Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)

We at Select Harvest are committed to implementing Good Agricultural Practices across our operations. This includes encouraging our grower community to frequently review best practices and self-audit for continual improvement. Why? It’s just plain good business!

Good Agricultural Practices are all about managing Food Safety by understanding the contamination risks and employing the latest methods for mitigating these risks. Ensuring a safe product is central in sustaining the marketability of almonds and Food Safety begins in the orchard.

There are many pieces that comprise a successful and comprehensive GAP program. In our orchards we focus on these nine things:

1. Documentation and traceability
2. Employee training
3. Fertilizer and soil amendment practices
4. Water quality sources
5. Orchard floor management
6. Field sanitation and employee hygiene
7. Pest control
8. Harvest and delivery sanitation
9. Stockpile management

While it is important to review and assess all of these areas, there is no one size fits all program. This can make implementation seem daunting if you aren’t already employing a program, but even finding something small that fits your operation as an initial step forward is well worth the effort. Luckily we have a number of valuable resources to guide us as an industry. The Almond Board of California has published quite a lot on this topic and you can review there [HERE](https://www.almonds.com/tools-and-resources/grower-tools/food-safety-and-gap-tools). If you have specific questions on their guidelines, ABC staff are always willing to work with you. So are we, you can email us at info@selectharvestusa.com.