



## This week: Achieving Certification and 2020 FSA 578 forms

### 1. Achieving Certification: It's more than just an audit

**Training:** All Grower ID's listed on an application (Primary and Associate) must complete 2020 Annual GAP Training by June 30 for the farm to be GAPC Certified. If you have not completed training and need to do so, you have 3 options:

1. **Online Training:** Log into your grower profile and complete online video training. More information about online video training can be found [here](#).
2. **Mail Option:** GAPC will mail a Tobacco Information Booklet containing information from GAPC (labor) and Extension Tobacco Specialist in Burley, Dark or Flue (crop and environment). To receive credit for 2020 GAP Training, a grower must answer the questions from the included quiz and return it to GAPC no later than June 30, 2020.
3. **Extension Office:** If guidelines are allowing County Extension offices to be open, contact the office about completing the video training (please note this is not available in all locations).

**If your monitoring activity is after June 30 and everyone has not completed training, Certification will be denied. It is not remediable after June 30.**

**Self-assessment:** Growers pursuing U.S. Certification do not have to complete the Self-Assessment. U.S. Certification aligns with U.S. labor laws and requirements. Growers pursuing International Certification are required to complete the Self-Assessment before the monitoring visit. International Certification aligns with international labor laws and requirements. Please note that only one Self-Assessment needs to be completed per farm operation. Unsure which Certification you should pursue? Contact your contracting company for requirements.

**Passing Score on Monitoring Visits:** Growers are advised to review the [The GAPC Certification Compliance Guide](#) in preparation for their Monitoring Visit. The Compliance Guide is the "road map" to Certification. This document contains the standards, the standard category, the question the auditor will ask, verification method and remediation process. Trying to determine which questions will be asked of you? Review the "Standard Category" in the GAPC Certification Compliance Guide that describes whether the standard is Critical or Additional and what year the standard will be evaluated with a Y 1, 2, or 3 .

- **Year 1:** To achieve a passing score for Certification growers must obtain a 100% score on all the Critical standards labeled Y1 and reach a minimum 75% score on the Additional standards labeled Y1.
- **Year 2:** To achieve a passing score for Certification growers must obtain a 100% score on all the Critical standards labeled Y2. Growers will not be scored on Additional Standards in Year 2.
- **Year 3:** To achieve a passing score for Certification growers must obtain a 100% score on the Critical standards labeled Y3 and selected Additional standards labeled Y3.

**General Certification Standards:** Can be found in the 2020 GAPC Compliance Guide on page 18.

**How You Grow Matters:** Crop and Environment Certification Standards can be found in the 2020 GAPC Certification Compliance Guide on pages 19-30

**How you Work Matters:** Labor Certification Standards can be found in the 2020 GAPC Certification Compliance Guide on pages 31-52

**Maintain Compliance:** Certification is an ongoing process. Through the three-year certification cycle, GAPC may receive information regarding the Grower Member's qualification for Certification. GAPC reserves the right to investigate any such complaints or other information and if GAPC determines that the Grower Member does not satisfy the Certification requirements, GAPC may revoke the Grower Member's Certification.

### 2. 2020 FSA 578 Form

All Growers listed on the Certification application (Primary and Associate) should have a 2020 FSA 578 Report of Commodities at the time of the audit that lists the total tobacco acreage. If a grower's acreage has changed since the time of application they will have a chance to update that acreage at the audit. Auditors will verify that the 2020 578 lists the acreage being reported at the time of the audit.

To ensure timely reporting please remember crops must be filed with FSA by the final acreage report date (ARD). Contact your County FSA office for the applicable ARD for tobacco.

If a grower does not have a 2020 578 listing the total tobacco acreage being reported at the time of audit they will have a chance to go through remediation. Remediation is subject to costs with the monitoring firm and must be completed within **30 days**. If a grower does not obtain and allow the auditor to verify the 2020 578 with the correct tobacco acreage either during the monitoring visit or within 30 days of the monitoring visit they will not be eligible for GAPC Certification in 2020.

### We want to hear from you.



GAP Connections wants your feedback on how the Coronavirus pandemic has effected your operation. Your responses will allow us to better assist you during this challenging time and help us in evaluating our plans for 2020 Certification Monitoring Visits.

Please click on the link below to complete the short survey.

[Take Survey](#)

### COVID-19 Resources

GAPC has compiled resources in English and Spanish to help inform, educate, and train growers, workers, and family members on topics related to COVID-19. The resource pages provide information for planning, educating and preventing the spread of COVID-19 as well as H2-A Visa concerns and the Families First Coronavirus Reponse Act (FFCRA). Includes: training videos, posters, fact sheets, FAQ's, webinars and links to other resources. For information on a state by state level, visit the COVID-19 Resource Page by State.



[Visit COVID-19 Resource Page](#)

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