

GLOBALG.A.P.

TOUR2011 **Good Agricultural Practice**

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EDWARD LEE BECKMAN

Function: California Tomato Farmers, USA
Session: Sector Approach and Group Certification to Implementing GLOBALG.A.P: Producer Perspectives

TOUR Stop: Atlanta/USA, 17-18 October 2011

Ed Beckman has served the fresh tomato industry in California for over 20 years. As President of California Tomato Farmers, a cooperative of growers who in 2010 produced over 500 million pounds of fresh tomatoes, he is responsible for the development of food safety programs, crisis management, and international market development.

In 2006, California Tomato Farmers became the first organized body of fresh tomato growers in the country to require mandatory Federal inspection of all facilities and fields based upon a science-based food safety risk analysis that would later become the foundation of the Food Safety Programs and Auditing Protocol for the Fresh Tomato Supply Chain, a metrics-based approach to commodity specific Good Agricultural Practices, developed industry through the United Fresh Produce Association.

Lead author of the first commodity specific food safety guidance for fresh tomatoes in 2006, he was recently a member of a consortium of senior executives from the fresh tomato industry and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration at the JFK School of Government at Harvard University, who came together to define a more effective means of tracing fresh produce in the early stages of a food safety outbreak.

California Tomato Farmers operates under a Quality Management System that requires all ranches and packinghouses to be audited on an announced and unannounced basis throughout the season. Within their current program are multiple layers of program oversight and a requirement that all audit violations be subject to corrective actions prior to certification. The group became a member of GLOBALG.A.P. in the spring of 2011 and is merging its current QMS into GLOBALG.A.P. Option Two.

Beckman holds an MBA from California State University and a BA in Management and Organizational development from Fresno Pacific University.