



Certification Application Deadline Extended! April 30, 2022

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.

Growers may also call GAPC to request a paper copy by mail. Paper applications are an additional \$50 in administrative fees and must be postmarked by April 30, 2022.

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.

My application is approved. Now what?

Once your application is approved you will receive an approval email with important information regarding the Certification program. Please review this information and call GAPC if anything is incorrect. You have been placed on the selected Monitoring Firm's contact list and they will contact you to schedule the Monitoring Visit according to their scheduling policy. You may now begin working on the Self-Assessment...

Self-Assessment

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."

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

Application Deadline: Midnight on April 30, 2022

Annual GAP Training Update

GAPC Annual Training is winding down with upcoming dates in Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, and Tennessee.

List of Upcoming Dates and Locations

- **Monday, March 28 – 6:30 p.m.**, Barren County High School Trojan Academy, Glasgow, KY
- **Tuesday, March 29 – 5 p.m.**, Breckinridge County Extension Office, Hardinsburg, KY
- **Wednesday, March 30 – 10 a.m.**, Breckinridge County Extension Office, Hardinsburg, KY
- **Wednesday, March 30 – 6 p.m.**, Jefferson County 4-H Community Building, Madison, IN
- **Thursday, March 31 – 10 a.m.**, Raines Farm & Greenhouse, Seaman, OH
- **Wednesday, April 6 – 3 p.m.**, Northeast Tennessee Research & Education Center, Greeneville, TN

We recommend growers pre-register for these training events through the GAPC Website or the host site. For registration information click [here](#). Click on 'Annual GAP Training' next to the date and location of the meeting you wish to attend. You will be directed to the registration page.

Have you missed 2022 Annual GAP Training?

Growers that have missed Annual GAP Training in their area should be watching for details on makeup training options. GAPC will notify growers through emails, newsletters and Facebook once details on makeup options are available.



March 17, 2022 Murray, KY GAP Training

GAP Training is a requirement of the GAPC Certification Program. All growers participating in the Certification Program and listed on the Certification Application must complete Annual GAP Training.

Questions?

Contact Amy Rochkes, Training and Resource Coordinator. (865) 622-4606, ext. 107 or arochkes@gapconnections.com

GAP Training must be completed by June 30, 2022

Thank you, Grower Training Sponsors!

Thanks to the support of the GAPC company members, associate members, and annual sponsors 2022 Annual GAP Training was offered in 8 states and 41 locations.

GAPC would like to recognize the following partners for their 2022 Grower Training Sponsorship.



Training sponsorship provides a unique opportunity for industry partners to connect and engage with growers who are invested in the tobacco industry, interested in producing a quality tobacco crop while protecting, sustaining, and enhancing the environment and ensuring the safety and rights of farm laborers.

Annual GAP Training with GAPC and partnering organizations provides information and resources to help growers identify and adopt best practices in crop, environmental, and labor management. Annual GAP Training is offered each year at no cost to growers. Since 2014, GAP Training reaches over 4,000 GAPC Grower Members each year.

If you are interested in becoming a 2023 sponsor, please review the information on Annual Grower Training Sponsorship [here](#) or contact Amy Rochkes, Training & Resources Coordinator at arochkes@gapconnections.com or at (865) 622-4606, extension 107.



March 26 - April 1, 2022

Creating a Culture of Health with Farmworkers

By: Francisca Rios, GAP Connections, Farmworker Training and Program Coordinator

Health care is a basic need for everyone. Farmworkers are part of our community while they are here working on our farms. Farmworkers face numerous challenges to health care access including lack of health insurance, lack of familiarity with the U.S. health care system, transportation, and cultural and linguistic barriers. The majority of farmworkers (77%) are most comfortable conversing in Spanish (National Center for Farmworker Health, 2020).

Farmworkers are also less likely to seek health care services out of fear of being seen as unreliable at the workplace, being sent back home, and/or not being allowed to work. Promoting health with workers could help identify symptoms earlier in order to prevent the spread of illnesses and potentially help prevent emergency consequences such as ER visits or ambulance rides. Healthy employees are also more productive and more likely to return in the following years.

To promote a culture of health on your farm you can:

1. Help workers recognize common health-related issues faced by migrant and seasonal farmworkers by sharing or posting health education materials for farmworkers ([NCFH Health Resources](#)).
2. Identify community health centers in your area and share information with workers ([NCFH's Migrant Health Center Map](#), [HRSA Find a Health Center](#) tool, [County Health Departments](#)).
3. [Share the toll-free, bilingual, health information and referral service program for farmworkers and their families.](#)

Below are some examples of free materials you could share with workers to help promote a culture of health:

[Hypertension \(English/Spanish\)](#)

[Heat-related illnesses](#)

[Mental health](#)

[Diabetes](#)

A Message from Acting Louisville District Director Richard Blaylock

Agricultural Growers and Workers represent an essential American industry. The U.S. Department of Labor's Wage Hour Division is here to help keep our domestic agricultural industry strong by ensuring workers have the protections they need to do the job effectively. We recognize the critical role of Farmworkers and the Growers who support them during National Farmworker Awareness week: March 26th thru April 1st.

The Wage Hour Division has a number of resources to aid Growers and Workers including the following:

- [Agriculture Employment Resources](#)
- [Agriculture Compliance Assistance Toolkit](#)
- [Young Worker Toolkit](#)



Grower Advisory Committee Meeting

Members of the GAP Connections Grower Advisory Committee met in Raleigh, NC, February 2- 3, in conjunction with the TGANC Shrimp and Oyster Boil and The Southern Farm Show.

Guest speakers included Robin Tutor, North Carolina Agromedicine Institute. Tutor shared information on managing farm stress. Robbie Parker, chairman, GAP Connections Board of Directors, met with the committee to discuss issues and concerns facing growers. Dr. Blake Brown, North Carolina State University, provided the committee with an economic outlook for the tobacco industry.

Lauren Walker, GAPC Certification and Compliance Coordinator, provided the committee with a Certification Program Update. Francisca Rios, GAPC Farmworker Training Coordinator, shared information on the farmworker training program and new resources. Amy Rochkes, GAPC Trainings & Resources Coordinator, gave an update on 2022 GAP Training and shared information on the Labor Management Webinars being planned.

The Grower Advisory Committee meets monthly by conference call and annually in person. The Grower Advisory Committee provides input on GAPC policies and procedures affecting growers, brings awareness of concerns and questions of the grower community to the GAPC Board, and suggests ways in which GAPC can better assist growers.

Committee Members:

Name	Region	State
Craig Armstrong	Ohio/West Virginia/Indiana burley	Ohio
Andrew Miller	Pennsylvania/Maryland air cured	Pennsylvania
Donald Mitchell	Kentucky Burley	Kentucky
Jason Crouch	Tennessee/Virginia/ W.North Carolina burley	Tennessee
Dale Seay	Kentucky/Tennessee dark air/fire cured	Kentucky
Nathan Musser	Kentucky/Tennessee dark are/fire cured	Kentucky
Jason Clary	Virginia flue cured	Virginia
Archie Griffin	North Carolina flue cured	North Carolina
Jackson Lord	Georgia/Florida flue cured	Florida
Matt Stevens	South Carolina flue cured	North Carolina
Al Pedigo	GAPC Board Member/Burley Council	Kentucky
Brent Leggett	GAPC Board Member: flue cured	North Carolina
Tim Yarbrough	GAPC Board Member/ TGANC flue cured	North Carolina

HR Legal Helpline

GAPC continues our partnership 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.

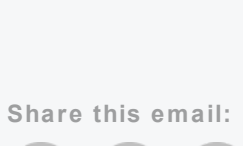
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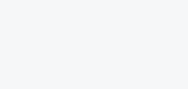


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