



Great Lakes Fruit, Vegetable & Farm Market EXPO

Michigan Greenhouse Growers EXPO

December 9 - 11, 2014

DeVos Place Convention Center, Grand Rapids, MI



Greenhouse: The Pros and Cons of Producing Greenhouse Vegetables - A Panel Presentation

Wednesday morning 10:00 am

Where: River Overlook (upper level) Room C & D

Greenhouse flower growers who are exploring producing food crops like vegetables will find this panel presentation useful. Discussions will include marketing, production concerns, food safety and risks, and rewards of growing edibles as alternative greenhouse crops.

Moderator: Thomas Dudek, Senior Greenhouse Educator, MSU Extension, West Olive, MI

10:00 am The Pros and Cons of Producing Greenhouse Vegetables – A Panel Presentation

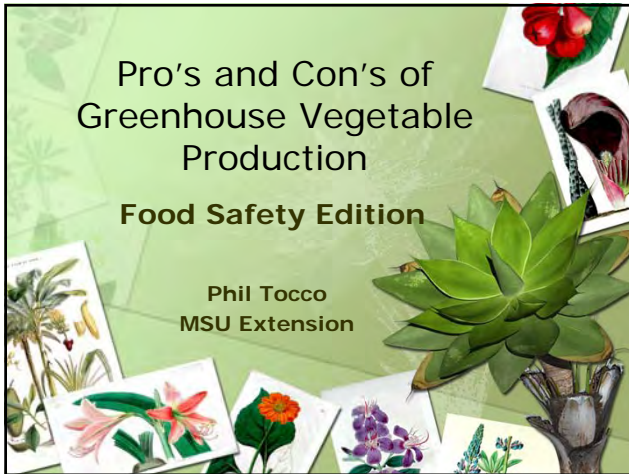
- Bill Tuinier, Post Gardens, Rockwood, MI
- Kelly Leach, Avalon Farms, Climax, MI
- Phil Tocco, Extension Educator, MSU Extension, Jackson, MI

10:50 am Session Ends

Pro's and Con's of Greenhouse Vegetable Production

Food Safety Edition

Phil Tocco
MSU Extension



Standards in the Food System

Public standards
Government laws and regulations (Federal, State, Local)
International Trade: Codex Alimentarius Commission
Tend to focus primarily on risks due to food hazards

Private Standards
Driven by the food industry: retail buyers, buyer organizations, commodity groups, NGOs, etc.
Often consider food hazards (perhaps not risk-based) as well as environmental issues and corporate social responsibility objectives.




What is the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA)?



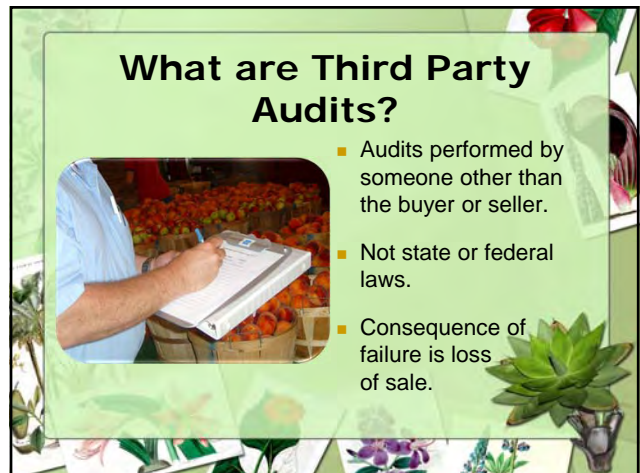
- Proposed Federal Law governing production and harvest of fresh produce.
- Not exactly sure what this will look like yet.



What are Third Party Audits?



- Audits performed by someone other than the buyer or seller.
- Not state or federal laws.
- Consequence of failure is loss of sale.



What are GAPs?

A set of private food safety standards that look at your whole farm, including:

- Irrigation and Wash Water Sources
- Manure Source, Use, and Handling
- Employee Training and Hygiene
- Farm and Equipment Sanitation

Verified through third party audits.

How Do I Know if I Need GAPs?



- Ask your buyer.
- Big buyers may or may not require them before you sell to them.
- Direct markets usually don't require GAP certification.

Where Do I Go For More Info?

- You can find help on our website, gaps.msu.edu

The website contains manual templates, upcoming meeting dates and online tutorials.

