



GAPC Certification Update

As of October 15th, there are 674 total growers that are GAPC Certified. Certification Audits are still occurring and will conclude by late October.



Reminders to those who are going through Certification and have recently had an audit conducted:

- Please send back the authorization letter found in the first page of your Certification Audit Report
- The self-assessment must be complete (100%)
- Note that remediation of any non-compliance issues must be completed within 28 days of the date you received your Certification Audit Report
- Growers and Associated Growers listed on application are required to attend 2018 GAP training to achieve Certification

All authorization letters and self-assessment must be completed by NOVEMBER 30th to become Certified. Failure to submit these items by the November 30, will result in denial of Certification.

We appreciate the growers who participated in the inaugural year of the program and look forward to working with them and others in 2019.



What is the Grower Advisory Committee?

GAP Connections has a 13-member Grower Advisory Committee that meets monthly by conference call and one time a year face to face. The Grower Advisory Committee provides input on policies and procedures affecting growers, brings awareness of concerns and/or

questions from growers in the areas they represent, and suggests ways GAP Connections can better assist growers.

Grower Advisory Committee members are asked to serve a four-year term and are appointed by the GAP Connections Board of Directors. The Grower Advisory Committee has provided a grower's perspective on the GAPC Certification Program, certification standards, policies, and record templates. Most importantly, committee members share and relay grower's concerns and questions about GAP Connections and the GAPC Certification Program.

2018 Grower Advisory Committee		
Name	Region	City & State
Kent Bauman	Ohio/West Virginia/Indiana Burley	Otway, Ohio
Justin Welk	Pennsylvania/Maryland Air Cured	Strasburg, Pennsylvania
Donald Mitchell	Kentucky Burley	Midway, Kentucky
William Shipley	Tennessee/Virginia/Western NC Burley	Speedwell, Tennessee
Dale Seay	Kentucky/Tennessee Dark Air – Fire Cured	Crofton, Kentucky
Joanna Carraway	Kentucky/Tennessee Dark Air – Fire Cured	Kirksey, Kentucky
Jay Jennings	Virginia Flue Cured	Chase City, Virginia
Matt Grissom	North Carolina Flue Cured	Henderson, North Carolina
Reid Turner	Georgia/Florida Flue Cured	Baxley, Georgia
Neal Baxley	South Carolina Flue Cured	Mullins, South Carolina
Al Pedigo	Air Cured – Fire Cured GAPC Board Member	Scottsville, Kentucky
Brent Leggett	Flue Cured GAPC Board Member	Nashville, North Carolina
Tim Yarbrough	Flue Cured GAPC Board Member	Prospect Hill, North Carolina



Feature on Grower Advisory Member: Farming Through Love, Faith, Fear and Cancer

GAP Connections grower members, Craig and Joanna Carraway, are tobacco farmers in Kirksey, Kentucky. Joanna also serves on the GAP Connections Grower Advisory Committee. Craig was diagnosed with a rare form of brain cancer in 2016. Their amazing story of faith, love, family and optimism through Craig's battle with cancer has been featured on AgWeb.

"Work, a job, a hobby, a lifestyle and now a path toward healing for this Kentucky family. Like the start of each growing season, the future remains uncertain but like that field of burley, the potential is priceless." - AgWeb article

Check out the Carraway's story [here](#).

Human Resources and Legal Hotline for Growers



GAPC partnered with Littler Mendelson, attorneys at law, for the second year to provide growers with a comprehensive risk management hotline service carefully designed to help manage workforce employment issues and reduce exposure to employment related liability. This hotline is free to all GAPC grower members.

Growers can access the hotline by phone (866) 823-6333 or by email LittlerHRhelp@littler.com. When contacting the hotline, please be prepared to provide, your name, GAPC grower ID #, location, type of issue, phone and email (if available).



Tobacco Farmer Newsletter: A Report on What's Left of the 2018 Crop. [Read Here](#).

Online Agricultural Laws and Regulations for Growers and Farm Labor Contractors Training Provided by AgSafe. [Learn More...](#)



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