



Quality Control

- Inspections of products in orchards, fields or packing facilities in New York State.
- Inspections are performed on an hourly or weekly basis.
- Inspections are based on specifications developed by growers, buyers, and/or USDA grades.
- By having farm products inspected, farmers can control damage caused during the harvesting process and ensure the quality of the product being packed.

The services described in this brochure are available through the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets' Division of Food Safety and Inspection.

To arrange for an inspection or to obtain additional information on any of these services, please call the office nearest you:

New York State
Department of Agriculture and Markets
 10B Airline Drive
 Albany, NY 12235

ALBANY **ROCHESTER** **SYRACUSE**
 518-457-2090 585-427-0200 315-487-0852

FARM PRODUCTS INSPECTION SERVICES

**Quality Certification
 of Farm Products to
 Help Farmers to Compete
 in Today's Global Market**



**Good Agriculture Practices &
 Good Handling Practices (GAP & GHP)**

GAP certification allows eligibility to the New York State Grown and Certified Program.
 Find out more <https://certified.ny.gov/>



Grading, Certification and Auditing

The Farm Products Unit is a group within the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets' Division of Food Safety and Inspection. This unit provides voluntary third-party grading and certification services for fresh produce and shell eggs, and food safety verification audits (GAP & GHP) to the fruit & vegetable industry throughout New York, on behalf of USDA. Various types of services are designed to assist the orderly marketing of farm products from producer to consumer. These services are available to interested parties on a fee basis.

Grading, Certification and Auditing Services include:

- Terminal Market Inspections / Receiving Point Inspections
- Shipping Point Inspections
- Good Agricultural Practices & Good Handling Practices Audits (GAP & GHP Audits)
- Shell Egg Voluntary Grading
- Inspection of various farm products purchased by government agencies, private groups or institutions
- Quality Control



Terminal Market Inspection

- USDA licensed state inspectors inspect produce coming into New York State.
- This inspection service may be requested by any interested party.
- Inspection determines if the shipment meets contract terms at the time of arrival.
- Products may be inspected for quality and/or condition, size, weight, count, temperatures and freezing, as requested.
- These inspections are reported electronically using USDA Fresh Electronic Information Reporting System (FEIRS).
- These inspections are conducted as soon as possible after arrival, and often during unloading.
- Official USDA certificates are issued and are accepted as evidence in Federal and State courts.

Shipping Point Inspection

- This service involves inspection and certification of commodities grown in New York and shipped, sold and marketed within or out of the state.
- Inspection service users can request an inspection to be performed in the field, at the packing facility or at cold storage facilities.
- USDA licensed state inspectors inspect and certify New York produced commodities.
- Commodities may be inspected for quality (grade) and/or condition, size, net weight, count and other factors required by applicant of service.
- Official USDA certificates are issued and are accepted as evidence in Federal and State courts.

Good Agriculture Practices & Good Handling Practices (GAP & GHP)

- USDA GAP program is a voluntary, annual audit program that verifies implementation of good agricultural practices and good handling practices.
- USDA trained and licensed New York State auditors perform the audits in New York.
- Participation in this program demonstrates adherence to [Food and Drug Administration's Guide to Minimize Microbial Food Safety Hazards for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables](#).
- GAP food safety program reduces the risk of microbial contamination that can cause consumer illness.
- USDA GAP certification assists farmers and fresh produce handlers in providing safe, wholesome produce to consumers and meeting buyers' requirements.
- Program participation supports compliance with FDA's Produce Safety Rule.
- USDA GAP audit is recognized nationally and internationally.
- NY State Department of Agriculture & Markets offers audit services for:
 - USDA GAP & GHP
 - Harmonized GAP
 - Harmonized GAP Plus+

Shell Egg Voluntary and Fee Grading

- Shell eggs means eggs of domesticated chickens.
- USDA trained and licensed New York State graders and USDA graders provide the services.
- Grading service is based on USDA standards for grades and weight classes for shell eggs.
- Grading service may be based on institutional contract criteria or individual specifications of the applicant of service.
- Grading service is available both at the packing facility and where the eggs will be sold.
- Shell egg grading services available include:
 - Continuous grading service on a resident basis.
 - Continuous grading service on a nonresident basis.
 - Noncontinuous grading service on a fee basis.
 - Temporary grading service on a fee basis.



Inspection of Various Farm Products Purchased by Government Agencies, Private Groups or Institutions

- Inspections are based on requested specifications.
- Ensures all products delivered meet specifications.
- Ensures the institution is purchasing wholesome, high quality products at a competitive price.
- Inspections prevent one bidder from gaining an undue advantage over another.