



Food Safety Certification Reimbursement Program

What is food safety certification?

Food safety certification, such as USDA Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), is a voluntary audit used to verify produce is grown, harvested, packed, handled and stored in a way that minimizes risk to microbial food safety hazards.

Large purchasers of produce including corporate grocers, wholesale distributors, food service management companies and other institutions may require all growers from whom they purchase participate in voluntary food safety audit programs such as GAP.

About the program:

Through a Specialty Crop Block Grant, the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries will reimburse a percentage of the costs of market-driven food safety certification for the 2026 growing year.

This program will reimburse Alabama farmers (wholesale distributors are ineligible) that have successfully completed a food safety audit in 2026 for 75% of the cost up to a maximum of \$800.

To participate:

- ✓ Contact Program Coordinator Meredith Casey to request an application for reimbursement
- ✓ Register as a vendor in AlabamaBuys (STAARS registration is also accepted)
- ✓ Submit a copy of your audit bill, score sheet, and documentation of the payment (cancelled check)

Questions? Contact Meredith Casey at



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