver the current desktop audit system/program.

- Initial discussions in late April
- Beta test conducted with two LGMA shippers in May
- Auditor training in May
- CA LGMA Shipper presentation in May
- Multiple audits with 8 shippers to date
- Looking at promoting the program and extending it to desert in Fall

Western Growers Desktop Audit

- Benefits:

- Reduction in time spent on office portion of audits
- Reduction in preparation time for initial and subsequent audits
- Software enables easy organization of documents based on individual audit needs
- Cloud-based document management offers sharing opportunities for shippers with their suppliers

WGA Remote Desktop Audit



⚙ My Toolbox

Welcome back, Auditor2



Today is Thu, May 14, 2020 9:57 PM PDT

Your last login was Thu, May 14, 2020 9:56 PM PDT



Document Management

View Documents

Company Document Upload

» View Documents

» Company Document Upload



To Do List



May 2020



mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat	sun
				1	2	3

Auditor - website



My Toolbox



All Documents

Document List for Company

Refresh

- ✓ Shipper A
 - ✓ Grower 1 - Ranch A
 - > 02. Training (PE04)
 - > 05. Fully composted - SA (SA02I-02u)
 - > 10. Soil amendments policy (SA06)
 - > 11. Water assessment (WU04-11)
 - > 13. Water SOP document (WU02)
 - > 23. Well Ag System Assessment (WU88)
 - > 29. Visitors Policy (FS01)

View Documents

Company Document Upload

Document Review

Document Report

Help

Back To Toolbox Home

Documents arranged by Audit question



Welcome back, Shipper A



Today is Fri, May 15, 2020 9:19 AM PDT

Your last login was Fri, May 15, 2020 7:07 AM PDT

✳️ Environmental Assessment

Assessment

You have 0 Pre Harvest / 0 Pre Season Assessments to review/finalize.

You have 0 Pre Harvest / 0 Pre Season finalized Assessments.

There are a total of 0 Pre Harvest / 0 Pre Season finalized Assessments.

📄 Document Management



To Do List

◀ May 2020 ▶

mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat	sun
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Shipper - website



Affiliate View Documents

Document List for Affiliate

CA LGMA, US



- ✓ Shipper A
 - ✓ Grower 1 - Ranch A
 - > 02. Training (PE04)
 - > 03. Pre-season assessment (EA01-10d)
 - > 05. Fully composted - SA (SA02I-02u)
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 - > 13. Water SOP document (WU02)
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LGMA Audits & COVID-19 – Bottom line

- Mandatory government food safety audits under the LGMA have continued during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Western Growers Remote Program streamlines all verification documents and data for online review by government auditors.
- This new auditing process is supporting food safety oversight during this pandemic.
- In a time where COVID-19 has been testing all industries, WG has worked with the LGMA to find innovative ways to advance food safety and food security efforts.



**GOVERNMENT ON THE FRONT LINES
NATALIE KROUT-GREENBERG
DIRECTOR OF INSPECTION SERVICES
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD
AND AGRICULTURE**

In partnership with industry and with the federal government, State government is focused on protecting the safety of consumers.



INSPECTIONS

- California has 69,900 farms and ranches – 24.3 million acres
- CA supplies 60% of the fruit, nut and vegetable production for the U.S.
 - CDFA's mission to Promote and Protect
- Commitment to our produce safety work partnerships and contracts, including federal FSMA work and state marketing orders/agreements
 - Continue to carry out our food safety inspections as part of operational continuity
 - LGMA and CCAB audits
 - FSMA inspections
 - Investigational follow up
- Priority and commitment to food safety, food security, safeguarding our staff amid the COVID pandemic





AUDIT WORK

- Food safety work continues and additional audit emphasis has been placed on times of the year where we have seen patterns emerge
- Continue to place added diligence during the “transitional” time frame
- Partnership with CA, AZ, and USDA for additional auditors

WHOLE SYSTEMS APPROACH



Water



Equipment



Soil inputs



Policy changes



Wildlife



Weather



Adjacent land



LONGITUDINAL STUDY

- Partnership with federal, state, academia, industry
- Diverse group of stakeholders
- Acknowledgment of the Whole Systems thinking



COMPOST SAMPLING

- CDFA initiated a pilot project last fall
- Expanded partnership with sister state agency, CalRecycle
- Expanded surveillance and sampling work

TRACEABILITY
SCOTT HORSFALL, CEO
CALIFORNIA LGMA
&
JENNIFER MCENTIRE
VP OF FOOD SAFETY & TECHNOLOGY
UNITED FRESH ASSOCIATION

FDA has highlighted traceability as an area of concern. Efforts are underway to make improvements, but functional systems already exist.



TRACEABILITY SURVEY

- **Objectives:**

- Learn more about the value of the LGMA traceability requirements
- Assess the capabilities of members' traceback systems

- **Response:**

- 52 of LGMA's 93 Members
- 56% Response Rate



LGMA MEMBER TRACEABILITY SURVEY FINDINGS

- 100% have a traceback system in place.
- 85% use electronic tracking as all or part of their traceability system.
- 100% can trace product back to the farm and forward to the customer within 2 hours.
- 100% capture information on activities involving growing and harvesting the product.
- 100% identify the grower, ranch/field and date of harvest for all leafy greens they produce.
- 96% capture information on the harvest crew who picked the product.
- 63% participate in the Produce Traceability Initiative
- 100% test their systems at least once a year



LGMA MEMBER TRACEABILITY SURVEY CONCLUSION

- California LGMA members' traceback systems are capable of significantly assisting government investigations.
- In practice the system is not working as quickly as needed.
- Underscores the need for the LGMA and the leafy greens industry to work more closely with the FDA.
- The LGMA supports industry-wide Leafy Greens Traceability Pilots to more quickly and effectively locate the source of contamination during an actual outbreak.
- The LGMA is committed to making any necessary improvements to its required food safety practices to prevent future illnesses.



Leaf Greens Traceability Pilot Overview

FDA LG STEC Action Plan: Promote Tech-Enabled Traceability: *Achieving end-to-end traceability throughout the leafy greens supply chain could make it possible to rapidly trace a contaminated food to its source, which can help shorten outbreaks, narrow product warnings, and prevent illnesses.*

Prioritize work with leafy green stakeholders to design and initiate a pilot on concepts needed for traceability to further scale, such as testing **interoperability** of tracing systems and **public-private data sharing**.

Goals:

Provide industry with better visibility into CORE's traceability challenges

Help Romaine Task Force refine their CTE/KDE template



Who is Involved?

- On the sidelines: the FDA
- Leafy Green Pilot Taskforce made up of 6 associations (see logos below, plus CPMA)
- 3 identified **industry experts** per pilot
- Identified **pilot participants** determined based on select scenarios from the taskforce
 - Retail/foodservice, their DC/distributor, processor/packer as applicable...grower

NOTES:

*The FDA will **NOT** have access to pilot participant names, identifiable data or any CCI Assns, industry experts and pilot participants have signed an NDA prior to participation*

Method/ Approach

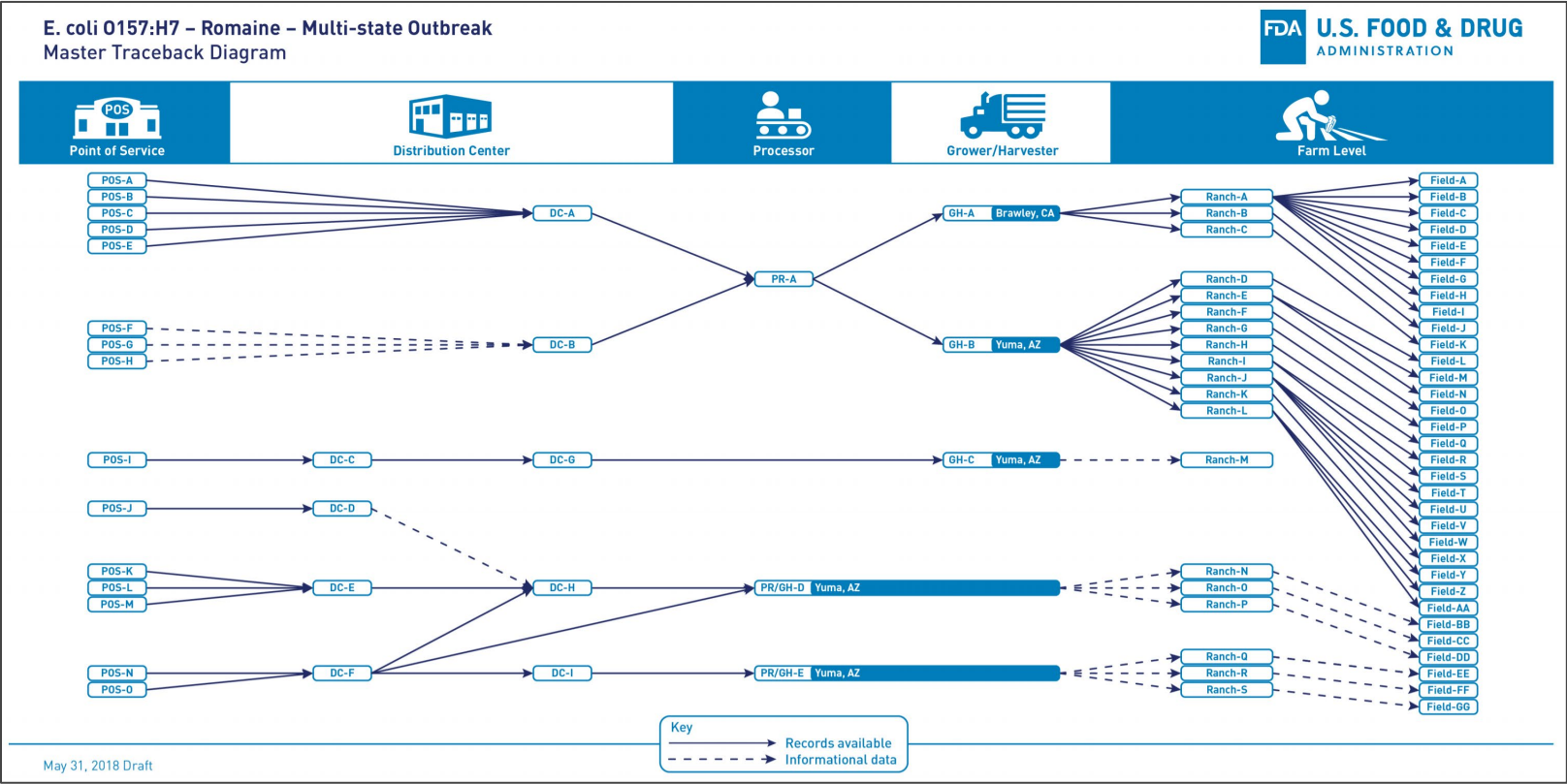
Start with a consumer purchase, and trace it back

- Pilot teams are provided with a purchase location, date range, and credit card and/or shopper card info
- Assume that it's the romaine that should be traced
- As supply chain partners are identified, they'll share pertinent data (as determined by the industry team) via the template that allow trace back to the grower
- -aim to trace 3 different scenarios-

Trackback Diagram

Conduct leafy green product trackback pilots to generate the diagram below using the provided KDE/CTE excel document.

Pilots trace one purchase



What the pilots...

ARE

- Association driven
- Voluntary
- Anonymous (when it comes to supply chain members involved)
- An opportunity to ask questions differently
- Collect data differently (summarized; standardized)
- Going to be complete in the next month

AREN'T

- Intended to promote or test the use of the Produce Traceability Initiative/ GS1-128 barcode on cases
- Intended to test, evaluate, or endorse any specific software system
- Evaluating the way supply chain partners share data with each other, or maintain it themselves
- Intended to endorse the use of the Produce Traceback Template (or Excel spreadsheets) or make it a requirement
- Meant to be time-consuming

Deliverables & Communication

Deliverables:

Summary report with aggregated data for FDA, as well as the general public

- Limited recommendations
- No names
- FDA will see if they can use the template to test data interoperability

The template/ user guide will be refined... or abandoned

Communication:

Pilot charter is posted at producetraceability.org

Template is posted- but is being updated

Final report will be issued late Sept/early Oct



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QUESTIONS?

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