



Leafy Green Guidelines Information Sheet



Disclaimer

Root Cause Analysis is strongly encouraged to address a variety of food safety incidents or failures. The Root Cause Analysis principles included in this document can be applied to different food safety issues and are intended to cover key considerations to conduct Root Cause Analysis in relation to water resources. The authors, contributors and reviewers make not claims or warranties about any specific actions contained herein. The providers of this document do not certify compliance with local, state and federal laws, rules and regulations.

Western Growers develops an enhanced process and tools aimed at supporting the improvement and maintenance of leafy green guidance documents

Background Process

The Leafy Green Guidance documents (Commodity Specific Food Safety Guidelines for the Production and Harvest of Lettuce and Leafy Greens) utilized by the California and Arizona Leafy Green Marketing Agreements (LGMA's) were developed by university researchers, industry scientists, food safety experts, farmers, shippers and processors. These documents serve to establish a distinguished and instructive system for leafy green growers in California and Arizona.

The improvement and continual incorporation of new science and information is crucial in ensuring the Leafy Green Guidance is clear, practical, and implementable for industry members. Western Growers has and continues to play a key role in facilitating the maintenance of Leafy Green Guidance documents. Our commitment is to support the ongoing improvement and upkeep of these documents.

Western Growers' desire is to be responsive to both members and LGMA leadership and as open and accessible to industry as possible. Our overarching goal is to provide mindful guidance based on established science and risk assessments, verifiable in the field, and practical for growers and handlers.

Western Growers' efforts to improve the LGMA approved guidelines include:

- Collecting, gathering and revising comments and suggestions submitted via email, via this website or by phone
- Facilitating numerous industry meetings in varying areas of California and Arizona
- Hosting and summarizing discussions to review proposed changes and comments.
- Working with several experts and both the Arizona and California LGMA staff to complete this leafy green guidelines amendment process.

These efforts have evolved over time and continue to adjust to continuous change. Through facilitating the sustenance of the leafy green guidance documents, Western Growers has adjusted efforts in order to be more intuitive, accessible and transparent. We welcome your comments, questions and feedback on this website and throughout the amendment process.

What do you need to know about this enhanced process and tools?

1. Western Growers maintains a master calendar to facilitate web discussions aimed at reviewing Leafy Green Guidance Documents in a section by section sequence (See Master Calendar – attached below).
2. Western Growers engages a comprehensive distribution list that includes growers, shippers, handlers, suppliers, universities and all entities interested in this review process. Subscribers receive reminders and updates about current and upcoming web discussions and related matters. To be added or removed from the list, contact Scott Nichols at snichols@wga.com.
3. Prior to scheduled web discussions, Western Growers opens a 30-day comment period. Proposed changes must meet LGMA criteria for consideration. Proposals should be 1) comprehensive, auditable by government auditors, 2) accompanied by a statement on how proposed changes will advance or enhance food safety, and 3) include a clear and straightforward scientific basis or rationale including citations of relevant research if available.

4. The acceptance of proposed changes occurs during this 30-day comment period. If needed, WG may contact proponents of these changes for additional information. WG gathers feedback from all the parties interested in this process once all the proposed changes are collected.
5. For proposed changes, suggestions and comments, email snichols@wga.com or contact us via the website.
6. After gathering proposed changes, comments and suggestions, Western Growers provides an opportunity for additional comments and web-based meetings in an effort to minimize travel to diverse locations in California and Arizona. The presentation of proposed changes and comments for discussion takes place during these web-based meetings.
7. Western Growers collects and records all recommended revisions and comments gathered after each discussion and sends them to all the web-based meeting participants to confirm these were captured correctly.
8. Western Growers then presents all materials (suggestions, changes, comments, attendance records, etc.) to both California and Arizona LGMAs for their consideration.
9. Arizona and California LGMAs may act upon materials supplied by WG as they each deem appropriate.

WG is supportive of a clear, open, accessible and transparent process that engages diverse stakeholders in our efforts to continually improve the leafy green guidance documents for Arizona and California. To further enhance coordination and collaboration, comments, questions and feedback are welcome.