



2025

2024/2025
ANNUAL REPORT



IN THE NEWS



MAINTAINING THE SAFETY OF OUR FOOD



“

It is safe to say that they (LGMA members) appear to be doing everything humanly possible to reduce the chances (of foodborne illness).”

DAVID POGUE

REPORTER,
CBS SUNDAY MORNING



SCAN/CLICK TO
WATCH THE SEGMENT

Forbes

U.S. LETTUCE INDUSTRY TOUGHENS SAFETY MANDATES AMID FDA CHAOS

“LGMA standards are specific, measurable, and verifiable through self-funded mandatory California Department of Food and Agriculture certified audits.”



SCAN/CLICK TO
READ THE ARTICLE

“LGMA has been ahead on water standards all along because it’s a potential vector for harmful pathogens and will be upgrading metrics further this year based on scientific learnings honed to variances in California and Arizona water systems and farming operations.”

ABOUT THE **LGMA**

The California Leafy Greens Marketing Agreement (LGMA) is a program dedicated to advancing food safety with science, data, and a commitment to continuous improvement. The LGMA incorporates science-based standards with government oversight, with the goal of its grower members delivering healthy and safe leafy greens to the nation.

LGMA MEMBERS

CALIFORNIA GROWING REGIONS





COLBY PEREIRA,
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, BRAGA FRESH

“Salinas Valley’s agriculture, known as America’s Salad Bowl, produces much of the leafy greens consumed by the U.S. spring through fall season. The combination of fertile soil, microclimates and coastal influences make the region ideal for farming all leafy green varieties. Known for generational farming, the Salinas Valley is also a hub for farming innovation, ag technology, and ongoing research, continually driving improvement and setting science-based standards for food safety practices.”

SALINAS VALLEY



RYAN REED,
GENERAL COUNSEL, BONIPAK

“Santa Maria is a vibrant community with a long, proud history in farming. Farming in Santa Maria is both situated in a compact region and centralized between larger population centers, allowing growers and shippers to provide the freshest leafy greens to consumers. The Santa Maria Valley is made up of a number of different microclimates within a small area, offering great and varied growing opportunities.”

SANTA MARIA VALLEY



CHRIS DREW,
PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OFFICER, OCEAN MIST® FARMS

“Producing leafy greens in the Southwest desert during the winter months (November-April) is vital due to the region’s favorable temperatures and minimal rainfall. These ideal conditions support consistent, high-quality growth of cool-season greens when much of the country faces harsh weather. This unique advantage helps ensure a steady, reliable supply of fresh produce throughout the winter months. The desert’s winter climate makes it a cornerstone of America’s leafy green production.”

COACHELLA / DESERT REGIONS



2024/2025 MEMBERS

68 Produce, LLC, Salinas
Agro-Jal Farms, Inc., Santa Maria
Amazing Coachella/Peter Rabbit Farms, Inc., Coachella
Amigo Farms, Inc., Yuma, AZ
Babé Farms, Inc., Santa Maria
Baloian Packing Co., Inc., Fresno
Beachside Produce, LLC, Guadalupe
Bella Vista Produce, Inc., Santa Maria
Bengard Ranch, Inc., Salinas
Bonipak Produce Co., Santa Maria
Boskovich Farms, Oxnard
Braga Fresh Family Farms/ Braga Fresh Foods, Soledad
C & E Farms, Inc., Salinas
Church Brothers Farms, LLC/ True Leaf Farms, Salinas
Cinagro Farms, Inc., Fillmore
Classic Salads, LLC, Salinas
Coastal Fresh Farms, Westlake Village
Coastline Family Farms, Inc., Salinas
Creekside Organics, Inc., Bakersfield
D'Arrigo Brothers of California, Salinas
Dan Andrews Farms, Bakersfield
Deardorff Family Farms, Oxnard
Dole Fresh Vegetables, Salinas
Duda Farm Fresh Foods, Inc-CA, Salinas
Durant Distributing, Santa Maria
Dynasty Farms, Salinas
EpicVeg, Inc., Lompoc
Field Fresh Farms, Watsonville
Fresh Choice Marketing, Inc., Oxnard
Fresh Del Monte/ Mann Packing Co., Inc., Salinas
Fresh Express, Inc., Salinas
Fresh Kist Produce LLC, Nipomo
George Amaral Ranches, Inc., Gonzales
GJ Farms, Inc., Fillmore
Gold Coast Packing, Santa Maria
Golden West Vegetables, Inc., Oxnard
GreenGate Fresh, LLLP, Salinas
Grimmway Organics, Bakersfield
Harbinger Group, LLC dba Misionero, Salinas
Heritage Farms, LLC, El Centro
Hitchcock Farms, Inc., Salinas
Ippolito International, Salinas

J. Marchini Farms, Le Grand
Jayleaf, LLC, Hollister
Joe Heger Farms, LLC, El Centro
Kenter Canyon Farms, Inc., Sun Valley
L & J Innovations, LLC, Santa Maria
Lakeside Organic Gardens, LLC, Watsonville
Mainas Farms, LLC, Holtville
Market Farms, Inc., Salinas
Marmolejo Farms, Inc., Oxnard
Mike Abatti Farms, LLC, El Centro
Muranaka Farms, Moorpark
Muzzi Family Farms, Moss Landing
Ocean Mist® Farms, Castroville
organicgirl, LLC, Salinas
Pablo's Produce, Inc., Oxnard
Pacific Fresh Produce, Inc., Oxnard
Pacific International Marketing, Salinas
Pajaro Valley Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Distributing, LLC, Watsonville
Peri & Sons Farms, Yerington, NV
Premium Valley Produce, Inc., Scottsdale, AZ
Ratto Bros., Inc., Modesto
Ready Pac Foods Inc., Irwindale
River Fresh Farms, LLC, Salinas
Royal Rose, LLC, Salinas
Sabor Farms, LLC, Salinas
Salad Savoy Corporation, Salinas
San Diego Farms, LLC dba Fresh Origins, San Marcos
Silva Farms, LLC, Gonzales
Spinaca Farms, Inc., Gilroy
Steinbeck Country Produce, Spreckels
Sun Coast Farms, Santa Maria
SunTerra Produce Traders, Inc., Newport Beach
Sunsation Farms, Inc., Monterey
Talley Farms, Inc., Arroyo Grande
Tanimura & Antle Fresh Foods, Inc., Salinas
Taylor Farms, Salinas
The Nunes Co., Inc., Salinas
The Salad Farm, LLC, Salinas
TLC Custom Farming Company, LLC, Yuma, AZ
Vessey & Company, Inc., Holtville
Visionary Vegetables, LLC, Salinas
Western Harvesting, LLC, King City
Zada Fresh Farms, LLC, Salinas

MEMBER LIST VALID AS OF MAY 2025,
VISIT LGMA.CA.GOV FOR AN UP-TO-DATE
LIST OF CERTIFIED MEMBERS

LGMA CERTIFICATION



Through a rigorous set of processes and guidelines, the LGMA Certification builds trust across the supply chain, from the grower, packer, and shipper to the retail fresh produce department, foodservice operator, and the ultimate consumer.

LGMA members must maintain 100 percent compliance with the LGMA food safety standards to be certified. The LGMA requires that members correct all findings cited during audits and that preventive measures are continually in place to protect public health.

This Service Mark signifies that the member has been verified to be in compliance with the LGMA food safety practices. Members of the LGMA are only allowed to use the Service Mark after they have been audited by California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) auditors and submitted any corrective actions to the LGMA Compliance Officer. Buyers can verify that handlers are members of the LGMA by checking the website and by looking for this Service Mark on bills of lading.





LGMA'S EVOLUTION

After five years at the helm of the California Leafy Greens Marketing Agreement (LGMA), I've seen firsthand the advances our members have made in making leafy greens even safer. Through key initiatives such as Romaine Test & Learn, Smarter Audits, and invigorated training programs, LGMA is working diligently to protect and enhance food safety standards.

For the last two years, the Romaine Test & Learn program has been a primary focus for LGMA. Our members have submitted data into a common database, where it is anonymized, aggregated, and analyzed. As we delve into this data, we're gaining a deeper understanding of what it takes to help our members achieve success in adhering to food safety practices.

After analyzing LGMA's previous audit process with subject matter experts, we developed Smarter Audits to streamline our auditing process. This risk-based approach encompasses fundamental aspects of food safety while maintaining a focus on the field.

Food safety is becoming increasingly complex, which necessitates more comprehensive training.

To help our members adapt to new food safety practices, LGMA offers a range of training programs, conducted both in-person and online, in English and Spanish. We're doing more training now than we ever have before.

These resources would not be available to the industry without the incredible support of the staff here at LGMA, and I thank all of them for their help in advancing food safety.



TIM YORK,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER,
CALIFORNIA LGMA

FOOD SAFETY PERSPECTIVES



CONSUMER PERSPECTIVE

KATHLEEN GILLIN

FOOD SAFETY ADVOCATE AND
CALIFORNIA LGMA BOARD MEMBER

"As a food safety advocate and parent of a child who became seriously ill from eating contaminated spinach, I am acutely aware of the risks and consequences associated with contaminated leafy greens. However, generally speaking, I believe that leafy greens are safe and an important part of a balanced diet. I choose not to live in fear, and instead, elect to make educated and informed decisions about the food I eat.

LGMA's most significant strength is the commitment of its members to provide a safe product to consumers. LGMA has the opportunity to continue to lead the way in food safety practices, not only for the safety and peace of mind of millions of consumers, but also for the benefit of the companies and people that provide products under its purview."



PUBLIC HEALTH PERSPECTIVE

MICHAEL TAYLOR

FORMER DEPUTY COMMISSIONER,
FOODS AND VETERINARY MEDICINE,
U.S. FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

"It's well-known that ensuring the safety of leafy greens is a daunting challenge because of the multiple pathways for contamination with dangerous bacteria and the variable outdoor environment. Government regulation is important but not sufficient. LGMA has shown how industry leadership and collaboration among growers can elevate preventive practices. Its standards have no doubt contributed to reducing food safety risks.

Yet preventable outbreaks and illnesses continue to occur. We'll never get to zero risk, but public health requires and consumers expect that everything that reasonably can be done to reduce risk is being done. I see much room for future progress by LGMA on such issues as learning from pre-harvest testing, sanitation of harvest equipment, and minimizing hazards posed by cattle on nearby land.

I also think the safety of leafy greens and fresh produce as a category should be seen as a joint responsibility of farmers and the grocery and food service companies that buy produce and serve it to consumers. LGMA's recent collaboration with buyers through the Leafy Greens Safety Coalition provides the opportunity to broaden input on what can be done to make leafy greens safer, elevate the priority accorded food safety across the supply chain, and increase investment in safety aided by science.

We all want people to eat more fresh produce. By expanding collaboration with its food system partners, LGMA can become a model for how produce as a broad category can be made safer, with big benefits for consumer confidence, increased consumption, and prevention of chronic disease."



INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVE

MATT AMARAL

VICE PRESIDENT OF POST HARVEST,
D'ARRIGO CALIFORNIA

"The LGMA is a community of growers and handlers throughout California that take great pride in supplying healthy, nutritious, and safe leafy greens to the world. As technology, science, and capabilities continue to evolve in the food safety arena, we too will evolve, knowing that not only are we feeding the world, but we are also feeding the same leafy greens to our families at home. The unique aspect of the LGMA lies in the ability to adjust quickly as science, technology, and situations dictate. The network of growers and handlers, scientists, and subject matter experts, along with our relationships with regulators and the buying community affords LGMA the ability to gain well-informed information, collaborate as a group to decide if it aligns with our mission of producing safe leafy greens, and then implement new practices that enhance food safety. Having the ability to move quickly is a strength that allows the LGMA to stay on the cutting edge of food safety."



FOOD SAFETY

VERIFICATION AND ENFORCEMENT

AUDITS

LGMA members receive a minimum of three audits each year, two are scheduled and one is unannounced.

Members may have more audits depending on

compliance and unique growing operations. All audits are conducted by the California Department of Food and Agriculture, with oversight from the United States Department of Agriculture.

MEMBER AUDITS | 2024 - 2025

ANNOUNCED AUDITS	163
UNANNOUNCED AUDITS	75
TOTAL	238

COMPLIANCE

The LGMA compliance process is both rigorous and unique: LGMA members are required to maintain 100 percent compliance with the food safety standards. That means every audit citation must be corrected.

CATEGORY	INFRACTIONS	MINORS	MAJORS	FLAGRANT	TOTAL
GENERAL REQUIREMENTS	0	3	1	0	4
RECORDS	0	2	0	0	2
PERSONNEL QUALIFICATIONS & TRAINING	4	33	0	0	37
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS	1	3	0	0	4
WATER USE	4	40	13	0	57
SOIL AMENDMENTS AND CROP INPUTS	0	16	6	0	22
FIELD SANITATION	1	26	0	0	27
FIELD OBSERVATIONS	5	7	0	0	12
SOIL FERTILITY	0	0	0	0	0
TRANSPORTATION	1	0	0	0	1
WORKER PRACTICES	2	3	0	0	5
ROMAINE TEST & LEARN	0	3	6	0	9
TOTAL	18	136	26	0	180

The LGMA does not score our member audits, but to put the number of citations into context: The LGMA conducted 238 audits and found members to be out of compliance 180 times which is approximately .75 citations issued per audit conducted. All citations are required to be corrected.

CITATIONS EXPLAINED:

INFRACTION - the least serious violation, which can usually be corrected during an audit

MINOR - a less serious violation that does not necessarily result in unsafe product

MAJOR - a serious violation, but that does not necessarily result in unsafe product

FLAGRANT - a violation that significantly increases the risk of delivering unsafe product

ENFORCEMENT

The LGMA Compliance Officer reviews every audit, assigns citation levels, and works with government auditors to ensure that every citation has been corrected. If a citation is severe, or if smaller citations are not corrected, the Compliance Officer will start the decertification process. Decertification can last from two weeks up to a year.

No decertification actions were taken in the 2024 - 2025 year.



ALYSSA VILLAR, COMPLIANCE OFFICER

"This past year we began to activate our Smarter Audits program. As a part of Smarter Audits, we incorporated multi-grower audits, allowing us to assess compliance and best practices across multiple operations within a single audit. This approach increases efficiency, ensures consistency, and provides a more comprehensive view of grower performance while reducing the time and resources required for individual assessments.

As a result of this change you will see that our number of total audits has decreased from the prior year, but through the Smarter Audits process we made sure that LGMA audits are focused on the most critical elements. For example, LGMA auditors used to review systems documents (documents that do not change often or ever) during each announced audit, which would mean looking at it several times a year, now this is reduced to about once a year so more time can be spent on field observations which can pose a higher food safety risk."

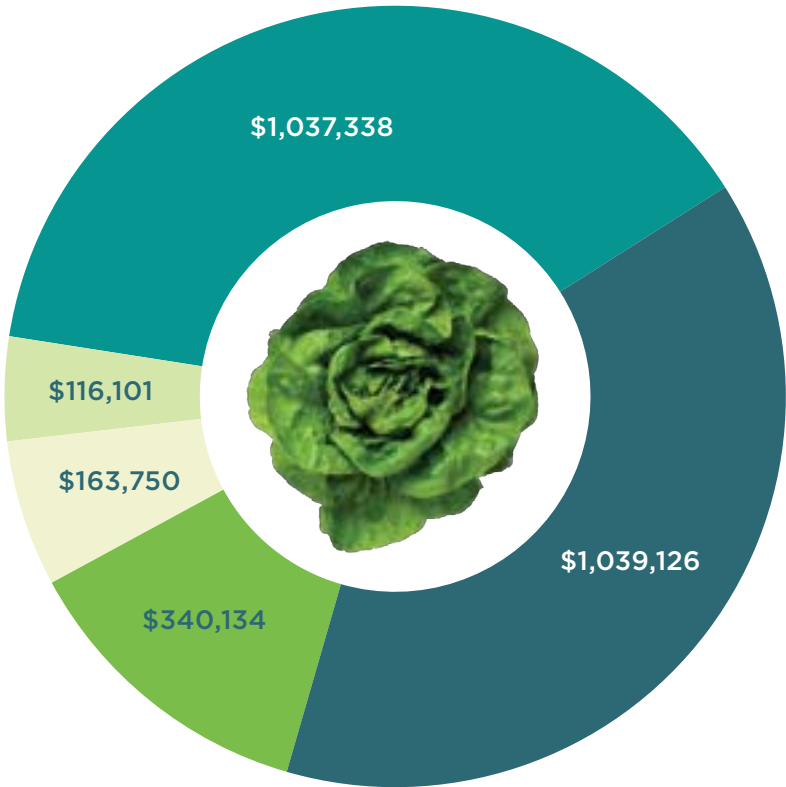


OPERATING EXPENSES

At the time of publishing, the operating expenses from California LGMA audited financials were not available. Included here are the audited operating expenses for the fiscal year April 1, 2023 - March 31, 2024

- ADMINISTRATION:
\$1,037,338
- AUDITS & CDFA FEES:
\$1,039,126
- COMMUNICATIONS:
\$163,750
- TECHNICAL:
\$340,134
- DC OUTREACH:
\$116,101

TOTAL: \$2,696,449



BOARD AND STAFF

2024-2025

ADVISORY BOARD

- Matt Amaral
- Scott Grabau
- Colby Pereira
- Chris Drew
- Drew McDonald
- Tony Alameda
- Ron Ratto
- John Jackson
- Jan Berk
- Jack Vessey
- Megan Chedwick
- Larry Cox
- Kathleen Chrismer

ALTERNATE MEMBERS

- Steve Church
- Gurmail Mudahar
- Cynthia Dominguez
- Jake Odello
- Tim McAfee
- Chato Valdes
- John Olivo
- Joe Jorge
- Marcus Shebl
- Ryan Reed
- Todd Brendlin
- Armando Figueroa
- Brian Mansfield
- Steve Junqueiro

LGMA STAFF

- Tim York
Chief Executive Officer
- Greg Komar
Technical Director
- Alyssa Villar
Compliance Officer
- Brooke Palmer
Administrative Assistant
- Connie Quinlan
Program Coordinator
- Jennifer Scherpinski
Project Coordinator
- April Ward
Communications Director





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WWW.LGMA.CA.GOV