



## Research and Extension Experience for Undergraduates Modern Tools and Technologies for Food and Agriculture

<https://engineering.uga.edu/reeu>



**Research Project:** Survey of Peach Packing Houses for Microbial Contamination  
**Faculty Mentor:** Govindaraj Dev Kumar (foraj@uga.edu)  
**Area of Expertise:** Produce safety, food microbiology, antimicrobial resistance  
**Student Background:** Biology, Biochemistry, Microbiology, Plant Science, Food Science.

**Laboratory Website:** <https://foodscience.caes.uga.edu/people/faculty/govindaraj-dev-kumar.html>

The microbiological survey of peach packing houses will be performed to validate the efficacy of the sanitation program. The student will perform sampling both before and after sanitation by swabbing of surfaces. The swabs will be evaluated for heterotrophic plate counts, coliform counts and for the presence of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. The student will present their findings to the management at the facility. The outcome of this project would be a clear understanding of microbiological techniques used for the assessment of sanitation of food processing facilities. Students will also gain an in-depth understanding of post harvest handling of peaches in Georgia.

