



Application period for the 2022 GAPC Certification program is now open!

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" then "Log In to View Member Tools"
3. Enter your 6 digit Grower ID number and password. Passwords may be reset via email (if valid email address is on file) or by calling GAPC at (865) 622-4606.
4. On your Grower Dashboard find, "Certification", the "Apply". Click "Start One" to begin a 2022 Certification Application.
5. Complete the application. You know you have come to the end when you submit payment. Payment will be processed upon approval.

Have an Associated Grower(s)?

Upon approval of your application, you will receive an approval email. At this time, all Associated Growers listed on the application can login using THEIR Grower ID and password to accept terms and conditions. The Associated Grower will see a red box on their Grower Dashboard. Click and follow the instructions. All Associated Growers must accept the terms and conditions before the application is considered final approved.

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

More information about the Certification program can be found on our [website](#) and in the [2022 GAPC Certification Compliance Guide](#).

Deadline to apply is April 15, 2022

2022 Self-assessment

The 2022 self-assessment is open. The self-assessment is a requirement for **all** growers going through the GAPC Certification Program in 2022. Information from a grower's 2022 Certification application is used to pre-populate the self-assessment but only after the application is approved. If growers want to take advantage of the pre-populated data and answer fewer questions on the self-assessment it is best to wait to start the self-assessment until you get notice of your Certification application being approved.

The self-assessment can be found by logging into the Grower Dashboard at www.gapconnections.com and clicking on "Grower Self-assessment."

If you have questions regarding the self-assessment please call GAPC at 865-622-4606.

Self-assessments must be completed prior to the 2022 monitoring visit.



Annual GAP Training Back

In Person for 2022!

GAPC will be conducting Annual GAP Trainings in person in 2022. Visit the [training calendar online](#) for dates and locations near you.

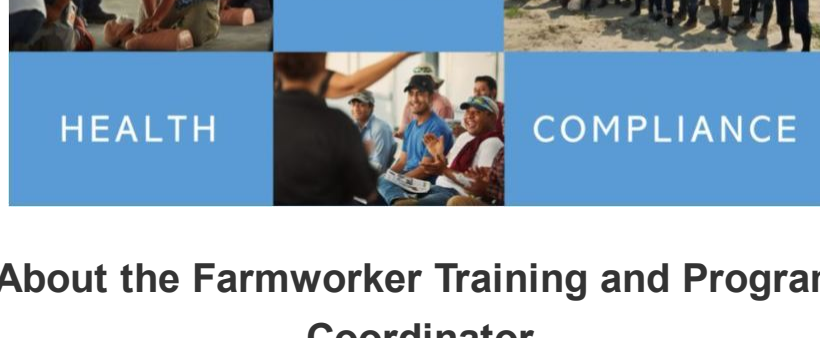
All GAP Training must be completed by June 30, 2022.

NEW On-Farm Worker Training

Your Farm, Your Topics

Agriculture ranks among the most hazardous industries in the U.S. GAPC recognizes the need to provide tools and resources to avoid health and safety risks at your farm. GAPC is excited to offer this new farmworker training opportunity. The trainings will include a variety of topics, including topics of your choice, to promote safe and best work practices to your farmworkers.

[Click here to learn more about having GAPC train your workers on your farm.](#)



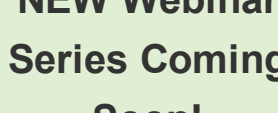
About the Farmworker Training and Program Coordinator

Francisca Rios is the newest member of GAP Connections team. As the Farmworker Training and Program Coordinator she will be responsible for developing the new farmworker training program. Francisca is an experienced trainer with a deep background in farmworker education. Prior to joining GAPC, Mrs. Rios held positions with the state and federal government focusing in agriculture foreign labor program H2A and H2B, farmworker training and outreach, interpreting and applying farm labor rules/regulations, compliance assistance with farm labor rules and regulations, human resources, and employer engagement. Mrs. Rios is fluent and speaks both English and Spanish.

Want more information about the Farmworker program? Contact Francisca at (865) 622-4606, ext. 114 or email frrios@gapconnections.com.



LIVE WEBINAR



NEW Webinar Series Coming Soon!

GAPC is beginning a new webinar series focusing on the tough labor management questions and challenges growers face.

The first topic will be "Best Practices for Addressing Property Damage on the Farm" and will feature special guest speakers:

- Greg Coulter, attorney at law, from Jackson Lewis PC
- Lee Wicker, North Carolina Growers Association
- Jennifer Poole, Virginia Agricultural Growers Association
- Rick Blaylock, U.S. DOL

During the live webinar, the panel will discuss best practices when dealing with property damage focusing on preventative measures and discussions with workers including steps to take to assess, investigate and respond to damage. Time will be allowed for questions from growers who are participating.

Growers participating in the webinar will receive 1-hour additional labor management credit on their training report. This labor management credit will not count toward attendance and/or credit requirements for 2022 Annual GAP Training.

Continue to watch your inbox for more information!

Opportunities to Partner with GAPC



GROWER TRAINING SPONSORSHIP

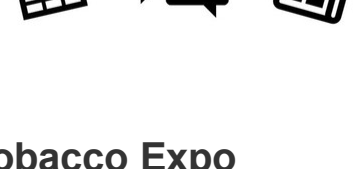
Partnering organizations will have an opportunity to connect and engage with GAPC Grower Members at Annual GAP Trainings. Annual GAP Trainings have annually reached over 4,000 growers across 12 states and provides a unique opportunity for you and your organization to interact with growers that are invested in the tobacco industry. For more information on becoming a 2022 Grower Training Sponsor, contact Amy Rochkes at (865) 622-4606, ext. 107 or email arochkes@gapconnections.com. [Find out more.](#)

CONSULTANT PARTNERSHIP

Are you a consultant that assists tobacco grower's in completing the GAPC Certification Program? If so, join this exciting new learning opportunity to become a proud GAPC Consultant Partner. This program offers two virtual GAPC Certification training sessions and an option to attend auditor training. This allows you to gain valuable insights into the Certification program to better serve your growers. For more information on becoming a 2022 Consultant Partner, contact Lauren Walker at (865) 622-4606, ext. 109 or email lwalker@gapconnections.com. [Find out more.](#)



Events & News from Others



2022 TN-KY Tobacco Expo

When: Tuesday, February 1, 2022
Time: 8:00am - 1:00pm CST
Where: Robertson County Fairgrounds
4635 Hwy 41 North
Springfield, TN 37172

[Click here for more information.](#)



On Farm Housing Grant Program

With grant funds provided by the U.S. Department of Labor under the Workforce Investment & Opportunity Act (WIOA), Southeast Non-Profit Housing will provide financial assistance to farmers and growers who wish to upgrade and/or improve their farm labor housing. [Find out more.](#)

January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month

Global estimates from the International Labor Organization (ILO) indicate that 160 million children between 5-17 years old were engaged in child labor in 2021, of which about 79 million were in hazardous labor. While concerted efforts by governments, workers, and employers have resulted in a reduction of nearly 86 million children engaged in child labor since 2000, this positive trend has changed in recent years. Global estimates in 2021 showed an increase of 8.4 million children in child labor in the last four years and a 6.5 million increase in the number of children engaged in hazardous work....[read more.](#)



Wage and Hour Division Hosts: Labor Trafficking in Agriculture Round Table Conversation

In recognition of January's National Human Trafficking Awareness Month, U.S. DOL Wage and Hour Division invites you to join them as they host a Roundtable Conversation on Labor Trafficking in Agriculture. They are hosting this event following recent cases in the Southeast which uncovered exploitation and abuse of H-2A farmworkers. Specifically, in Georgia, farmworkers were forced to work in unsafe conditions, far below their promised wages, and made to live in cramped and unsanitary housing. In Florida, an employer victimized farmworkers by imposing debts, confiscating passports, and threatening to harm their family members if they did not comply with his demands.

The Wage and Hour Division's Southeast Region will convene federal, state, and local organizations to share their experiences combating Labor Trafficking in the Agriculture Industry. During the roundtable event, participants will discuss: common indicators of trafficking in agriculture, how to report suspected labor trafficking, and how employers, enforcement agencies, and community organizations can collaborate to combat these issues. [Learn More.](#)

The event will take place on **Monday, January 31st from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. EST.**

Attendance is free, but registration is required.

[Register](#)

HR Legal Helpline

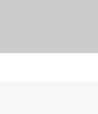
GAPC has partnered with Jackson Lewis to provide growers with a comprehensive risk management helpline service carefully designed to help manage workforce employment issues and reduce exposure to employment related liability.

JacksonLewis

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.

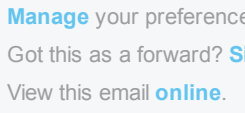
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