

# Developing A Farm Based Traceability System

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Appalachian Regional Horticulture Conference

Abingdon, VA

Presented by Wythe Morris

Commercial Horticulture Agent

Virginia Cooperative Extension

# What the Audit Verification Checklist Says

Traceability questions:

- ❖ G-1. A **documented traceability program** has been established.
- ❖ G-2. The operation has performed a **“mock recall”** that was proven to be effective.
- ❖ 1-26. **Each production area** is identified or coded to enable traceability in the event of a recall.
- ❖ 2-21. **Product** moving out of the field is uniquely identified to enable traceability.
- ❖ 3-34, 4-31, 6-48. **Records** are kept recording the **source of incoming product** and the **destination of outgoing product** which is uniquely identified to enable traceability.

The image shows a tilted document titled "USDA Good Agricultural Practices & Good Handling Practices Audit Verification Checklist". It features the USDA logo and a green box with "USDA GAP & GHP AUDIT PROGRAM" and "FRUIT & VEGETABLE PROGRAM". A disclaimer states: "This program is intended to assess a participant's efforts to minimize the risk of contamination of fresh fruits, vegetables, nuts and miscellaneous commodities by microbial pathogens based on the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's 'Guide to Minimize Microbial Food Safety Hazards for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables'." The form includes fields for Firm Name, Contact Person, Audit Site(s), Main Address, City, Telephone No., State, Zip, E-mail, Fax, Auditor(s), Date & Time Arrived, Travel Time, Date & Time Departed, Person(s) Interviewed, and a checkbox for "Did the auditee participate in GAP & GHP training?". At the bottom, it says "For Official Government Use Only AMS, FV, Fresh Produce Branch" and "November 3, 2009 Page 1".

# What do we identify?

## A. CODED ENTRY

- ❖ Date harvested
- ❖ Crop harvested
- ❖ Field location

## B. INVOICED ENTRY

- ❖ Customer/ Destination
- ❖ Shipping Date

## C. PRODUCTION LOG/ DOCUMENTED

- ❖ Total harvested inventory
- ❖ Customer/ Destination



# Ideal Traceback Codes

- ❖ Simple
- ❖ Stable over time
- ❖ Minimal number of digits
- ❖ Room for future growth
- ❖ Add on- not edit

# Setting up a Farm Traceback Code

On date & year, I harvested crop from field number.

# DATE CODE

- ❖ Using the Julian Calendar, each day of the year has its own number ranging from 1 to 365.
- ❖ There is a Julian Calendar for Leap Year when needed.
- ❖ The day date code needs to have three digits in it. Example, if you were entering January 9<sup>th</sup>, this would be 009 in the coding. March 17<sup>th</sup> would be coded as 076.
- ❖ The year date code needs the last two digits of the current year. Example, 2010 would be coded 10.
- ❖ *Place a copy of these calendars into your Plan of Action Manual in supporting documents.*





# CROP CODE

- ❖ Set up the crop code list as needed for your farm operation.
- ❖ Designate within crops as needed. Example: Pepper, Sweet Bell, Hot, Banana, etc.
- ❖ Leave open slots/spaces if you wish. You can add items in open slots until filled.
- ❖ Once you have set up codes for your operation, only add new crops to end of list- do not edit or change established crop code numbers.
- ❖ *Place a copy of this form into your Plan of Action Manual in supporting documents.*

## TRACEBACK CROP CODES

01	Asparagus
02	Basil
03	Beans: Lima
04	Beans: Snap
05	Beets
06	Broccoli
07	Brussel Sprout
08	Cabbage
07	Cauliflower
08	Celery
09	Collards
10	Kale
11	Kohlrabi
12	Carrots
13	Cucumber
14	Eggplant
15	Garlic
16	Garlic: Elephant
17	Greens: Mustard
18	Greens: Turnip
19	Leeks
20	Lettuce
21	Endive
22	Escarole
23	Muskmelon
24	Okra
25	Onion
26	Onion: Green
27	Parsley
28	Cilantro
29	Parsnip
30	Peas: English/Garden
31	Peas: Southern
32	Pepper
33	Potato: Irish
34	Potato: Sweet
35	Pumpkin
36	Squash: Winter
37	Squash: Summer
38	Strawberry
39	Radish
40	Rutabaga
41	Turnip
42	Spinach
43	Sweet Corn
44	Tomato
45	Watermelon
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# FIELD CODE

- ❖ The more farms or fields are sub-divided, the better for your traceback plan.
- ❖ Post field numbers at each location to identify fields.  
*(Workers may or may not be familiar with names that you have assigned to the fields.)*
- ❖ Place a copy of this form into your Plan of Action Manual in supporting documents.

## TRACEBACK FIELD CODES

01	Creek field
02	Old flat
03	Pierce farm main field
04	Jones farm
05	New field
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# Farm Traceback Codes

On date & year, I harvested crop from field number.

000-00-00-00

*Note: All date codes need three digits.  
Example: January 9 is represented  
as 009.*

# Examples

□ *On June 25, 2010, I harvested cabbage from the Jones Farm.*

□ Answer:

□ *On July 7, 2010, I harvested sweet corn from the Old flat.*

□ Answer:

□ *On August 30, 2010, I harvested pumpkins from the New field.*

□ Answer:



# Examples

- *On June 25, 2010, I harvested cabbage from the Jones Farm.*
- Answer: 176-10-06-04
  
- *On July 7, 2010, I harvested sweet corn from the Old flat.*
- Answer: 188-10-43-02
  
- *On August 30, 2010, I harvested pumpkins from the New field.*
- Answer: 242-10-35-05

# INVOICE

Shipping Date

Grower/ Vender

**ABC Farms**  
**102 Sunny Way**  
**Anywhere, Virginia 12345**

431200

Customer's Order No. \_\_\_\_\_ DATE September 1, 2010

SOLD TO Mainline Packing Company

ADDRESS State Route 21, Freeway, Virginia 54321

SALESMAN \_\_\_\_\_ TERMS \_\_\_\_\_

CASH	CHARGE	C. O. D.	PAID OUT	RETD. MDSE.	RECD. ON ACCT.
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QUAN.	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	AMOUNT
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6	PUMPKINS BINS Lot # 242-10-35-05		
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Customer/ Destination

All claims and returned goods MUST be accompanied by this bill.

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_





# Questions ?

Wythe Morris  
Commercial Horticulture  
Virginia Cooperative Extension  
[morrisw@vt.edu](mailto:morrisw@vt.edu)