



# Eckert Cold Storage

Escalon, California

LEADING HARVEST FARMLAND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM  
2020 AUDIT SUMMARY REPORT: 2025 SURVEILLANCE II

April 1, 2025





**Eckert Cold Storage**

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**Certification Date:**

May 11, 2023

**Recertification Due Date:**

April 1, 2026

**Certification ID Number:**

AVERUM-LHFMS-2023-0004

- ☐ **Certification Audit**
- ☐ **Recertification Audit**
- ☒ **Surveillance Audit**
- ☐ **Scope Expansion**



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This report summarizes the results of the second surveillance audit conducted on Eckert Cold Storage (Eckert) agricultural supplier properties. The audit was conducted by Linnea Abel, Lead Auditor for Averum. Linnea Abel has expertise with the Leading Harvest Farmland Management Program as well as the environmental considerations for farmland management on multiple crop types in the United States. Site visits were conducted by Jill Brodt, Field Auditor for Averum. Senior members of the audit team hold training certificates in ISO 17021:2015 (Conformity Assessment) and IAF MD-1:2018 (Certification of Multiple Sites). The audit process and reports were independently reviewed by Holly Salisbury, who is a certified public accountant in the state of California and has expertise on multiple crop types in the United States.

## SCOPE AND OBJECTIVE

In 2025, Averum was engaged by Eckert to perform a surveillance audit of sustainability performance on 0–10,000 acres of managed agricultural operations and monitor conformance to the principles, objectives, performance measures, and indicators of the Leading Harvest Farmland Management Standard 2020 (LH FMS). LH FMS objectives 1 through 12 were covered during site visits on properties in California. Objective 13 was deemed not applicable since Eckert does not own farmland or manage tenants. Eckert purchases product from growers who fulfill contracts and agree to sustainability requirements. There was no substitution or modification of LH FMS performance measures.

Information regarding any meetings or correspondence between the audit team and government agencies, community groups, affected Indigenous Peoples, and conservation organizations: N/A

## COMPANY INFORMATION

Eckert is a provider of individually quick frozen (IQF) peppers and other produce to retail and Consumer Packaged Goods (CPG) customers. Eckert partners with grower suppliers throughout the Central California Foothills, Coastal Mountains, and Central Valley of California who are responsible for the day-to-day farmland management of production sites. Eckert initially achieved certification for their acreage enrolled in the Leading Harvest Farmland Management Program in 2022, allowing them to engage in multi-sampling and simplify the process of maintaining their certification.

During the surveillance audit, three (3) sites in the Central Valley were selected, with three grower suppliers included. Managers overseeing decision making and standard compliance for sample regions were contacted for evidence requests and interviews. The properties in these regions are a representative sample of current practices in place and management decision making. The primary agricultural production on the sites is bell peppers.

**AUDIT PLAN**

An audit plan was developed and is maintained by Averum. An online portal was established for Eckert coordinators to provide evidence and documentation securely for auditor review. An opening meeting was held on March 10, 2025, preceding site visits. Following the meeting, a document review of the provided evidence was conducted by Averum. Field sites in California were examined on March 13, 2025. A closing meeting was held on April 1, 2025.

Throughout the audit engagement, information, and communication technology (ICT) was employed to conduct remote meetings and interviews. An online portal was provided and made available for Eckert to supply documentation for review. Throughout the audit engagement, conference calling technology (including Zoom, Microsoft Teams, etc.) was leveraged for meetings, conducting management interviews, follow-up interviews, and the opening and closing meetings. As LH FMS engagements support geographically dispersed functional management units, the use of ICT was deemed not only appropriate, but necessary. Stage 2 audits—including certification, surveillance, and recertification—require in-person observations to verify farming activities, due to the risks associated with the limitations of remote technologies, such as drone technology, and to ensure alignment with LH FMS requirements.

## INTRODUCTION

(Continued)

## Eckert Cold Storage

LH FMS AUDIT SUMMARY REPORT

### Opening Meeting: Conference Call

MARCH 10, 2025

#### Attendees

Eckert:

Matthew Terra, Kenlee Jurevich

Audit Team:

Matt Armstrong, Jill Brodt, Linnea Abel

#### Topics

Introductions of participants and their roles:	Linnea Abel
Introduction of audit team:	Matt Armstrong, Team Leader Linnea Abel, Lead Auditor Jill Brodt, Auditor
Status of findings of the previous audits:	Shared by Linnea Abel
Audit plan:	Reviewed, confirmed, and distributed by Linnea Abel
Expectations of program user staff:	Reviewed by Linnea Abel
Method of reporting:	Linnea Abel

### Closing Meeting: Conference Call

APRIL 1, 2025

#### Attendees

Eckert:

Matthew Terra, Kenlee Jurevich

Audit Team:

Matt Armstrong, Jill Brodt, Linnea Abel

#### Topics

Opening remarks:	Linnea Abel
Statement of confidentiality:	Linnea Abel
Closing summary:	Linnea Abel
Presentation of the audit conclusion:	Linnea Abel
Major Nonconformances:	Zero (0)
Minor Nonconformances:	Zero (0)
Opportunities for Improvement (OFI):	Eight (8)
Notable Practices:	Three (3)
Report timing and expectations:	Linnea Abel



**MULTI-SITE REQUIREMENTS**

Eckert procures products from multiple growers in California. Supplier farms are independently operated. Eckert supports the adoption of practices that support LH FMS conformance through grower commitments to Sustainability Plans and contract renewals. Eckert qualifies for multi-site sampling since the properties within the management system are directed by central management with regular monitoring activities. The Director of Field and Farming Operations is responsible for developing corrective action plans regarding LH FMS conformance, coordinating with grower suppliers, and reporting them to Eckert management. Eckert's current review and monitoring process is effective and ongoing.

Field visits and observations are conducted based on a sample of grower supplier sites each year. Sampling methodology is provided in the LH FMS. In accordance with International Accreditation Forum Mandatory Documents (IAF-MD) methodology, all sites were initially selected at random with consideration of preliminary examinations. Final selections were then coordinated to ensure a representative coverage of the complexity of the portfolio, variance in sizes of properties, environmental considerations, geographical dispersion, and logistical feasibility.

**AUDIT RESULTS**

Overall, Eckert's management system continues to conform to the objectives of the Leading Harvest Farmland Management Standard 2020 (LH FMS). Interviews and document reviews were performed to monitor procedural and documentation conformance to the LH FMS. Field visits were performed on three operating sites in California. Visits were pre-planting or recently planted; therefore, planting efficiencies, operations support, and sustainability planning was highlighted. Central and regional management representatives and growers were present and interviewed to demonstrate Eckert's conformance and policy implementation. Central office staff with roles that impact LH FMS conformance were interviewed to determine awareness of and support for LH FMS conformance, and to illustrate company practices and procedures not performed by farm managers. Eckert's regional managers served as guides, were available throughout the engagement, provided logistic support, and provided responses to evidence requests.

**Region**

California

**Crop**

Bell peppers

**Properties Examined During Engagement**

Three (3) sites visited during audit.

- 0 – 10,000 acres
- California represents 100% of enrolled acreage
- Management population: One (1) Director of Field and Farming Operations, One (1) Agriculture Operations Supervisor, Three (3) Grower Suppliers
- Sites visited: Site names withheld upon Eckert's request. Site identifications have been recorded and retained by Averum and are available upon request and approval by Eckert.
- Sites selected for site visits represent approximately 12% of grower supplier sites.

FINDINGS IDENTIFIED DURING THE AUDIT	
PREVIOUS NONCONFORMANCE	During Eckert’s Initial Certification, two minor nonconformances were identified related to missing policy language. Policies were developed and deemed effective relative to their operations.
MAJOR NONCONFORMANCE	Zero (0)
MINOR NONCONFORMANCE	Zero (0)
OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT	Eight (8)
NOTABLE PRACTICES	Three (3)

OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

1.1.1 FARMLAND STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT

Eckert could socialize the written Farmland Stewardship Commitment Statement with supply chain partners. Commitment statements that support LH FMS alignment could be shared with grower suppliers during contract renewal or annual review.

4.1.3 PEST CONTROL PRACTICES

The LH FMS requires prioritization of the lowest risk treatment options on sites. Eckert may consider installing bat boxes, raptor perches, owl boxes, and/or bluebird boxes to enhance nonchemical pest management or partnering with growers to support installation.

Furthermore, Eckert could consider encouraging or researching viable alternatives to annual copper applications on site visited to avoid copper accumulation, or to demonstrate that applications are made with consideration of potential ecotoxicological effects.

7.1.1 THREATENED AND ENDANGERES SPECIES

Growers indicate there have been no occurrences of threatened and endangered species on farms. Eckert could provide informational resources (such as posters) to be kept in shops with photos of potential species of concern.

7.1.2 AT-RISK SPECIES (REPEAT OFI)

Eckert may consider conducting a regional biological resources assessment (or equivalent) and sharing the findings with their growers to further support their ability to identify at-risk species. Research should leverage current and credible information (e.g., NatureServe database, US FWS reports) and consider guidance to support management decisions if certain species are identified.

## KEY FINDINGS

(Continued)

## Eckert Cold Storage

LH FMS AUDIT SUMMARY REPORT

### 8.1.1 SPECIAL SITE IDENTIFICATION

Eckert may consider conducting a regional cultural resources assessment and sharing the findings with their growers to further support the distinction between “ecologically important sites” and “special sites” as defined by Leading Harvest. Eckert may also consider retaining copies of site maps or relevant Farm Service Agency (FSA) Forms from growers to support documentation.

### 9.3.2 LAND TENURE RIGHTS OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Eckert could share their Indigenous Peoples Statement with growers, conduct a Cultural Resources Assessment or equivalent, and share the findings with their growers to further demonstrate research and due diligence of Indigenous land tenure rights.

### 10.3.1 SUSTAINABILITY POLICY COMMITMENT

Eckert could clarify their use of Leading Harvest principles and objectives to further support grower relationships and socialize commitments among growers.

### 11.2.1 WRITTEN COMPLIANCE POLICY

Auditors note the inclusion of social compliance requirements within contracts. Eckert may consider extending their Social Compliance Policy or expanding upon all expectations therein; especially freedom of association since that is an expectation for suppliers and sub-suppliers.

## NOTABLE PRACTICES

### 1.1.2 FARMLAND STEWARDSHIP

Eckert demonstrates the willingness and ability to support growers’ continued awareness and adoption of practices that support long-term profitability and reduce potential impacts to farmland management. Eckert’s ability to influence practices in their purchaser/processing capacity appears to be a testament to the care and consideration given to maintaining mutually beneficial relationships.

### 1.2.1 ADAPTING TO CRITICAL EXTERNAL FACTORS

An Eckert grower interviewed stated Eckert supported recovery from an unexpected crop loss due to sun damage and adjusted their harvest schedule to accommodate the grower's dynamic needs. This demonstrates Eckert’s ability to adapt to unanticipated external factors with a balanced and realistic approach.

### 12.1.1 PERFORMANCE REVIEW

Detailed Supplier Sustainability Plans are updated and assessed each year. Documented mitigation strategies included within Risk Assessments are applicable, realistic, and succinct. Eckert requires growers to be willing to share pertinent information such as Pesticide Use Reports, and documentation was made available to auditors.



## KEY FINDINGS

*(Continued)*

## Eckert Cold Storage

LH FMS AUDIT SUMMARY REPORT

### REVIEW OF PREVIOUS AUDIT CYCLE

N/A; this is the second surveillance audit of Eckert's first certification cycle.

The following are summarized findings organized by LH FMS performance measure. Specific nonconformances, opportunities for improvement, and notable practices have been described in the “Key Findings” section.

Objective 1: Sustainable Agriculture Management

1.1 SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE STEWARDSHIP

Conformance Evidence

Grower Contract  
Sustainability Plans  
Sustainability Self-Assessment Audits  
Farmland Stewardship Commitment

Auditor Notes

- Eckert maintains a written commitment statement that includes food safety, quality, associate well-being, consumer preferences, community concerns, and supporting family farms as priorities.
- Eckert reviews the Farmland Stewardship Commitment for applicability and considers revisions. The stewardship commitment has not been circulated to supplier farms, but Eckert is open to sharing the statement with their growers during the annual contract and sustainability information exchange.
- Eckert collaborates closely with their growers and collects questionnaires each year to demonstrate understanding of the challenges growers face and their current management practices to protect food safety, biodiversity, water resources, and other environmental considerations.
- Eckert management maintains records including risk assessments on growers that demonstrate consideration for social and environmental factors. Eckert's Director of Field and Farming Operations verifies the programs in place, including those that support food safety and quality, ethical treatment of workers, Pesticide Use Programs, Water Testing Programs, and clearly defined labor policies compliant with federal and state law. Verifications were presented for auditor review along with grower contracts.
- Eckert growers provide documentation of current practices and farmland management commitments. Energy Plans/Evaluations, Waste Management Plans, Biodiversity Action Plans, and Risk Assessments with risk mitigation activities are combined to form a grower's Sustainability Plan. Eckert demonstrates willingness and ability to support their growers’ continued awareness and adoption of practices that support long-term profitability and reduce potential impacts to farmland management.
- Acreage sold by growers is typically not prime farmland. Eckert provides resources to support maintaining the continued use of acreage for production farming.
- Eckert chooses to work with qualified growers capable of meeting their supplier requirements, with premium acreage. Reductions in acreage used for production to fulfill Eckert contracts are rare. Eckert follows United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) guidance on defining prime farmland.
- Eckert supports the conservation of prime farmland by recognizing farmland conversion from conventional to organic farming systems as the only permissible conversion.

RESULT	NONCONFORMANCE			OFI	NOTABLE PRACTICES	IN CONFORMANCE
	PREVIOUS	MAJOR	MINOR			
				1.1.1	1.1.2	1.1.3

Objective 1: Sustainable Agriculture Management

1.2 CRITICAL EXTERNAL FACTORS

Conformance Evidence

2024 Soil Analysis Reports

Auditor Notes

- Eckert meets with growers and reviews information provided in Sustainability Self-Assessment Audits.
- Eckert grower interviewed stated that Eckert supported their recovery from an unexpected crop loss due to sun damage. Eckert reviewed their contract and helped identify an alternative and acceptable varietal and adjusted their harvest schedule to support the grower's dynamic needs.

RESULT	NONCONFORMANCE			OFI	NOTABLE PRACTICES	IN CONFORMANCE
	PREVIOUS	MAJOR	MINOR			
					1.2.1	

Objective 2: Soil Health and Conservation

2.1 SOIL HEALTH

Conformance Evidence

Sustainability Plans  
Soil analysis reports  
Soil Management Risk Assessments  
Client Acceptable Maximum Residue Limits for Bell Peppers List  
Plant Tissue Analysis Report  
Plant Sap Tissue Analysis Report  
Irrigation and Nitrogen Management Plan (INMP) Summary Report  
2024–2025 California Nitrogen Management Specialist Certificate  
Certified Crop Advisor Certificate  
Sustainability Plans  
Soil Management System Risk Assessments

Objective 2: Soil Health and Conservation (Continued)

2.1 SOIL HEALTH

Auditor Notes

- Sites visited use various tillage systems, including conventional and minimum tillage. A grower using minimum tillage is farming sandy loam soil types, and feels minimum tillage is more appropriate because soil becomes too soft when overworked.
- Growers test soil frequently, at least once every two years, but some growers test soil as frequently as twice a year. Soil analysis results support fertilization plans.
- Growers visited add soil amendments such as gypsum to support soil structure, and compost and manure to increase nutrient availability.
- Sites visited use third-party labs for soil testing. Growers work closely with third-party pest control advisors (PCAs) who use soil analysis results to inform recommendations. Recommendations take flower and plant stages into consideration.
- Growers visited are Healthy Soils Program participants. Another site selected is a Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Healthy Soils grant recipient.
- Eckert growers complete INMPs annually and maintain an established fertilizer plan that requires little adjustment.
- Growers interviewed apply synthetic fertilizer through drip irrigation. Foliar applications are used for adjustments during the growing season.
- Third-party crop consultants conduct sap tissue tests every 2–3 weeks during the plant growing season.
- Eckert requires growers to complete Sustainability Self-Assessment Audits that contain a section on soil fertility. Eckert’s Director maintains a certified crop advisor (CCA) certificate and a California Nitrogen Management Specialist Certificate and supports sustainability planning.
- Growers indicate standard practice is to turn crop residue back into the soil post-harvest.
- The grower interviewed seeds a mustard and arugula blend over winter. Prior to spring planting, the mixture is shredded and turned into the soil. Mustard provides nematode control during decomposition.
- Grower uses harvesters with shredder attachments to chop and disc residue.

RESULT	NONCONFORMANCE			OFI	NOTABLE PRACTICES	IN CONFORMANCE
	PREVIOUS	MAJOR	MINOR			

Objective 2: Sustainable Agriculture Management

2.2 SOIL CONSERVATION

Conformance Evidence

Soil Management System Risk Assessments

Auditor Notes

- Sites visited are flat with little to no potential for erosion and do not require an Erosion Control Plan. Soil Management Risk Assessments provided include practices to mitigate potential soil erosion, including the placement of sediment traps and dams to control runoff speed.
- Growers interviewed minimize field passes, reduce tire pressure, use tires with low side walls, and use equipment with tracks to avoid soil compaction. An interviewed grower purchased a drone to conduct spray applications to further reduce potential for compaction.
- Growers state they have not had to retire any land from production and rely on crop rotation for long-term soil management.
- Irrigation water may be high in salinity on sites. Growers use sulfur and gypsum to maintain soil condition and keep soil soft.

RESULT	NONCONFORMANCE			OFI	NOTABLE PRACTICES	IN CONFORMANCE
	PREVIOUS	MAJOR	MINOR			
						2.2.1
						2.2.2

Objective 3: Water Resources

3.1 WATER USE

Conformance Evidence

Eckert Water Quality Analysis Reports  
Irrigation Water Analysis Report  
Supply Quality Checklist

Auditor Notes

- The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) aims to limit water usage based on satellite data. Irrigation records are maintained for compliance and as evidence.
- Sites visited regularly test water quality to support their ability to meet food safety regulations.
- Sites source irrigation water from a combination of surface water and groundwater. Surface water is sourced from water districts via aqueducts, canals, and the Kern River. During drought years, the Water District may require the use of the aquifer.
- Water allocations are limited and expensive, so growers prioritize water usage efficiency.
- Grower interviewed is involved with local Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) oversight committee and participates in weekly meetings.
- The Water District meters water usage.
- Growers use advanced irrigation technology, including the use of buried drip tape, soil moisture probes, automation, and pH monitoring.
- Grower interviewed takes monthly photos of flow meters and aims to track improvements from implementing cover crops that support soil water retention.
- Grower interviewed works with the NRCS to improve irrigation management. The NRCS requires photos of probes, weather station data, and irrigation events before issuing payments. The grower reports data to NRCS for irrigation water services.

RESULT	NONCONFORMANCE			OFI	NOTABLE PRACTICES	IN CONFORMANCE
	PREVIOUS	MAJOR	MINOR			



Objective 3: Water Resources

3.2 WATER QUALITY

Conformance Evidence

Hazardous Farm Waste Streams Risk Assessments  
Agrochemical Safety and Risk Assessment

Auditor Notes

- Sites visited use third-party PCAs to scout fields at least weekly during the growing season. Growers provide PCA contact information to Eckert.
- Hazardous Farm Waste Streams Risk Assessments include consideration for proper agrochemical handling. Proper distances of waste from waterways and living areas are maintained as a risk mitigation strategy. Two of the three sites visited have no natural waterways on site, but do have drainage areas and a spill basin from the water district.
- Drainage areas are left undisturbed and allow vegetation to grow, providing filtration and supporting animal and insect habitats.

RESULT	NONCONFORMANCE			OFI	NOTABLE PRACTICES	IN CONFORMANCE
	PREVIOUS	MAJOR	MINOR			
						3.2.1
						3.2.2

Objective 4: Crop Protection

4.1 INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

Conformance Evidence

Client Director of Field and Farming Operations: 2024 PCA license  
Client Acceptable Maximum Residue Limits for Bell Peppers List  
Grower Contract  
Sustainability Plans  
Client Director of Field and Farming Operations: 2024 Qualified Applicator License

**Objective 4: Crop Protection (Continued)****4.1 INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT****Auditor Notes**

- Sites visited contend with nematodes, aphids, thrips, mites, mildew, leafhoppers, and stink bugs. No major insect issues or powdery mildew were observed by auditor.
- All sites visited work with PCAs to determine application rates and timing. Applications are not scheduled in advance or at the commencement of the growing season, but as a necessary response to scouting results.
- PCAs scout frequently during the season, as often as multiple times per week. Site visited uses a PCA who is supervised by a third-party entomology service.
- PCAs use scouting maps to identify and indicate pest locations. Reports, scouting records, and control recommendations are shared with growers.
- Growers interviewed during this surveillance submitted Sustainability Plans that include Integrated Pest Management (IPM) systems. IPM programs are written with input from PCAs.
- IPM practices in place on sites visited include monitoring beneficial insect populations, biofumigation, maintaining disinfection and clean-out logs for equipment, conducting targeted applications, and using crop protectants with softer chemistries.
- One of the sites visited has the use of owl boxes to provide raptor habitat documented in their Sustainability Plan. Eckert may consider partnering with additional growers to build raptor perches or bird boxes to support nonchemical pest suppression. All growers interviewed expressed interest in adding vertebrate-based pest management structures.
- Site visited uses mustard biofumigation to control nematodes. Brassicas like mustard release natural fumigants when they are chopped into the soil.
- Grower visited works with an independent PCA, not employed by a chemical company to support their goal of achieving efficiency over growth and reduced chemical applications.
- A grower interviewed and Eckert have adjusted harvest timing for the upcoming season for better results. PCAs are provided a list of Acceptable Maximum Residue Limits for bell peppers to guide growers supplying to Eckert.
- Grower contracts include requirements for chemical applications.
- Eckert takes pesticide regulations seriously and ensures compliance with export requirements. Eckert's Agricultural Operations Supervisor is provided Pesticide Use Reports for all growers prior to harvest and reviews to ensure that only allowable materials were used.
- Eckert's Director of Field and Farming Operations stays up to date with industry trends by attending research institute meetings and serving as the Chairman of the California Pepper Commission (17 years as commissioner, 1 year as chairman).
- Eckert works with UC Davis and UC Riverside research labs on new insecticide development.

**FINDINGS ORGANIZED BY PERFORMANCE MEASURE**

(Continued)

**Eckert Cold Storage**

LH FMS AUDIT SUMMARY REPORT

**Objective 4: Crop Protection (Continued)**

**4.1 INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT**

- Site visited uses annual copper applications in early spring, which serves a dual purpose of providing some frost protection. Eckert could support or conduct research into viable alternatives to annual copper applications due to potential ecotoxicological impact or review best management practices (BMPs).
- Eckert’s Field Operations team serves as a key resource for growers and ensures they are financially capable of meeting contract requirements.

RESULT	NONCONFORMANCE			OFI	NOTABLE PRACTICES	IN CONFORMANCE
	PREVIOUS	MAJOR	MINOR			
				4.1.3		4.1.1
						4.1.2

**Objective 4: Crop Protection**

**4.2 CROP PROECTANT MANAGEMENT**

**Conformance Evidence**

Agrochemical Safety and Risk Assessment

Pesticide Training Class Roster

Director of Field and Farming Operations 2024 Qualified Applicator License

**Auditor Notes**

- Sites visited conduct applications in-house or use third-party contractors. Aerial applications are handled by third-parties only.
- Sites visited triple-rinse empty containers and dispose of them through recycling programs.
- Seasonal storage may be used, and containers are kept in locked trailers or locked cages until they are picked up by a third-party vendor and shredded.
- Growers maintain appropriate licensure to support judicious pesticide applications.
- Grower interviewed uses a third-party safety trainer to provide pesticide training to crew members. Training topics include guidance on reading product labels, safety data sheets and proper use of personal protective equipment.
- Eckert provides an Agrochemical Safety and Risk Assessment to all growers who attest to risk mitigation activities.

RESULT	NONCONFORMANCE			OFI	NOTABLE PRACTICES	IN CONFORMANCE
	PREVIOUS	MAJOR	MINOR			
						4.2.1

Objective 5: Energy Use, Air Quality, and Climate Change

5.1 AGRICULTURAL ENERGY USE AND CONSERVATION

Conformance Evidence

Supplier Sustainability Plan: Energy Plan/Evaluation

Auditor Notes

- Sites visited reduce energy usage with efficient light bulbs, dimmers, motion sensors, and automated irrigation systems.
- Sites conduct pump efficiency tests and monitor performance.
- Growers are asked to identify ways that they have improved energy efficiency and identify areas of improvement.
- A site visited saves energy with a variable frequency drive with a soft start on the pump, and booster pumps, which may reduce energy usage by increasing water pressure along the line instead of just at the pump.
- Growers use evapotranspiration data to inform irrigation decisions. Wells turn on and off throughout the day to prioritize usage during off-peak hours.
- Growers interviewed and sites visited use solar energy extensively. Sites use solar energy to heat water, power offices, run pumps, and electrify the grid.
- Site visited uses a third party to monitor solar performance, clean panels, and make recommendations to increase efficiency.

RESULT	NONCONFORMANCE			OFI	NOTABLE PRACTICES	IN CONFORMANCE
	PREVIOUS	MAJOR	MINOR			
						5.1.1
						5.1.2

**Objective 5: Energy Use, Air Quality, and Climate Change****5.2 AIR QUALITY****Conformance Evidence**

Certificate of Compliance with the California Air Resources Board

**Auditor Notes**

- Sites visited use in-house and third-party equipment. Equipment is inspected frequently and maintained. Grower interviewed has a full time mechanic who keeps maintenance logs.
- Tractors use diesel exhaust fluid to increase fuel efficiency and GPS (Global Positioning System) on most equipment to support efficient passes and reduce fuel consumption.
- Harvests are closely coordinated with trucks coming in on a schedule. Arrivals may be coordinated with the harvester and staged to avoid trucks waiting or idling.
- Eckert holds a Certificate of Compliance with the California Air Resources Board for truck and bus regulation.
- Sites visited control airborne dust with water and gravel applications to roadways and limiting traffic.

RESULT	NONCONFORMANCE			OFI	NOTABLE PRACTICES	IN CONFORMANCE
	PREVIOUS	MAJOR	MINOR			5.2.1
						5.2.2

**Objective 5: Energy Use, Air Quality, and Climate Change****5.3 CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE****Conformance Evidence**

Sustainability Plans

**Auditor Notes**

- Grower interviewed recently purchased an electric drone with the goals of eliminating third-party aerial sprays and reducing GHG (Greenhouse Gas) emissions.
- Sites visited prune crop residues and mulch and chip into fields to build soil organic matter.
- Some sites use a tractor trade in program to take advantage of modern equipment with increased efficiency.
- All sites use equipment with GPS to help create efficient routes and reduce fuel consumption.

RESULT	NONCONFORMANCE			OFI	NOTABLE PRACTICES	IN CONFORMANCE
	PREVIOUS	MAJOR	MINOR			5.3.1
						5.3.2

**Objective 6: Waste and Material Management**

**6.1 MANAGEMENT OF WASTE AND OTHER MATERIALS**

**Conformance Evidence**

Grower Contracts  
Sustainability Plans  
Water Quality Risk Assessments

**Auditor Notes**

- Grower Sustainability Plans include considerations and commitments for appropriate waste disposal. Growers are committed to sorting waste to reuse and recycle materials. Agreed-upon Sustainability Plans prohibit burning.
- Sites visited recycle plastics, glass, aluminum, paper, used oil, and sell metal for scrap to be reused.
- Sites visited purchase reusable orchard stakes and reuse irrigation drip lines and main lines.
- Water Quality Risk Assessments that are shared with growers identify risk levels of different practices and provide guidance to growers on how to reduce the risk, including appropriate waste management practices. Growers attest to the practices identified in their Sustainability Plans.
- Site visited keeps hazardous materials including chemicals and fuel in appropriate locked storage.

RESULT	NONCONFORMANCE			OFI	NOTABLE PRACTICES	IN CONFORMANCE
	PREVIOUS	MAJOR	MINOR			
						6.1.1
						6.1.2
						6.1.3

**Objective 6: Waste and Material Management**

**6.2 FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL WASTE RESOURCE RECOVERY**

**Conformance Evidence**

Biodiversity Action Plan  
2025 Sustainability Plans

**Auditor Notes**

- Growers deliver product directly to Eckert's Cold Storage facility for processing, which reduces the risk of excessive crop loss.
- Peppers are often harvested at night to minimize moisture loss and retain freshness and quality.
- Grower contracts specify safe handling of plastic harvest containers so they are not mishandled. Contracts instruct growers to avoid overfilling containers to prevent spilling over on roadways.
- Harvested pepper crop is taken off site immediately.
- Sites visited pruned pepper plants and mulch vegetation into fields. Selected site composts vegetative residue or is hauled to be used as feed at local dairies.

RESULT	NONCONFORMANCE			OFI	NOTABLE PRACTICES	IN CONFORMANCE
	PREVIOUS	MAJOR	MINOR			
						6.2.1
						6.2.2



Objective 7: Conservation of Biodiversity

7.1 SPECIES PROTECTION

Conformance Evidence

Biodiversity Action Plans

Auditor Notes

- Biodiversity Action Plans ask growers to identify endangered or threatened species or their habitats that have been identified on sites. Other prohibited actions including, hunting, collection, or destruction of habitats on farms are listed in Biodiversity Action Plans.
- Growers identified local organizations they are involved with that support biodiversity conservation on farms, including local Farm Bureaus and regional wetlands associations and foundations dedicated to preserving wildlife habitat.
- Growers interviewed have not observed threatened, endangered, or at-risk species on production sites, but it is not clear how Eckert supports their ability to identify the potential for occurrence of relevant species. Eckert could provide reference information, such as photos and species lists, for growers to post in shops or distribute to support their ability to identify species of concern.
- Grower sites are within a limited radius of Eckert’s processing facility. Eckert may consider conducting a Biological Resources Assessment, or leverage credible resources such as US Fish and Wildlife Service reports and the NatureServe database relevant to their area, and distribute findings with growers to further support growers conservation efforts.
- There are no protected areas at any of the sites visited. Any vegetation near drainage areas is minimally maintained to allow for animal and insect habitat.

RESULT	NONCONFORMANCE			OFI	NOTABLE PRACTICES	IN CONFORMANCE
	PREVIOUS	MAJOR	MINOR			
				7.1.1		
				7.1.2		

**Objective 7: Conservation of Biodiversity**

**7.3 AVOIDED CONVERSION**

**Conformance Evidence**

Deforestation Policy  
Grower Contract

**Auditor Notes**

- Sites visited are long-term farmland and have not converted farmland out of production.
- Biodiversity Action Plans provided support the preservation of habitat for nesting birds and wildlife. Action Plans are created by growers with support from Eckert.
- Grower interviewed maintains a 15-acre wildlife preserve on farmland.
- Eckert maintains a Deforestation Policy that is suitable for their operations and regions. The Policy would be updated if necessitated by LH Standard revisions. Eckert is open to sharing the Statement with Grower Suppliers as a part of the annual contract and sustainability information exchange.

RESULT	NONCONFORMANCE			OFI	NOTABLE PRACTICES	IN CONFORMANCE
	PREVIOUS	MAJOR	MINOR			7.3.1
						7.3.2

**Objective 7: Conservation of Biodiversity**

**7.4 CROP DIVERSITY**

**Conformance Evidence**

Grower Contract

**Auditor Notes**

- Eckert identifies the plant variety and strain to be grown by their growers in annual contracts.
- Eckert works with seed companies to develop plant seeds that meet growing requirements and are resistant to common pests. Eckert is efficient in negotiating wholesale pricing with seed companies and sends savings along to the growers when the opportunity arises.
- Growers interviewed rotate crops, growing peppers no more frequently than every other year. Suppliers grow peppers in rotations that include squash, processing tomatoes, and corn.

RESULT	NONCONFORMANCE			OFI	NOTABLE PRACTICES	IN CONFORMANCE
	PREVIOUS	MAJOR	MINOR			7.4.1

**Objective 8: Protection of Special Sites****8.1 SITE PROTECTION****Conformance Evidence**

Sustainability Self-Assessment Audits

**Auditor Notes**

- Selected sites have not identified special sites on production land. Eckert uses risk assessments and Self-Assessment Audits completed by growers to identify special sites.
- Eckert may consider conducting a regional cultural resources assessment leveraging information from credible sources such as the National Register of Historic Places and sharing the findings with their growers.
- Sharing findings may further support growers' ability to distinguish between "ecologically important sites" and "special sites" as defined by Leading Harvest.
- Assessments include checklists of features to support property management respective of each site's unique qualities.
- Grower interviewed specified they work with the Santa Clara County Department of Agriculture on identifying any special sites and how to manage the land around them.

RESULT	NONCONFORMANCE			OFI	NOTABLE PRACTICES	IN CONFORMANCE
	PREVIOUS	MAJOR	MINOR			
				8.1.1		8.1.2

**Objective 9: Local Communities****9.1 ECONOMIC WELLBEING****Conformance Evidence**

Management interview

**Auditor Notes**

- Growers on site visits employ full-time employees. Site visited uses a year-round permanent crew to do most mechanical and irrigation work, and uses seasonal labor during transplanting and harvest. All workers report to the site and grower gets to know crews quite well. Farm labor contractors are used to support seasonal staffing.
- Eckert has an accounting team who manages finances, including payment of taxes.
- Supplier products are sourced from within a few hundred miles of Eckert's processing facilities, which support local communities.

RESULT	NONCONFORMANCE			OFI	NOTABLE PRACTICES	IN CONFORMANCE
	PREVIOUS	MAJOR	MINOR			
						9.1.1

Objective 9: Local Communities

9.2 COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Conformance Evidence

Management Interview  
Social Compliancy Policy

Auditor Notes

- Growers are active in the community and serve on a number of boards, including: local Farm Bureaus, Lions Club, the Water District Board of Directors, and school boards.
- A Grower interviewed on site recently served on the local cooperative Cotton Gin Board, is the former President of Kern County Farm Bureau, and is the former Mayor of the town in which they are located.
- Eckert’s Social Compliancy Policy states their commitment to ensure all facets of their business are compliant with all social, ethical, and environmental codes of conduct. Compliance supports positive relationships with the community.
- Growers host agricultural seminars for teachers and elementary schools upon request and participate in fundraisers for local schools. Growers volunteer time and participate in multiple fundraising events that benefit schools, employees, and students.
- Grower is working with a local organization "Restore Merced" by serving on the board and working to develop a community garden. They provide guidance and advisory support to the organization and donate labor and time to work on projects.
- Grower interviewed donates eggs to the community and employees, and hosts a monthly employee barbeque that is often coordinated with a safety meeting.
- Eckert’s Agricultural Operations Supervisor is active in the community and speaks with 8th graders about Future Farmers of America, careers in agriculture, and shares insights about the company. Eckert’s Produce Broker will donate surplus produce to food banks if items do not sell.

RESULT	NONCONFORMANCE			OFI	NOTABLE PRACTICES	IN CONFORMANCE
	PREVIOUS	MAJOR	MINOR			
						9.2.1

Objective 9: Local Communities

9.3 LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Conformance Evidence

Indigenous Peoples Statement

Social Compliancy Policy

Auditor Notes

- Eckert maintains a Social Compliancy Policy and written Indigenous Peoples Statement that declares their commitment to respect and recognize local communities and Indigenous Peoples. The Indigenous Peoples Statement also describes Eckert’s commitment to ensure growers follow guidance from local jurisdictions to protect public health and safety as well as soil, wildlife, and water; and respects the importance of Indigenous concerns.
- Eckert would update the Statement if Leading Harvest Standard updates would necessitate a revision.
- Growers are not aware of Indigenous communities in the area. While there may not be local Indigenous groups, Eckert could consider conducting a Cultural Resources Assessment or equivalent and share the findings with their growers to demonstrate research and due diligence of Indigenous land tenure rights.
- Sites visited are receptive to community inquiries. Growers interviewed indicate that neighbors share contact information and will reach out if concerns arise.
- Farm labor contractor information is posted on sites.
- Sites visited are located in mostly rural areas with little to no neighbors.

RESULT	NONCONFORMANCE			OFI	NOTABLE PRACTICES	IN CONFORMANCE
	PREVIOUS	MAJOR	MINOR			
				9.3.2		9.3.1
						9.3.3

Objective 9: Local Communities

9.4 PUBLIC HEALTH

Conformance Evidence

Client 2024: Employee Handbook

Auditor Notes

- All sites indicate that notices of intent to conduct crop applications are followed. Grower interviewed will notify the neighboring property.
- None of the sites expressed any issues with trespassing.
- Sites visited provide appropriate training with a combination of internal and third-party providers. Training topics include: chemical handling, forklift operator, tractor operator, violence prevention, sexual harassment prevention, and food safety.

RESULT	NONCONFORMANCE			OFI	NOTABLE PRACTICES	IN CONFORMANCE
	PREVIOUS	MAJOR	MINOR			
						9.4.1

Objective 10: Employees and Farm Labor

10.1 SAFE AND RESPECTFUL WORKING ENVIRONMENT

Conformance Evidence

Employee Handbook

Human Resources Mobile Training Class Roster

Auditor Notes

- Eckert is an Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE), as stated on career postings and in their Employee Handbook. Eckert’s Employee Handbook contains respectful work (anti-harassment and anti-discrimination, anti-retaliatory) policies, and has protections in place to maintain accessibility for qualified individuals with disabilities.
- Safety trainings are prepared in multiple languages.
- Anti-discrimination and anti-harassment trainings are legally required and completed each year.

RESULT	NONCONFORMANCE			OFI	NOTABLE PRACTICES	IN CONFORMANCE
	PREVIOUS	MAJOR	MINOR			
						10.1.1
						10.1.2

Objective 10: Employees and Farm Labor

10.2 OCCUPATIONAL TRAINING

Conformance Evidence

Grower Contract

Training Rosters

Sustainability Plans

Health and Safety Risk Assessments

Food Safety Audit Reports

Auditor Notes

- Grower interviewed has a self-identified goal to improve labor efficiency, and uses a third-party human resources provider to conduct safety training for scheduled training in English and Spanish.
- Sustainability Plans include Health and Safety Risk Assessments and risk mitigation activities that growers have committed to applying. Risk mitigation includes safety trainings relevant to farm worker safety and emergency preparedness.
- Grower contracts require compliance with food safety regulations, which include provisions for worker safety.

RESULT	NONCONFORMANCE			OFI	NOTABLE PRACTICES	IN CONFORMANCE
	PREVIOUS	MAJOR	MINOR			
						10.2.1



**Objective 10: Employees and Farm Labor****10.3 SUPPORTING CAPACITY FOR SUSTAINABILITY****Conformance Evidence**

Leading Harvest Farmland Management Standard Commitment Statement  
Sustainability Plans

**Auditor Notes**

- Eckert has adopted a Leading Harvest Farmland Management Standard Commitment Statement that is shared within Eckert. Eckert is involved with growers' sustainability planning and commitments, and could support or clarify sustainability expectations by socializing their Leading Harvest commitment with their supply chain partners.
- Eckert has provided growers a copy of the LH FMS. Annual Grower Sustainability Plans contain many relative topics that are present in the LH FMS.
- Eckert's Director of Field and Farming Operations maintains several certificates, which allow him to have an informed view of how the Growers are operating. They do not advise growers, but are able to select growers that will be successful suppliers; able to align with Eckert's expectations.
- Eckert job descriptions address the position's requirements and responsibilities. Job descriptions are revisited each year as part of the staff's annual review.
- Eckert's Compliance team researches compliance, safety, and regulatory requirements for grower staff, and maintains records of trainings and social or safety audits.

RESULT	NONCONFORMANCE			OFI	NOTABLE PRACTICES	IN CONFORMANCE
	PREVIOUS	MAJOR	MINOR			
				10.3.1		10.3.2
						10.3.3

**Objective 10: Employees and Farm Labor****10.4 COMPENSATION****Conformance Evidence**

Management Interview

**Auditor Notes**

- Eckert determines pay rates for agriculture labor based on the findings of their supply quality audits.
- Eckert's management reviews wages to ensure full compliance with all labor laws in California. Eckert has a union that meets with the CEO to review wage contracts of union workers.
- Eckert wages start at \$3 above the minimum wage, excluding benefits.
- Growers interviewed prioritize applicants with references for employment to find qualified staff.

RESULT	NONCONFORMANCE			OFI	NOTABLE PRACTICES	IN CONFORMANCE
	PREVIOUS	MAJOR	MINOR			
						10.4.1

**Objective 10: Employees and Farm Labor**

**10.5 FARM LABOR**

**Conformance Evidence**

Grower Contract

**Auditor Notes**

- Grower may use a farm labor contractor for hand weeding.
- Grower Contract includes language regarding adherence to the Fair Labor Standards Act and Social Compliancy requirements to sell their crop to Eckert each year.

RESULT	NONCONFORMANCE			OFI	NOTABLE PRACTICES	IN CONFORMANCE
	PREVIOUS	MAJOR	MINOR			
						10.5.1

**Objective 11: Legal and Regulatory Compliance**

**11.1 LEGAL COMPLIANCE**

**Conformance Evidence**

Social Compliancy Policy

Employee Handbook

Food Safety Audits

**Auditor Notes**

- Eckert management trains and provides information to growers involving safety and compliance information. Eckert management reviews training options that are in compliance with legal requirements in a two-stage review.
- Contracts require growers to meet crop regulations, grower responsibilities, and food safety requirements, verified by third-party audits. Food Safety Audits support continual compliance with dynamic regulations.
- Sites visited have Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) safety posters and information posted in shops and at headquarters. Most workers visit these locations daily and are able to access regulatory information.
- Eckert maintains a list of different regulatory environments to ensure compliance with multiple countries requirements. Growers with particular products and practices are cleared for sale in a particular country with a matching regulatory environment.

RESULT	NONCONFORMANCE			OFI	NOTABLE PRACTICES	IN CONFORMANCE
	PREVIOUS	MAJOR	MINOR			
						11.1.1
						11.1.2
						11.1.3

Objective 11: Legal and Regulatory Compliance

11.2 LEGAL COMPLIANCE POLICIES

Conformance Evidence

Grower Contracts  
Social Compliancy Policy  
Supply Quality Assessment  
Sustainability Plans  
Supply Quality

Auditor Notes

- Client is open to sharing the Social Compliancy Policy with Grower Suppliers as a part of the annual contract and Sustainability information exchange.
- Contracts include Supply Quality specifications growers must meet, compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act, provide requirements of Social Compliance, and define prohibited labor. Forms of prohibited labor include child, forced, or compulsory labor. Growers must meet all USDA and federal and state laws and regulations. Eckert could consider expanding language within contracts regarding social compliancy to include all provisions of their Social Compliancy Policy that are expected of suppliers and sub-suppliers.
- Eckert values the relationships with their growers and demonstrates consideration for their schedules. Eckert coordinates site visits with growers in advance.
- Eckert provides a Sustainability Self-Assessment checklist to Growers each year, asking them to score different aspects that are captured in the LH FMS. The self-assessment is required from Growers in order to do business with the Eckert. Eckert provides "actions to reduce risks" in key areas of the assessment. Checklists are reviewed annually.
- Supply Quality section of contracts include a scorecard that tracks scores of grower practices each year.

RESULT	NONCONFORMANCE			OFI	NOTABLE PRACTICES	IN CONFORMANCE
	PREVIOUS	MAJOR	MINOR			
				11.2.1		11.2.2
						11.2.3

Objective 12: Management Review and Continual Improvement

12.1 FARM REVIEW AND CONTINUAL IMPROVEMENT

Conformance Evidence

Sustainability Plans  
Sustainability Self-Assessment Audits  
Grower Contracts  
Pesticide Use Reports  
Employee Handbook  
Performance Development Plan template

Auditor Notes

- Eckert provides a Sustainability Self-Assessment checklist to growers each year, which captures different aspects of LH FMS principles and objectives. The Self-Assessment is required from growers in order to do business with Eckert.
- Eckert uses Sustainability Assessments to identify actions to reduce risks in key areas of the assessment and guide planning. Eckert uses their relationships to influence, educate, guide, and support the adoption of applicable and realistic management practices on multiple production sites.
- Eckert requires growers to be willing to share pertinent information such as Pesticide Use Reports with Eckert, and documentation was made available to auditors.
- Eckert's Human Resources department handles unionized employee reviews. Management receives formal annual reviews and prepares performance goals. Employees are reviewed on goals that are tied to bonuses or incentives.
- Eckert leadership establishes goals for all managers. Employee goals are self-prescribed and may be product, sales, purchasing, amount, or efficiency oriented.
- CAL OSHA (California Division of Occupational Safety and Health) reviews and updates Employee Handbooks and Safety policies.
- Operational efficiency on farms, improving technologies such as sonar measuring heat patterns and soil structures, and increasing automation are reviewed.
- Eckert's Quality Assurance Manager sets goals on product specification standardization. Eckert reviews customer specifications to meet the larger strategic goal of reducing product SKUs (stock keeping units) and achieving conformance with microorganism testing methods standardization.
- Eckert has demonstrated improvement through incorporating additional or updated policy language within grower contracts.

RESULT	NONCONFORMANCE			OFI	NOTABLE PRACTICES	IN
	PREVIOUS	MAJOR	MINOR			CONFORMANCE
						12.1.1
					12.1.1	12.1.2
						12.1.3

**Objective 12: Management Review and Continual Improvement**

12.2 SUPPORT FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

**Conformance Evidence**  
Management Interview

- Auditor Notes**
- Eckert incorporates new technologies such as sonar that measure heat patterns and soil structures and a new color sorter to improve efficiency.
  - Growers interviewed participate in agricultural conferences, grower-to-grower reviews, and share best management practices within Eckert farms and industry groups to support continual improvement.
  - Eckert tests new technologies and decides which technology to implement based on productivity results.
  - Client collaborates with seed companies to support trial research.

RESULT	NONCONFORMANCE			OFI	NOTABLE PRACTICES	IN CONFORMANCE
	PREVIOUS	MAJOR	MINOR			
						12.2.1

## CONCLUSION

## Eckert Cold Storage

LH FMS AUDIT SUMMARY REPORT

Results of the audit indicate that Eckert Cold Storage has implemented a management system that continues to meet the requirements of, and is in conformance with, the LH FMS. Eckert's enrolled acreage is recommended for continued certification to the Leading Harvest Farmland Management Standard 2020.

### STANDARD USER GUIDANCE

#### Leading Harvest Logo Usage

Program users in good standing who are enrolled in the Leading Harvest Farmland Management Program 2020 for all, or a portion of their operations, may use the Leading Harvest logo. Any express or implied claim that a program user is in conformance with the Leading Harvest Farmland Management Standard 2020 must be substantiated by a current, valid certification by a certification body recognized by Leading Harvest.

The Leading Harvest logo cannot be used on product labels. The use of the Averum logo is not allowed without express permission from Averum.

### SPECIFIC FOCUS AREAS FOR NEXT AUDIT

Eckert's current certificate has an expiration date of May 11, 2026. Key focus areas during recertification will include Eckert's ability to support growers' ability to identify threatened, endangered, and at-risk species, special sites, and Indigenous treaty rights within their respective region. Recertification should be completed prior to April 1, 2026.



## SUMMARY OF AUDIT FINDINGS

## Eckert Cold Storage

LH FMS AUDIT SUMMARY REPORT

<b>Program User</b>	Eckert Cold Storage		
<b>Audit Dates</b>	March 10, 2025–April 1, 2025		
<b>Nonconformances Raised (NCR):</b>	<b>Major</b>	<b>Minor</b>	
	0	0	
<b>Follow-Up Visit Needed?</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not Applicable		
<b>Date(s)</b>			
<b>Audit Report Executive Summary</b>			
<p>Eckert Cold Storage was able to successfully demonstrate their continued conformance to the Leading Harvest Farmland Management Standard and their ability to support the adoption and continual improvement of farmland management practices that consider the environment and communities of production sites and growers. Eckert management delivered a well-organized package of conformance evidence that was recently updated and relevant to the sites visited during this year's site visit. The properties visited were well managed with qualified and experienced growers who have adopted farmland stewardship practices themselves as well as at the direction of Eckert. Managers are qualified for their roles and take initiative to address challenges and emerging issues on sites. Eckert staff were considerate of their growers' schedules and availability, and all participants were provided with transparent responses and were willing to share additional information on sites. All parties have been generous with their time and are appreciated.</p>			
<b>Team Leader Recommendations</b>			
<b>Corrective Action Plan(s) Accepted</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	04/01/2025		
<b>Proceed to/Continue Certification</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>
	04/01/2025		
<b>All NCR Closed</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	04/01/2025		
<b>Standard(s) Audited Against</b>			
Leading Harvest Farmland Management Standard 2020 (Objectives 1 through 12)			
<b>Lead Auditor</b>	<b>Audit Team Members</b>		
Linnea Abel	Jill Brodt, Matt Armstrong, Holly Salisbury		
<b>Scope of Audit</b>			
Management of production farmland on grower supplier-operated properties.			
<b>Accreditations</b>	Approval by Leading Harvest to provide certification audits		
<b>Number of Certificates</b>	1		
<b>Certificate Number</b>	AVERUM-LHFMS-2023-0004		
<b>Proposed Date for Next Audit Event</b>	Recertification to be completed by April 1, 2026		
<b>Audit Report Distribution</b>	Matthew Terra: MatthewT@eckertcs.com		