



2021 GAPC Certification Program

All growers participating in the GAPC Certification program must apply every year in order to maintain Certification.

How to Apply

1. Visit www.gapconnections.com
2. In the upper right hand corner, find "Log In" - "Log In to View Member Tools"
3. Enter your 6 digit Grower ID number (found at the bottom of your GAP card) and password. Passwords may be reset via email (if valid email address is on file) or by calling GAPC at (865) 622-4606
4. Find "Certification", then "Apply". Click "Start One" to begin a 2021 Certification Application.
5. Complete the application. You know you have come to the end when you submit payment.

Growers may also call GAPC to request a paper copy by mail. Paper applications are an additional \$50.

What's next? [Click here](#) to learn more about the Certification process.



Pesticide Disposal and Recycling Programs

Farmers spend their days working and tending to the land, shepherding a responsibility to protect the land and the environment they farm in for their

family, their community and future generations. One-way farmers are honoring this responsibility is by properly disposing of pesticides and recycling the empty containers.

Proper Disposal

Improper disposal of pesticides pose a real threat to the environment and can lead to potential contamination to soil, surface water and ground water. However, the risk of serious incident can be lessened if proper management and disposal methods are used.

One method of disposing of unused pesticides is to contact the pesticide manufacturer to see if they will take it back. Another method is to ask other possible users such as other farmers or neighbors of the pesticide to see if they have a use for it. For legal reasons, never sell a pesticide unless you are a licensed dealer. Both of these suggestions are based on the assumption that the pesticide is in the original, fully labeled container.

Look for programs (i.e. Chem Sweep, Clean Sweep, Pesticide Collection Programs) in your state that offer services to help you properly dispose of unused or unwanted pesticides. Many of these programs are run by the Department of Agriculture in partnership with University Extension programs in each state. For a list of some of the programs available [click here](#) or log in to your Grower Dashboard and look under Member Resources where growers will find programs and information categorized by state.

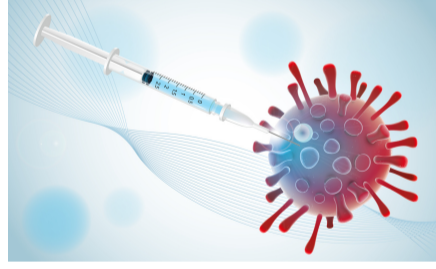
Recycling

Many pesticide containers can be recycled after they have been emptied and rinsed thoroughly. The benefits to recycling include reducing the amount of waste sent to landfills and incinerators, saving energy and conserving valuable resources. Also, a less known but not less meaningful fact about recycling is that it strengthens our economy and creates jobs. According to the [2020 EPA Recycling Economic Information \(REI\) Report](#), recycling created 681,000 jobs, \$37.8 billion in wages and \$5.5 billion in tax revenues in the United States.

Containers properly prepared for recycling have had their caps removed and been emptied, triple or pressure rinsed and dried. For a list of some of the pesticide disposal programs [click here](#) or log in to your Grower Dashboard and look under Member Resources where growers will find programs and information categorized by state.

Farmworker Vaccinations

When COVID-19 shut down many businesses, agricultural workers were deemed essential workers and allowed to continue to work. Now, in many states vaccination distribution plans are in or are moving into phases soon that may include the essential agricultural workers and farmers.



All North Carolina farmworkers are eligible for COVID-19 vaccinations as of March 3, 2021. The objective is to get as many farmworkers vaccinated as quickly as possible following North Carolina's COVID-19 Farmerworker Vaccination Plan. [Click here for more details and find a local team member near you to assist with the vaccination plan.](#)

To find out more about the phase of distribution in your state and to see if you or those on your farm are eligible visit your state's distribution plan and/or call your local or state health department. Some of these web locations provided have tools where you can answer a few questions and see if you or those on your farm are eligible.

[Click here to find more information about vaccination efforts in your state.](#)

2021 Annual GAP Training Options

Tobacco growers have options this year for completing their 2021 GAP Annual Training. GAP Training provides growers current information on research and information covering the three management practices; crop, environmental and labor.

All GAP Training must be complete by June 30, 2021.

[Click here to learn more and view your training options.](#)



2021 Online Training Featuring COVID-19 Preparedness

Although lately the focus has been on vaccinations, continued efforts with COVID-19 prevention are essential. GAPC Online Training has three videos that address COVID-19 preparedness on farms. These are from the NC Dept. of Labor but pertain to any farm hiring labor in any state.

Look for these topics on the GAPC Online Training...

- **Prevent, Identify, Care, Isolate: Farmworkers and COVID-19**

- **Responding to a COVID19 Outbreak on the Farm**

- **Farmworkers and the 2019 Novel Coronavirus**



2021 GAPC Record Templates

Options to obtain 2021 GAPC Record packets:

Contracting companies may be distributing GAPC Records at contract signing. Please contact the company for availability.

[Download editable PDF files](#) from the GAPC website.

[Download Excel Spreadsheet](#) from the GAPC website.

Purchase from the [GAPC Store](#) for \$15.



HR Legal Helpline

GAPC has partnered with Jackson Lewis 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. Growers can access the helpline by phone (833) 499-0275 or email GAPConnectionsHotline@jacksonlewis.com. When contacting the helpline, please be prepared to provide, your name, GAPC Grower ID #, location, type of issue, phone and email (if available). For more information visit www.jacksonlewis.com. [Subscribe](#) to receive communications from Jackson Lewis.



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