



Food Safety on the Farm

Texas AgriLife Extension and the Texas Department of Agriculture have joined in a collaborative effort to educate and assist Texas produce growers in food safety on the farm called Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs).

AgriLife Extension provides continuing education for producers and food safety managers keeping them up to date on food safety issues and research; trains entry level employees and harvest crews in good hygiene practices; assists producers with writing farm food safety plans and record keeping practices; and when possible provides free microbial water and soil nutrition testing.

With the educational trainings on farm food safety by Texas AgriLife Extension Service, producers can become eligible for implementing these programs on the farm with a \$75,000 grant from the Texas Department of Agriculture. The TDA has funded this cost share program to help producers cover up to \$750 of their initial third party farm food safety audit.

Working with H-E-B

AgriLife Extension has also joined with H-E-B to provide a 2 day, food safety training course for H-E-B produce vendors.

- 17 training classes since 2007
- 350 producers and food safety managers trained from across the country, representing over 500,000 acres in the U.S and Mexico

Impact

- Over 1,100 people reached in produce food safety topics
- 65 producers and food safety managers from Texas trained in food safety
- 77 farm food safety plans developed for Texas producers so fields can be certified as GAPs approved
- 196 harvest crew leaders trained in good hygiene practices
- 880 entry level employees trained in food safety

Funding Since 2008

- \$2,967,941 in grants from TDA and USDA to improve farm food safety from the specialty crop funds from the 2008 Farm Bill
- These funds have hired 8 individuals since 2008
 - 5 Extension Assistants
 - 3 Graduate Students
 - 1 Research Assistant
- Project funding will continue until December 2017

AgriLife Food Safety Website

<http://agrilifefoodsafety.tamu.edu>



- Covers all areas of food safety
- Continuing education
- Resources
- Online training course
- Smart phone application



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