

WHAT IS THE FRUIT & VEGETABLE INSPECTION SERVICE?

The Fruit & Vegetable Inspection Service is a program of the Colorado Department of Agriculture, Markets Division, working in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). This service provides independent, third party certification of a commodity's quality at anytime within the marketing chain.

The program's inspection staff annually inspects more than 2.1 billion pounds of produce including potatoes, onions, sweet corn, cherries, apples, peaches, pears, and lettuce. Annually, more than 10,000 requests for shipping point and terminal market inspections are processed statewide with management offices in Monte Vista and Greeley, utilizing up to 44 Federal/State Inspection Service (FSIS) personnel during peak shipments, occurring September through June.

OUR SERVICES

Shipping Point Inspection

Requests for this service are voluntary for certification of commodities at time of shipment using U.S. Grade Standards, or applicant supplied contract specifications, however, potatoes within the state are required by statute and federal and state marketing orders to be inspected prior to shipment.



Terminal Market Inspection

This service allows for applicants to voluntarily request an inspection on commodities that have been received from a different production area for confirmation of the condition of the commodity, or to appeal the results of a previous inspection certification of that shipment.



Good Agricultural Practices Good Handling Practices Audit Verification Program

This service is an audit based verification program developed to help the U.S. produce industry minimize microbial food safety hazards. This program's personnel review a participating company's facility and agronomic practices, along with its documented procedures, to help determine if "Good Agricultural Practices" and "Good Handling Practices" are maintained.

