



# RHODE ISLAND GAP PROGRAM

## Steps to Certification:

1. Attend the Rhode Island GAP training offered through URI Food Safety Education Program, Nutrition & Food Sciences Department.
2. Contact Sejal Lanterman, URI Cooperative Extension Educator with the RI GAP Program, to set up a site-visit. The purpose of her initial visit is to prepare you for the RI DEM/Division of Agriculture inspection. During this visit Ms. Lanterman will go through the RI GAP Audit and help you to make any necessary changes. She will offer suggestions and answer any of your questions.
3. Fill out 'Initial Certification Request' form and return to Ms. Lanterman.
4. RI DEM/Division of Agriculture will contact you to set up inspection appointment.

## More information:

- After you have completed the above steps and successfully passed the final inspection, you will receive a certificate from the RI-DEM that will be good for only one year. There is an annual recertification requirement.
- Recertification visits, with the RI DEM inspector, will start in the spring and an appointment postcard will be mailed to you.
- You will receive program marketing and resource material, such as the RI GAP signage, thermometers, RI GAP logo magnets and RI GAP informational brochures.

## Important:

The RI GAP Audit form was designed to assess a wide-range of on-farm food safety issues. While implementation of all audit items will decrease the risks of food-borne illnesses, some are considered a higher public health risk than others.

- Items that are critical to public health will require immediate action to pass the audit and are marked with \*\*.
- Items less critical and can be corrected later are marked with \*.
- Some items on the audit have no star, are not required for certification, but are still considered important. Best practice is to implement every item on the audit into your operation.

Remember that meeting RI GAP program requirements results in safe produce. A buyer may have additional requirements, including those audit provisions not officially required by the RI GAP Program for certification.

If you have questions or concerns along the way you can always refer to your binder that you were given during training or contact Sejal Lanterman by phone (874-4453) or email ([sejal@uri.edu](mailto:sejal@uri.edu)) or Lori Pivarnik by phone (874-2972) or email ([urifoodsafety@etal.uri.edu](mailto:urifoodsafety@etal.uri.edu)).

