



Connecting farmers through environmentally and socially sustainable good agricultural practices.



As we look forward to the 2015 crop, we want to bring you up to date on new developments at GAP Connections and in the 2015 US Tobacco GAP program.

### U.S. Tobacco GAP Training

GAP grower training is now well underway. In partnership with Extension, we have scheduled around 100 grower meetings (as of February 18) and we expect to be adding several more, covering all tobacco growing regions. A full list of meetings can be found by at [www.gapconnections.com/calendar](http://www.gapconnections.com/calendar).

As part of our training effort, we are fortunate to have been able to hire a new Training Director, Aleksandra Wilson. Alex, as she is more familiarly known, is trained in plant protection and comes to us with a strong practical background in crop production. Many of you may have already spoken to her on the phone or met her at a meeting. GAP Connections is happy to have her on board and feels her involvement will help support growers and the GAP Program.

### Deadline for regular 2015 GAP training - June 30, 2015

We have a great partnership with University Extension in the tobacco states for delivering GAP training. Extension has recognized that there are many reasons why a grower might not be able to attend scheduled winter meetings and they have made great efforts to provide alternative training times. However, if this drags on too late in the year the value of the training for that production year becomes questionable. For these reasons, the GAP Connections' Board voted to establish a **June 30, 2015** deadline date for 2015 GAP recertification training by Extension. Any training received after this date will be noted on transcripts as being late. It will be at the discretion of contracting companies to accept or not accept that late training.

### Charge for Replacement Grower ID Cards

We continue to have a large number of requests for replacement grower member cards. We have been printing and mailing new cards upon request, but this is becoming a considerable expense to GAP Connections. As a result, beginning **April 1, 2015**, GAP Connections will begin to charge \$13.00 for a replacement card.

There are alternatives to the plastic card. The best alternative is the use of the GAP Connections Mobile app, available for Android and iPhone, which provide an electronic image of the card with the QR code. To download the app go to the App Store and type in "GAP Connections Grower". A paper version of the card can also be printed at any time by logging into the Grower ID System on the GAP Connections website. Both the app and logging into the Grower ID System will require your Grower ID number and password. If you need help with either of these items please call GAP Connections at 865-622-4606.

### Company Membership

We now have 15 company members. The most recent to join are the U.S. Agro Logistics, U.S. Tobacco Cooperative, Inc., and TH International Tobacco Company. We have 7 associate members representing groups and companies with an interest in supporting the U.S. Tobacco GAP Program, and we are approaching 12,000 grower members. To view a complete list of GAP Connections' Company Members please click [here](#).



Don't want to carry around another plastic card...  
Check out the GAP Connections App for Androids & iPhones.  
**Download it now at Google Play or iTunes today!**

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

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