



GAPC Certification Tips

Our weekly email containing tips, advice and reminders that will help you achieve GAPC Certification in 2019.

This week: Achieving Certification and 2019 FSA 578's



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

Training: All Grower ID's listed on the approved application must have attended 2019 GAP training by June 30. This includes any associated growers listed on the application. NOTE: Training is non-remediable.

Self-assessment: The self-assessment must be completed **one week** prior to the Certification Audit or Site Visit date. Please note that only ONE self-assessment needs to be completed per farm operation. The self-assessment will cover all growers who are associated with the farm in our system.

Passing score on Audit or Site Visit: Year 1 Growers must achieve compliance on 100% of Criticals and 75% of Additional GAPC Certification Standards. Year 2 Growers must achieve compliance on 100% of Criticals. Additional will not be reviewed on Year 2 Site Visit.

Maintain Compliance: No verified concerns or violations of policies or procedures are discovered by GAPC through follow-ups or the GAPC Worker Concern Helpline or other approved third-party worker concern process.

2. 2019 FSA 578 Forms

All Growers (Year 1 and Year 2) should have an updated 2019 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 2019 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 local county office for the applicable ARD for tobacco.

If a grower does not have a 2019 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 third-party audit firm and must be completed within 30 days. If a grower does not obtain and allow the auditor to verify the 2019 578 with the correct tobacco acreage either during the audit, site visit, or within 30 days of the audit they will not be eligible for GAPC Certification in 2019.

In future emails...

- Terms and Conditions of Employment
- Housing and Transportation
- Agrochemical Storage
- Worker Concern Helpline and Required Posters
- What is remediation?
- OSHA 300 Forms

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