

Kubecka Farms
714 Chestnut Ridge Rd.
Kirkville, NY 13082

Good morning. My name is Jeff Kubecka. I am owner and operator of a 150 acre fresh market vegetable farm. I grow, pack, and deliver a wide variety of vegetables including leafy greens. My customers range from large retailers to wholesalers to sales directly to consumers. This type of operation is very common in New York. I am already required or strongly encouraged to have a GAPS audit to sell to my retail customers and know it is only a matter of time before wholesalers will require it or FDA will make it mandatory. Thus, I am in support of the proposed National Leafy Greens Agreement. All stakeholders in the industry will have representation on the committees that will be guiding the agreement. Regional differences will be taken into account in the audit system although I prefer a more north and south distinction in the zones. A nationally accepted audit performed by local USDA certified auditors will save time and money and be more meaningful. Imported food will need to be audited to meet the same standards to be included in the agreement. In conclusion all growers and handlers no matter the size or location are concerned with food safety as the ramifications of a problem are serious and affect the whole industry. I believe that a self-imposed voluntary and national food safety agreement for leafy greens is the best way to address this challenge.

Sincerely,
Jeff Kubecka

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