

CanadaGAP: Producer Training Tools & Resources

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CanadaGAP Expert Assistance

- In 2017, CanadaGAP consulted members on their potential interest in accessing technical support services through CanadaGAP.
 - There was interest in the concept, but no business case to expand CanadaGAP services.
- The idea was set aside in favour of focusing on raising awareness among producers and producer associations about the availability of existing tools and resources from CanadaGAP.



Understanding CanadaGAP

- CanadaGAP has developed materials for a **two-day introductory course**
- Past courses have been offered by NSF International (formerly NSF-GFTC) & provincial government partners
- No pool of approved CanadaGAP trainers, but we know some trainers who are well qualified (e.g., CanadaGAP auditors who provide consulting & training services)
- CanadaGAP maintains and updates training materials
 - PowerPoint slides, handouts, etc.



Introductory course (continued)

- Course content includes:
 - General overview of how the program works
 - Basic review of food safety requirements
 - Background information on why growers can benefit from a food safety program (understanding the hazards, managing risk, provides context, outbreak data, etc.)
- Course materials available from CanadaGAP office
 - Currently in English only
 - French will be available in April 2018
 - Contact CanadaGAP if interested



Recent Produce Outbreaks

Date	Suspected Food	Pathogen	Cases
Dec. 2017	Lettuce	<i>E. coli O157</i>	67, 2 dead
May 2014	Cucumbers	<i>S. Newport</i>	275
Aug. 2012	Cantaloupe	<i>S. typhimurium & newport</i>	261, 3 dead
Sept. 2011	Cantaloupe	<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>	147, 33 dead
Nov. 2008	Lettuce	<i>E. coli O157</i>	128
Aug. 2008	Jalapenos	<i>Salmonella</i>	1447
Nov. 2006	Lettuce	<i>E. coli O157</i>	80
Nov. 2006	Lettuce	<i>E. coli O157</i>	71
Oct. 2006	Tomatoes	<i>S. typhimurium</i>	183
Aug. 2006	Spinach	<i>E. coli O157</i>	200, 4 dead



Foodborne Illness in Canada

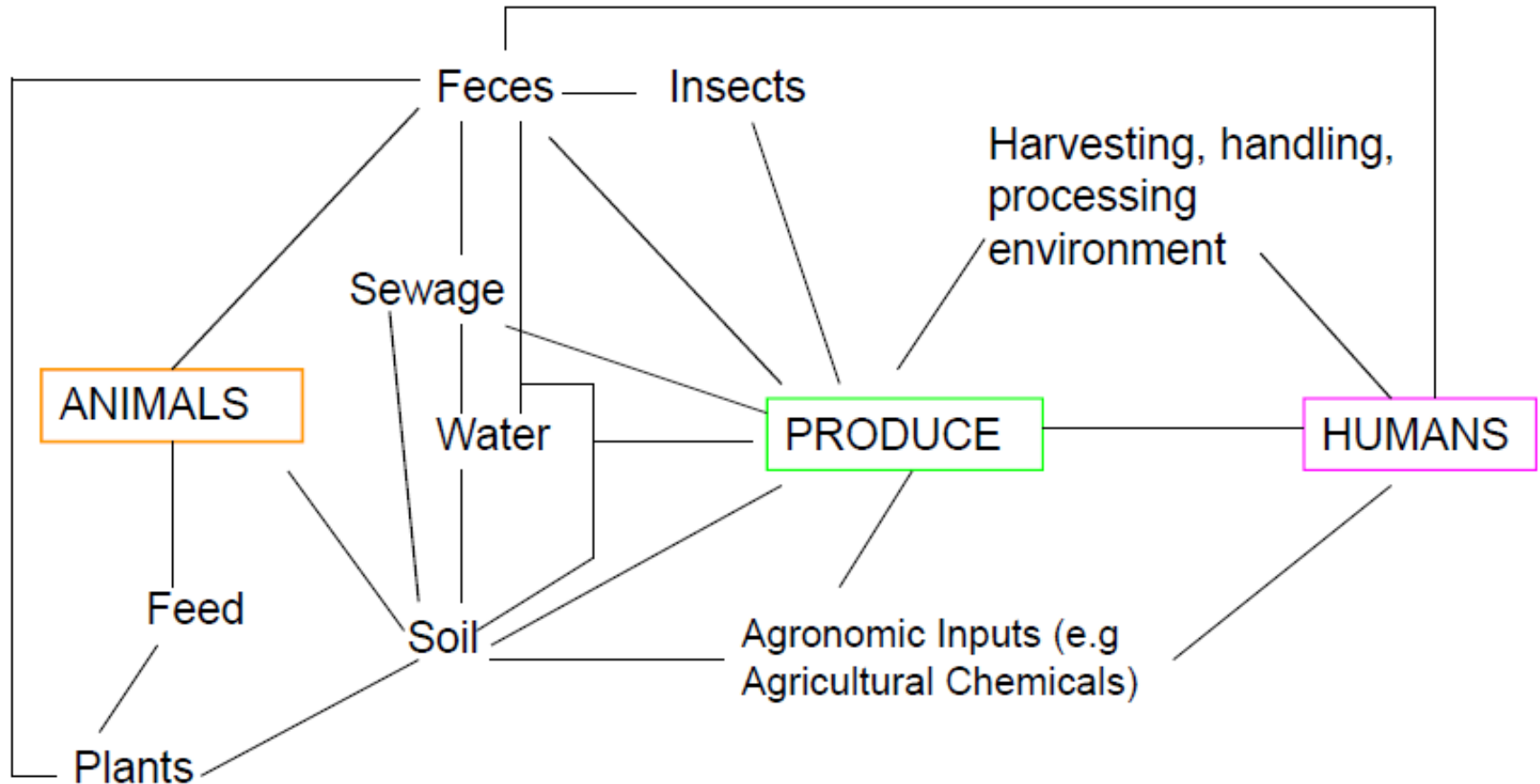
- Canadian estimates: 4 million annually

1 - in - 8

- Preventable outbreaks weekly
- Ontario estimates 90,000 illnesses each year linked to produce



How does produce become contaminated?



Beuchat, 1996



Introductory course (cont.)

- Unit 6: series of slides provides more detail on food safety risks and hazards associated with:
 - Water
 - Water for cleaning and fluming
 - Agricultural water
 - Manure
 - Animals
 - Employees
 - Environment
- Addresses risk management



CanadaGAP Website

- Contains a wealth of materials that can be used for producer training
- New and improved "Search" function allows quick location of resources on any topic
- Various handouts, Fact Sheets, and posters at the CanadaGAP booth in the exhibit area – samples of website content

www.canadagap.ca



Website: Training Resources

www.canadagap.ca/audit-checklist/training-resources/

- **Posters:** Hand Washing, Hand Sanitizing, Employee Illness, Chemical Storage signs
- **Fact Sheets:** Water Quality, Record-Keeping & Traceability, Cleaning & Sanitizing Equipment
- **Brochures and Handouts:** A Guide to Personal Hygiene, Tips for U-Pick, etc.



Frequently Asked Questions

www.canadagap.ca/program/faq/

- Over the years CanadaGAP has received many questions from program users
- FAQs are compiled and answered on the website
- Invaluable tool for auditors and producers
- 100% searchable
- Organized according to sections in the manuals, audit checklist, and general topics (e.g., corrective actions)



Food Safety Background Info

www.canadagap.ca/ Click on "Tools"

- **Index/Scientific Reference Listing**

- References to all the scientific literature and sources used in developing the CanadaGAP program requirements

- **Washing Leafy Greens and Herbs**

- Background document addressing food safety risks and outbreak data
- Distributed through CanadaGAP office to Leafy Greens and Herbs operations
- Available on request and via website FAQs



Website: Food Safety Links

www.canadagap.ca/audit-checklist/food-safety-links/

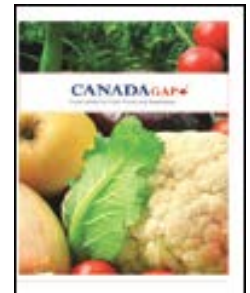
- **FSMA Resources** – for example:
 - Foreign Supplier Verification Program
 - Produce Safety Rule
- Canadian Industry Resources
- Canadian Government Resources
 - Research Priorities for Fresh Produce (Health Canada)
 - Provincial Government programs
- U.S and International Resources



Communication materials

www.canadagap.ca/publications/

- **Presentations:** General Overview, Main Changes, Unannounced Audits (also a brochure)
- **Brochures** – for example:
 - The Basics of CanadaGAP Audits
 - Quick Facts & Option D
 - What to Expect from Your Audit
 - Option A1 and A2: What You Need to Know
- **Communiques:** Certification Program updates, announcements when new resources are published, etc.



Website: Manuals

www.canadagap.ca/manuals/downloads

- Manual revisions
- Spanish
- Main changes
 - "Cheat sheet" summary
 - Presentation
- Which sections apply to my operation?
- Commodity-specific differences
- Forms in Excel contain additional guidance



Website: Appendices

www.canadagap.ca/manuals/downloads

- Additional guidance – for example:
 - Water testing
 - Recall program
- Signs for hand washing, controlled access areas, etc.
- Examples of procedures:
 - Composting
 - Cleaning and treating cisterns
 - Water chlorination



Tools provided by others

- Many complementary tools have been developed to help with record-keeping, etc.
- CanadaGAP authorizes third party content providers to reproduce our materials on a case-by-case basis.
- CanadaGAP does not endorse or approve any specific tools or software solutions.
- Links to some tools are provided through the Food Safety Links page on the CanadaGAP website.



Examples of tools available

- BC Vegetable Marketing Commission offers CanadaGAP Forms in Punjabi, Chinese, Spanish
- GAP App
- Field Pro Manager (Farm Credit Canada)
- Inputtable manuals in MS Word offered through the APMQ (Association des producteurs maraîchers du Québec)
- Crop Tracker (Apple/Fruit Tracker)
- Other tools are in development



Questions?



Thank you!



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