



GAP Connections Certification Application and Renewal Period is Now Open!

Things to Remember:

- It is VOLUNTARY. It is YOUR decision.
- Year 1 Applications and Year 2 Renewals must be submitted by **April 15**
- If you became a GAPC Certified Grower in 2018, you are required to submit a 2019 renewal application by **April 15** to maintain your GAPC Certification
- Deadline for growers to contact approved auditing firm for best pricing is **April 15**
- Review the GAPC Certification Compliance Guide and List of Non-Remediable, Critical Certification Standards before deciding to apply. [View here.](#)
- All growers listed on the application must complete annual GAP Training by **June 30**. View calendar of training [HERE](#).
- GAPC staff are here to help! If you have questions call GAPC at 865.622.4606

For more information or to apply visit our website at www.gapconnections.com

Apply Here

GAPC Certification Gate Signs

If you became a GAPC Certified Grower in 2018, be sure to pick up your gate sign at your Annual GAP Training Meeting. You will receive a new sticker each year, for three years, given achievement and maintenance of GAPC Certification status.

Congratulations on becoming GAP Connections Certified!



2018 GAP Connections Annual Report

GAP Connections (GAPC) was established in 2013 as a nonprofit agricultural membership organization to work with growers and stakeholders to raise standards in the tobacco industry through good agricultural practices focused on three main management areas: Crop, Environmental and Labor Management. GAPC provides leadership for the adoption of agricultural standards and practices that produce a quality crop while protecting, sustaining or enhancing the environment, ensures the safety and rights of farm laborers and recognizes those producers who are committed to a higher standard.

Learn more about GAP Connections successes in the Annual Report found [HERE](#).

GAP Connections Records Now Available in Excel Format

Are you a grower that keeps records on the computer? GAP Connections has a great new tool for those who like to utilize keeping records digitally. All the same information in the paper records are now available to download in an Excel workbook. [Download the file here.](#)



Members of the GAP Connections Grower Advisory Committee held a meeting in Raleigh, NC, January 29-30. The committee met with Lea Scott with Universal Leaf, to hear about the economics of the domestic and international tobacco markets. The next day the group toured Santa Fe Manufacturing in Oxford, NC where growers were able to see cigarette manufacturing from leaf to product. Pictured from left to right: Donald Mitchell, Dale Seay, Ashley Greenhawk, Al Pedigo, William Shipley, Joanna Carraway, Jay Jennings, Kent Bauman, Joy Bauman, Reid Turner, Amanda Turner, Justin Welk, Abbie Welk, Tim Yarbrough, Linda McMurtry, Brent Leggett, and Jack McMurtry.



Compliance and Assessment Coordinator

Exciting & unique opportunity for a Compliance and Assessment Coordinator with GAP Connections in Knoxville, Tennessee. Assist in growers participating in the GAPC Certification program, other assessment programs, and much more. For more information, including the job description, visit our website at www.gapconnections.com. Apply online at www.agcareers.com.



Events & News from Others



OSHA: Quicktakes

Employers Must Post 2018 Injury/Illness Summary Beginning Feb. 1

Employers are reminded of their obligation to post a copy of OSHA's Form 300A, which summarizes job-related injuries and illnesses logged during 2018. Each year, from Feb. 1 to April 30, the summary must be displayed in a common area where notices to employees are usually posted. Businesses with 10 or fewer employees and those in certain low-hazard industries are exempt from OSHA recordkeeping and posting requirements. Visit OSHA's Recordkeeping Rule webpage for more information on recordkeeping requirements. [Read More.](#)



2019 Annual Membership Meeting and GAP Training

Monday, March 18

Fayette County Extension Office

1140 Harry Sykes Way

Lexington, KY

Click [HERE](#) for more information and to view agenda. Click [HERE](#) to register for the meeting.

Human Resources and Legal Helpline for Growers



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

Employment & Labor Law Solutions Worldwide®

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



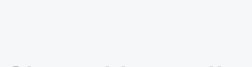
Calendar of Events

2019 GAP Connections Annual Training is underway! To find one in your area, view the list of training events [HERE](#). Reminder: If you are going through Certification, ALL growers listed on the application must complete annual GAP Training by **June 30**.



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