



Connecting farmers through environmentally and socially sustainable good agricultural practices.



### U.S. Tobacco GAP Training

Over 9,000 growers have attended 2015 GAP training across 11 states with more training occurring in various states. Please remember that training after June 30, 2015 will be marked as late on your grower transcript. It will be at the discretion of contracting companies to accept or not accept that late training. If you need training please contact GAP Connections or your local Extension office.

The training this year featured Enhanced Labor Management Training in partnership with the Farm Labor Practices Group and the U.S. Department of Labor, Wage and Hour Division (U.S. DOL). Growers were presented with the requirements and best practices on five main topics: payment of labor, disclosure of employment terms, housing, farm labor contractors, and transportation. This was a great opportunity for growers to interact with U.S. DOL officials and ask questions to better understand the laws and regulations they operate under. To find the complete Agricultural Labor Management Guide visit [www.gapconnections.com](http://www.gapconnections.com) or view it on your smartphone or tablet with the GAP Connections Grower App on Androids, iPhones, and tablets.

### Barn Testing Certification Training

GAP Connections will provide for the scanning of Grower ID cards at Barn Testing Certification Training. If you attended training and have a Grower ID card but did not get it scanned please send GAP Connections a copy of the training certificate with your Grower ID Number listed on it.

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Non-Growers (Barn Service Providers)

If you are not a GAP Connections Grower Member and do not meet the requirements to become one but want to receive communication from GAP Connections on Barn Testing Certification and other U.S. Tobacco GAP related topics please complete the form below.

[Barn Service Provider Contact Sheet](#)

### Transplants and Greenhouse Records Required for GAP Compliance

As transplanting season rolls along, remember that U.S. Tobacco GAP Program standards require that growers keep records of all transplants used in their operation, whether they grow their own plants or buy them from a greenhouse grower. The required information is found in Tab 6 of the 2015 Records packet, distributed to growers at GAP training sessions this winter.



If growers are purchasing transplants, they need to get this information from their greenhouse grower. To make this easier, GAP Connections has created a Purchased Transplant Records Sheet, available [here](#) (scroll down to Category: Records). There are two options: (1) a combination form that has the transplant records and CPA records all on one sheet for a particular batch number, or (2) two forms, which separate the transplant records from the CPA records. This would allow a transplant provider (seller) to make copies of his Greenhouse CPA records and provide them to all of his purchasers with the Purchase Transplant Record.

Growers can give this form to their transplant producer, or transplant producers can print the form, record the needed information and give it to growers when they pick up their transplants. The information can also be entered online using the interactive version of the form and emailed to growers or printed and given to them in hard copy. The information on this form includes all of the transplant production records needed to meet GAP requirements.

### New Bulletin on Green Tobacco Sickness (Now on GAP Connections App)

A recommended practices bulletin with guidance on reducing the hazards for tobacco workers has been jointly developed by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. The bulletin identifies serious health hazards related to work in tobacco fields, and steps employers can take to protect the health of farm workers. It also identifies vulnerable workers, including children and adolescents, who may be more sensitive to chemical exposure and more likely to suffer from green tobacco sickness, and who may suffer more serious health consequences than adults. The bulletin is available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).



To reduce nicotine exposure among workers, the agencies recommend that employers take the following steps:

- Provide appropriate personal protective equipment to workers.
- Train workers on the proper use of adequate PPE.
- Make sure workers can recognize GTS signs and symptoms, such as nausea and vomiting.
- Train supervisors to recognize GTS symptoms in employees and to ensure sick employees drink water, rest in shade and receive medical attention if necessary.

"The best way to protect people from on-the-job hazards is to prevent those hazards in the first place, and this bulletin outlines commonsense steps to reduce nicotine exposure and prevent heat illness," Secretary of Labor Thomas Perez said in a press release. "It's important that we continue to work with a wide array of stakeholders in order to find solutions that protect all workers."

You can now access the new recommended practices for minimizing and preventing GTS on the GAP Connections mobile app. Update the app today to check out the new resources!

### New Options and Resources from our Associate Members - Partners in GAP Compliance



FarmLogic is a web-based and mobile record keeping system. It helps you keep good farming records and produce compliance reports with the click of a mouse. Tap in your information from a mobile device in the field, or desktop computer in the office. Your records are securely backed up and safe, eliminating the risk of losing papers and searching for files. Records and reports are easy to edit and preview before sending so you maintain full control of your information. Your production records are in your pocket.

With FarmLogic, record keeping is now easier than ever. You can spend more time in the field and less time on paperwork. Your information is in your hands, when and where you need it. Anytime you have a question, our outstanding customer service team is available to you, 24/7. Just give us a call 866.761.8001.

GAP Connections and FarmLogic are working together to create electronic reports and ensure that growers using FarmLogic are recording the necessary data needed for GAP compliance.

FarmLogic now offers their system to GAP Connections' members at a discount at a one-time fee of \$1,499 (\$500 off of retail) and if you are a [Premium Member](#) at a one-time fee of \$1,250 (\$750 off of retail). To find out more click [here](#).



Agrian, the nation's most widely adopted cloud-based agridata record keeping and reporting system, is one of the newest GAP Connections associate members. Agrian has offered GAP Connections members the ability to access the

Agrian agrochemical label database on the association's website as an added technology benefit to GAP Connections members. The Agrian label database is the largest and most robust label database in the nation and the offer is at no cost to GAP Connections member companies.

Find the label lookup on the [Grower Resources Page](#) on GAP Connections' website.

Use the search box in the upper right-hand corner or click on "Advanced" to search by product type, manufacturer, active ingredient, crop or pest.

Agrian's label database is backed by over 330 manufacturers with over 8,000 manufacturer approved, indexed labels. Each label entry features general information, crop specific label information (rate, REL, PH), state registration, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Department of Transportation (DOT) information. Agrian also features an advanced searching capability enabling users to search by product type, manufacturer, registered state, active ingredient, organic products only, registered crop and registered pest.

The Agrian database is dynamic with new product additions and updates taking place on a daily basis. Each and every label receives careful review and acceptance from manufacturers giving those involved in agronomy the assurance that the information provided is accurate and reliable. The system is comprehensive, easy to use, and can be accessed by laptop, notebook or iPhone.

The wide adoption by agronomists, retailers, distributors, growers, applicators and manufacturers is a true testament to the usability and benefits of this system.

The goal is to provide an added benefit to GAP Connections membership through the GAP Connections website. For questions call the GAP Connections office or Mimos Athanassiadis at [mimos@agrian.com](mailto:mimos@agrian.com) or via phone at 559-492-5510.

Agrian was founded in 2004 in California and now has more than 100 employees serving the agricultural industry, with field representatives in the major tobacco growing regions.

### Charge for Replacement Grower ID Cards

GAP Connections has begun to charge \$13.00 for a replacement card. However, there are options to avoid this \$13.00 charge.



(1) 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".

(2) 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.

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