



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Media Contact:

Sean Springfield, Food Safety/GAPs Program at Quality Certification Services  
352.377.0133 | [FSGAP@qcsinfo.org](mailto:FSGAP@qcsinfo.org)

### ***QCS Food Safety/GAPs Team Ranked No. 1 in USA & Top 10 Worldwide***

(Gainesville, FL, April 30, 2018)--Quality Certification Services (QCS), a USDA and ANSI ISO Guide 17065 accredited certification body, was recently given a performance rating by GLOBALG.A.P. that ranked its Food Safety/GAPs Team No. 1 in the USA, and in the top 10 worldwide, out of 138 approved Certification Bodies.

The rankings were independently conducted by GLOBALG.A.P., an organization with headquarters in Germany, and offices in the USA, that “globally connects farmers and brand owners in the production and marketing of safe food to provide reassurance for consumers.” Rankings were determined through an evaluation of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) in these areas:

- Head Office Performance
- Auditing Quality
- Reporting Quality
- Audit Processing Time
- Inspection Timing Rules
- Database Management
- Complaint Management
- Administrative Management

Dr. Mario Velasco, Food Safety/GAPs Program Director, states “QCS Food Safety/GAPs team members focus on delivering excellent customer service to clients as well as efficiency on executing reports and certificates.”

To view the rankings, visit [https://www.globalgap.org/uk\\_en/what-we-do/the-gg-system/certification/Approved-CBs/index.html](https://www.globalgap.org/uk_en/what-we-do/the-gg-system/certification/Approved-CBs/index.html).

Along with Dr. Velasco, QCS' Food Safety/GAPs team is led by Katherine Ayers, and Sean Springfield. The Food Safety/GAPs team and other QCS staff regularly coordinate a variety of workshops for producers, including trainings on compliance with the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), Food Safety Preventive Controls Alliance (FSPCA) trainings, a

Product Safety Alliance (PSA) Grower Training, and Food & Drug Administration (FDA) standardized curriculum trainings. Upcoming workshops are scheduled in the U.S. and Ecuador and can be coordinated in other locations as needed.

QCS currently has clients in 39 states and 12 countries, meeting the needs of agricultural operations regardless of type, location, or size in the ever-expanding worldwide market. It offers a wide array of certification options for farming of crops, livestock, aquaculture, animal feed manufacturing, packing, handling and processing and wild harvest operations.

“We are honored to have received this distinction, and look forward to remaining both a national and global leader in Food Safety and GAP certifications,” said Dr. Ramkrishnan (Ram) Balasubramanian, QCS’ Chief Operating Officer.”

To learn more about QCS and see a schedule of upcoming QCS-coordinated workshops, please visit [www.qcsinfo.org](http://www.qcsinfo.org).

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