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WEEKLY TIPS for GAPC Certification

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

THIS WEEK: Crop Management

How to maintain crop management critical standard records

During the Monitoring Visit growers will be asked critical standard questions related to the nutrient management, integrated pest management (IPM), and crop operations management.

The next three segments provide more details and what specifically needs to be recorded in your GAP records.

1. Nutrient Management

If required in your watershed, growers must comply with mandatory nutrient management regulations by maintaining a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) approved by the county soil and water conservation district. If you are unsure if you need a NMP, contact your county NRCS office. Your county conservation district can assist in writing a NMP or if you are not considered a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) you have the option to write your own Manure Management Plan (MMP). More information on writing your own MMP can be found [here](#).

2. Integrated Pest Management

- All CPA applications, restricted or non-restricted, should be completed or supervised by a licensed pesticide applicator. Growers must have a current pesticide license at time of audit. If grower uses a third-party to apply pesticides on the operation you must have a copy of their applicators pesticide license at time of audit. Allowing anyone who is pregnant or nursing to apply CPAs is prohibited.
- Growers are required to follow label instructions when applying CPAs and only use CPAs that have been approved by the EPA for use on tobacco. Always refer to your grower contract as some buyers may prohibit use of certain CPAs which are labeled for tobacco.
- The following documentation should be maintained for CPA application records: (a) date of application, (b) entity performing application, (c) reason for application, (d) product brand name and common name/active ingredients, (e) EPA#, (f) restricted entry interval (REI) by field/tract, (g) rate applied, (h) identification or field treated and size of treated area, and (i) method of CPA application.

All CPA Application Records can be found in Tab 2, pages 2-5 in your [2022 GAP Records](#).

3. Crop Operations Management

- Growers are required to direct the day-to-day activities involved in producing the tobacco sold under your name, the name of an Associated Grower, employee, or the name of the farming operation.
- Use only Certified and/or approved seed for tobacco production.
- Air and Fire operations are required to only use Low Converting seed for tobacco production.
- Use only non-GMO seed for tobacco productions and if growing GMO tobacco keep it strictly separate from non-GMO tobacco from seed to bale.
- Whether you produce or purchase your tobacco plants, keep records of transplant/greenhouse seeding dates, varieties, and seed lot numbers by field/tract.
- If multiple tobacco types are grown of the farm, they must be kept strictly separated at all levels of production.
- If tarps are used when transporting, they must be free of contaminants and made of acceptable tarping materials (non-plastic) on the side which the tobacco is in contact.
- If an enclosed trailer/vehicle is used when transporting, all surfaces should be free of contaminants. Stock trailers should not be used for tobacco transport.

Documentation for Crop Management can be found in Tab 3, pages 1-2 in your 2022 GAP Records.

[Learn More in the
GAPC Certification Compliance Guide](#)

Purchase Your Plants?

Plant growers should provide a Transplant Purchase Record. The record should contain: (a) farm name (seller) and address, (b) greenhouse ID number, (c) variety name, (d) LC variety (burley & dark only), (e) seed lot number, (f) seedling source, (g) date of seeding, and (h) date the plants were received/picked up along with the following related to greenhouse fertilization and IPM records: (a) date of application, (b) applicator, (c) brand or product name, (e) reason for application, (f) rate per 1,000 square foot, (g) total application, and (h) start/finish time.

If you raise plants for sale, [click here for the link to the Transplant Purchase Record](#).

Accurate Data Matters!

During the Monitoring Visit, growers will be asked to produce and show auditors your 2022 tobacco records. Growers may use whatever type of record keeping system that works best for you as long as all the required information is documented. See the [Required Records Checklist](#) when using another record keeping method. GAPC Records are available to purchase in the [GAP Store](#) or you may download the pdf or Excel versions for free on the [GAPC Website](#).



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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