



CONNECTIONS



2022 Farm Safety & Compliance Events

Recap of Farm Safety and Compliance Farmworker Training

GAPC hosted three Farm Safety and Compliance Training Events in June. These free events provided interactive training in English and Spanish for farmworkers. Over 200 growers and farmworkers participated in the training events and overall rated the training as excellent.

Farmworkers were trained on pesticide safety including worker protection standards, personal protective equipment, and restricted entry interval, general farm safety, basic First Aid & heat illness, equipment safety including rollover protection, PTO, and machine safeguards, basic CPR, GTS, and Health & Hygiene.

Farmworkers also had the opportunity to meet with representatives from the U.S. EEOC, U.S. Department of Labor, Mexican Consulate, North Carolina Department of Agriculture Pesticide Safety Division, North Carolina Department of Commerce, North Carolina Department of Labor Occupational Safety & Health Division, Greene County Healthcare, AMEXCAN, North Carolina Human Trafficking Commission, Virginia Farm Bureau Federation, and Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.



"Everything was good, thank you for caring about our health."



"Very good, I hope you continue providing these events that will help us prevent accidents."

Kentucky Farm Safety and Compliance Farmworker Training Opportunity

Francisca Rios, GAPC Farmworker Training Program Coordinator, will be taking her training curriculum on the road in Kentucky, August 8-11, 2022.

Farm Safety Training is being planned for the following dates and locations:

- Monday, August 8, Calloway County Extension Office, Murray, KY, 1:30-3:30 p.m. and 4-6 p.m.
- Tuesday, August 9, Christian County Extension Office, Hopkinsville, KY, 1:30-3:30 p.m. and 4-6 p.m.
- Wednesday, August 10, Jackson Hole Event Center, Scottsville, KY, 9-11 a.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m.
- Thursday, August 11, Fayette County Extension Office, Lexington, KY, 1:30-3:30 p.m. and 4-6 p.m.

Space is limited. Only 50 farmworkers will be able to attend at each time offered. **Registration is on a first-come, first-serve basis and growers must pre-register their farmworkers to attend.** Growers can register [here](#) or by calling GAPC at (865) 622-4606.

These events are not possible without the sponsorships from the GAPC member companies including Altria Client Services, Pyxus/Alliance One International, RJ Reynolds, Universal Leaf, Gallatin Redrying & Storage Company, Hail & Cotton, and Tobacco Growers Association of North Carolina.

How GAPC Certification Relates to Sustainable Tobacco Program (STP)

New for 2022 is the requirement for all growers participating in the Certification Program to complete the Self-Assessment. We are often asked "Why?". It all has to do with STP...

What is the Sustainable Tobacco Program (STP)?

You may have heard about "STP" at a GAP training or a company meeting but may still have questions about what it is and how it affects you as a grower. "STP" stands for the *Sustainable Tobacco Program*. STP is a program for sustainable agricultural supply chains, basically a "GAP program" focused on sustainability for tobacco buyers and their respective global grower bases.

Who is Involved?

The tobacco companies involved in STP include Altria Client Services, British American Tobacco, Imperial Tobacco, JT International, RJ Reynolds Tobacco and Swedish Match and any company that may supply to one of these manufacturers including but not limited to Universal North America, Alliance One, United Tobacco Company, Hail and Cotton Inc., and Gallatin Redrying and Storage.

What does the program focus on?

The program focuses on the impacts on sustainability within their global supply chain – the environment, the farmers, workers, their families, and the broader communities in which tobacco is grown – within eight topics: Water, Human & labor rights, Crop, Soil health, Climate change, Natural habitats, Livelihoods, and Governance. This is similar to the mission and focus of GAPC and the GAPC Certification Program sections of Crop, Environment and Labor Management.

What do companies involved in the STP have to do?

- Be aware of risks, challenges and opportunities in their supply chain and make clear what they are doing, or going to do, to address them.
- Complete a self-assessment answering questions and reporting information on behalf of their company. Responses to the self-assessment are validated based on shared information and evidence.
- Monitor assessment to identify or potential adverse sustainability impacts or challenges.

How does this affect growers?

The STP's most obvious effect on growers is the additional requests for information from companies involved in STP. They may collect this information at contract signing, during farm visits, with surveys, and/or at delivery. In addition to collecting farm data through their own farm visits they may also use data acquired from farm visits by third parties.

How does GAPC Certification Program help companies (and their growers) involved in STP?

It is our goal that GAPC Certification can help supply the needed data through application, self-assessment, and monitoring visit data. The more aligned the GAPC Certification data collection efforts are with STP data needs the less participating companies may ask and visit growers to collect information. GAPC monitoring data is also verified by a third-party audit firm which increases the credibility of the data supplied. GAPC sees this efficient data collection as a "win-win" for growers, companies, and the industry as GAPC Certification not only encourages and recognizes the adoption of best agricultural practices but also increases the ease in reporting to not only growers that help bring attention to the efforts of U.S. tobacco growers.

Self-Assessment Fertilizer Blends

GAPC has created a new grower resource for assisting growers in reporting fertilizer blends on the Self-Assessment.

Check it out [here!](#)

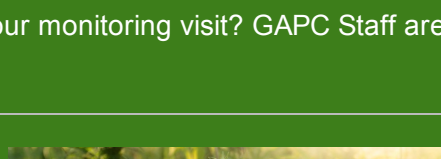


Monitoring Visits Kick Off This Week!

This first monitoring visits of the 2022 season began on Friday, July 15 in North Carolina. Auditors are actively trying to reach growers for scheduling. Checking your email, texts and voicemails is vital in helping connect you with your auditor. All questions regarding scheduling or invoicing should be addressed directly with the [monitoring fm](#).

Tips for achieving Certification are emailed every week. Check your inbox or [click here](#) to view past tips.

Do you have questions while preparing for your monitoring visit? GAPC Staff are here to help! Call the GAPC office at 865.622.4606 Monday - Friday, 8a -5p EST.



GAP Connections is excited to offer a new opportunity for Hemp Growers. The GAPC Hemp Certification program will focus on three main management areas: Crop, Environmental, and Labor Management. GAPC Certification increases transparency and gives growers an opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to producing a quality crop while complying with industry best practices. [Learn more!](#)



South Carolina Tobacco Tour | July 12-13

The tour will kickoff with a reception and dinner at Hotel Florence on July 12th at 6:00 pm. The first stop of the tour will begin at 9:00 AM on July 13th in Loris, SC. We will have lunch at the Pee Dee Research and Education Center at noon and end in Sumter, SC at around 3:30 PM. A more detailed tour schedule will be sent at a later date to the email address provided when registering. [Learn more and register here.](#)

NC State Tobacco Field Day | Tuesday, July 26

The tour will begin at 9:00am and lasting till 12:00pm at the Cunningham Research Station, 200 Cunningham Rd, Kinston, NC 28501. Registration is [required](#). For more information contact Matthew Vann (mcvann@ncsu.edu)

VA Annual Field Day | Thursday, July 28

Concurrent tours of tobacco and forage/livestock will take place on Thursday, July 28 at the Southern Piedmont Agricultural Research and Extension Center. VDACS Commissioner Joseph Guthrie will be the guest speaker. [Click here for more information and to register.](#)

Kentucky Bluegrass Burley Tobacco Tour | Wednesday, August 10

Growers are to gather at the Plant and Soil Sciences Field Lab at 9:00am on August 10. Tentative agenda found [here](#).

Kentucky Dark Tobacco Twilight Tour | Thursday, August 11

The tour will begin at the Murray State University West Farm at 5:30pm. For more information, contact Andy Bailey at 270-625-1560.



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