



Connecting farmers through environmentally and socially sustainable good agricultural practices.



As we look forward to 2016, we want to bring you up to date on the 2016 U.S. Tobacco GAP Training program.

#### 2016 U.S. Tobacco GAP Training

U.S Tobacco GAP Annual Trainings will contain topics under the three sections of the US GAP Program: Crop Management, Environmental Management, and Labor Management. The training topics in each category are to be chosen for individual county meetings by Tobacco Extension Specialist(s) and agents in each state.

The Labor Management section will contain labor training materials selected from the materials provided by the Farm Labor Practices Group (FLPG) consisting of the following topics:

- Payment of Labor
- Housing and Transportation
- Field Sanitation
- Farm Labor Contractors (FLC's)
- H-2A Program and Regulations

State/local Department of Labor Wage and Hour staff along with Extension agents, Specialists, and GAPC staff will help determine the mix and length of each of these labor topics at each meeting. The focus will be on providing more detail on selected topics from the Labor Management Guide that were briefly covered last year, based on need and relevance to the area and growers.

#### Deadline for regular 2016 GAP Training - June 30, 2016

GAP Connections will continue to keep the deadline for regular GAP Training as it was in 2015. Any training received after June 30th 2016 will be noted on growers transcripts as being late. It will be at the discretion of Extension to offer training past this deadline and of contracting companies to accept or not to accept the late training.

#### Preparation for 2016 GAP Annual Training

Growers are expected to attend one training session in 2016 to be in compliance with the GAP program guidelines. The following information will be helpful to growers as they plan their attendance at the GAP meetings:

- Growers planning to attend GAP training need to be sure they have their GAP grower ID card in order to have their attendance scanned and recorded. If growers do not have their grower ID card and do not know their grower ID number they can contact GAP Connections at 865-622-4606.
- Replacement of a lost or broken grower ID card has a \$13 fee for printing and shipping. If growers want to avoid this fee, there are two other options; (1) Print a paper copy of the card by accessing their grower profile at [www.gapconnections.com](http://www.gapconnections.com), or (2) Download the GAP Connections Grower App onto their iPhone or Android smart phones, which includes an electronic version of their grower ID card. More information on this option is available at [www.gapconnections.com](http://www.gapconnections.com) under Resources.

Both of these options require the grower to know their grower ID and password. If they don't have either they can contact GAP Connections.

#### GAP Training Event Calendar

For growers looking for a GAP training meeting, a list of public meetings is available on the Calendar at the GAP Connections web site. The calendar will be updated as meetings are scheduled, so growers should check it on a regular basis for scheduled meetings in their area.

<http://www.gapconnections.com/resources/calendar>

#### GAP Annual Meeting

GAP Connections Annual Meeting will be held in conjunction with the Tobacco Workers Conference!

The GAP Connections Annual Meeting, open to all Members, Grower Members, Associate Members and other interested parties, will be held in Nashville, TN at the Sheraton Music City, on January 14, 2016 at 10:40 AM. The meeting is being held at the end of the Tobacco Workers Conference for the convenience of those attending both meetings.

The Annual Meeting will begin at 10:40 AM and last one hour. It will consist of an update on GAP Connections activities in 2015 and planned activities for 2016.

If you are interesting in attending the Tobacco Workers Conference and/ or the GAP Annual Meeting please click on the following link for more information <http://www.twconference.com/home.html>

Note that there is a registration fee for the Tobacco Workers Conference, but the GAP Annual Meeting is free.



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GAP Connections • Office: 865.622.4606 • Fax: 865.622.4550 • [info@gapconnections.com](mailto:info@gapconnections.com)

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