



DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF  
**AGRICULTURE**

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## **FOOD SAFETY AUDIT COST-SHARE PROGRAM**

Delaware fruit and vegetable growers who receive a passing score on their third-party food safety audits and agricultural water tests are eligible to receive cost-share to help cover the expense through the Delaware Department of Agriculture.

Delaware growers can now receive financial support in getting a third-party audit to verify they are following effective food safety practices. Audits verify that fruits and vegetables are produced, packed, handled, and stored safely to minimize risks of microbial food safety hazards. Part of verifying good agricultural and good handling practices is by ensuring the water used in crop production and postharvest activities is safe.

The Delaware Department of Agriculture, Food Products Inspection Section cost-share program will pay 80 percent of the costs of a successful USDA-AMS or commercial third-party audit with a maximum reimbursement of \$1,000 per year for each farm. Also, producers can be compensated for 80 percent of the cost associated with annual water testing, with a maximum reimbursement of \$500 per year for each farm. If USDA has covered 100 percent of an applicant's successful audit, the applicant is still eligible to be reimbursed for water testing under the cost-share program.

For 2019 and 2020, USDA has agreed to defray 100 percent of the costs associated with Harmonized GAP and Harmonized GAP+ Audits; in Delaware. If USDA has covered 100 percent of the applicant's successful audit, the applicant is still eligible for water testing reimbursement through this cost-share and should proceed to fill out the cost-share application.

To be eligible for assistance, Delaware fruit and vegetable growers must meet the following requirements:

- Growers must have successfully completed a third-party USDA AMS or commercial audit before July 31.
- Growers must submit receipts for the water tests performed
- All paperwork must be submitted to DDA no later than July 31, 2021, to be eligible for reimbursement.

Any growers who have not submitted receipts and paperwork from their food safety audit or water test that was successfully completed between November 15, 2018, and December 31, 2020, may still apply for the cost-share program for reimbursement with DDA by submitting all required documents no later than June 1, 2021.

Funding is provided on a first-come, first-serve basis. Applicants must fully complete the necessary application and show verification of successful audit completion, billing, and proof of payment for the audit. The State of Delaware requires all applicants to register in the new State of Delaware eSupplier Portal before payment can be made. If you have previously been reimbursed through the state, your information is still on file but be sure to update any information in the new portal, as necessary, at <https://esupplier.erp.delaware.gov>.

For information regarding the Delaware Department of Agriculture/ USDA AMS food safety audits, please contact Brenda Clements, Food Products Inspection Field Supervisor, at 302-698-4546 or via email [Brenda.Clements@delaware.gov](mailto:Brenda.Clements@delaware.gov).

If you have questions regarding the cost-share program, please contact Anna Wicks, Environmental Health Specialist II, at 302-698-4582 or via email at [Anna.Wicks@delaware.gov](mailto:Anna.Wicks@delaware.gov).