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WEEKLY TIPS for GAPC Certification

Check your email each week for helpful tips on achieving GAPC Certification.

THIS WEEK: Achieving Certification & FSA 578 Forms

It's more than just a Monitoring Visit

Achieving Certification

Training: All Grower ID's listed on an application (Primary and Associate) must complete 2022 Annual GAP Training by June 30 for the farm to be GAPC Certified. If your monitoring activity is after June 30 and everyone has not completed training, Certification will be denied. It is not remediable after June 30. If you have not completed training, please contact your county extension agent to schedule a time to watch the make up video.

Self-Assessment: The Self-Assessment is a requirement for all growers going through GAPC Certification Program in 2022 and must be completed prior the Monitoring Visit. The Self-Assessment is one per operation and can be found by logging into the Grower Dashboard at www.gapconnections.com and clicking on "Grower Self-Assessment".

Passing Score on Monitoring Visit: Growers are advised to review the [The GAPC Certification Compliance Guide](#) in preparation for their Monitoring Visit. The Compliance Guide is the "road map" to Certification. This document contains the standards, the standard category, the question the auditor will ask, verification method and remediation process. Trying to determine which questions will be asked of you? Review the "Standard Category" and the "Labor Type" in the GAPC Certification Compliance Guide. The Standard Category describes whether the standard is Critical or Additional and what year the standard will be evaluated with an A (Audit) or SV (Site Visit). The Labor Type indicates what type of labor the standard applies to.

Passing Score:

- **Audit (A):** To achieve a passing score for Certification growers must obtain a 100% score on all the Critical standards and reach a minimum 75% score on the Additional standards.
- **Site Visit (SV):** To achieve a passing score for Certification growers must obtain a 100% score on all the Critical standards asked during the Site Visit (labeled Critical SV in Compliance Guide). Growers will not be asked Additional Standards in their Site Visit year.

Maintain Compliance: Certification is an ongoing, continuous two year cycle. Through the two-year certification cycle, GAPC may receive information regarding the Grower Member's qualification for Certification. GAPC reserves the right to investigate any such complaints or other information and if GAPC determines that the Grower Member does not satisfy the Certification requirements, GAPC may revoke the Grower Member's Certification.

2022 FSA 578 Form

All Growers listed on the Certification application (Primary and Associate) should have a 2022 FSA 578 Report of Commodities at the time of the monitoring visit 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 monitoring visit. Auditors will verify that the 2022 578 lists the acreage being reported at the time of the visit.

To ensure timely reporting please remember crops must be filed with FSA by the final acreage report date (ARD). Contact your County FSA office for the applicable ARD for tobacco.

If a grower does not have a 2022 578 listing the total tobacco acreage being reported at the time of monitoring visit they will have a chance to go through remediation. Remediation is subject to costs with the monitoring firm and must be completed within 30 days. If a grower does not obtain and allow the auditor to verify the 2022 578 with the correct tobacco acreage either during the monitoring visit or within 30 days of the monitoring visit they will not be eligible for GAPC Certification in 2022.

Learn More in the
GAPC Certification Compliance Guide

Farmworker Training Opportunities

On-Farm Worker Training

GAPC offers on-farm training for individual farms and their workforce or for a group of farms and their collective workforce. Training is customized to the operation and is offered in both English and Spanish. Training topics are numerous and varied to offer a full and complete package for operations that may be looking for safety and compliance training to meet different requirements. [Learn More.](#)

Farm Safety and Compliance Events

GAPC is excited to announce Farm Safety and Compliance Training Events are back in 2022! The events are for all those involved in a farming operation including family members and farm workers. Training is provided in English and Spanish. Attendees rotate through six to nine interactive stations led by experts in the safety and compliance topics. Topics have included safety training on machinery, pesticide safety, heat illness, green tobacco sickness, basic first aid, and basic CPR. In addition, training on compliance topics such as labor laws, workers' rights, and harassment are included.

Dates and Locations:

- Tuesday, June 28 | Southern Piedmont Ag Research & Extension Center, Blackstone VA | 8:30a - 12:00. [Learn More.](#)
- Thursday, June 30 | United Tobacco Company, Wilson NC | 8:30a - 12:00p and 2:00p - 5:30p. [Learn More.](#)
- Information about Kentucky Farm Safety and Compliance Event Coming Soon!

Register



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