



CONNECTIONS

JANUARY NEWSLETTER



**GAPC Certification Application launches
January 15, 2025**

2025 GAPC Certification Application

All growers involved in the GAPC Certification program must apply annually to maintain their certification.

The application period is from January 15, 2025, to April 15, 2025.

Applications submitted after April 15 are subject to a late fee.

Apply online at www.gapconnections.com



Watch the video below to learn more about GAPC Certification and its impact to the agriculture industry.



ACCURATE DATA MATTERS



Need assistance with GAPC Certification? Consider hiring a consultant.

A consultant is an independent person/company that the grower hires to assist them through the certification process. Consultants are not GAPC employees and using a consultant does not guarantee Certification will be granted. Rather, they are well versed in all things Certification and have completed detailed training from GAPC to help educate their growers. The consultant's role is to help guide the grower through the Certification process and assist with paperwork and record keeping practices. [Learn more.](#)



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2025 GAP Training Available Online and In-Person

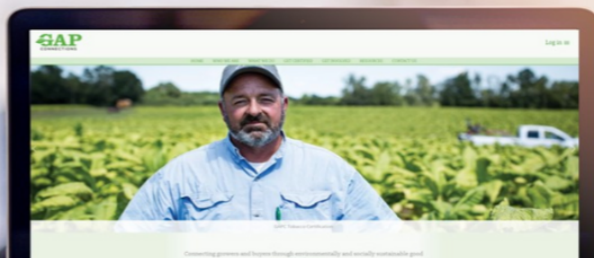
GAP Connections (GAPC) coordinates GAP Training annually to provide growers the opportunity to learn from content experts about the latest crop, environmental, and labor best management practices. GAPC appreciates and recognizes the partnerships we have with the tobacco Extension Educators and Specialists and other content experts to best serve the growers.

In 2025, GAP Training will be available online and at a select few in-person training locations and events.

Online training will launch January 15 and can be found on the Grower Dashboard in the Training Section.

Not sure about online training? Watch the [GAPC Training and Events Page](#) for an in-person meeting near you.

Annual GAP Training for 2025 will be available online starting January 15, as well as at select in-person locations. Check the GAPC training events calendar for specific dates and locations.



ANNUAL GAP
Training
ONLINE & IN
PERSON

DEADLINE TO COMPLETE
JUNE 30, 2025





"Let's Talk About Labor" Podcast hosted by University of TN and GAP Connections

GAP Connections is excited to announce the launch of a new podcast "Let's Talk About Labor" that aims to address labor needs to farmers in Tennessee and other surrounding states. The podcast is a collaborative effort of University of Tennessee Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics and GAP Connections

Episode 1: Let's talk about the H-2A program: Farmer's experiences with the H-2A program.

[Listen here.](#)

Episode 2: H-2A Worker Housing: Practical Things I Need to Know Before Considering the H-2A Program

[Listen here.](#)

Episode 3: H-2A Worker Transportation: Practical Things I Need to Know Before Considering the H-2A Program

[Listen here.](#)

Episode 4: H-2A Program Housing Requirements

[Listen here.](#)

Episode 5: H-2A Program Housing Inspections

[Listen here.](#)

Episode 6: Tobacco and Row Crop Growers' Experience with the H-2A Program

[Listen here.](#)

Episode 7: Tobacco and Row Crop Growers' Experience with the H-2A Worker Housing

[Listen here.](#)

Episode 8: Labor Challenges and Strategies to Overcome These Challenges – Lessons Learned by a Tennessee Nursery Operation

[Listen here.](#)

Episode 9: Mechanization as a Strategy to Overcome Labor Challenges – Lessons Learned by a Tennessee Nursery Operation

In this episode, Terry Hines, owner of Hale & Hines Nursery, will talk about his experience using mechanization as a strategy to address labor challenges in his operation. [Listen here.](#)



National Institute of Food and Agriculture
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Events and News From Others

2025 Tennessee - Kentucky Tobacco Expo

When: Tuesday, February 4 | 8:00am - 1:00pm CST

Where: Robertson County Fairgrounds

4635 Hwy 41 North, Springfield, TN 37172

Schedule:

- 7:30am Registration and Trade Show Open
- 9:00am - 10:15am - GAP Training: Crop and Environment Update
- 10:30am - 11:30am - GAP Training: Labor and GAPC Updates
- 12:00pm - 1:00pm Lunch

[View flyer.](#)

Tobacco Associates, Inc. 78th Annual Membership Meeting

When: Thursday, March 6 | 10:00am - Noon

Where: Wilson County Agricultural Center Auditorium

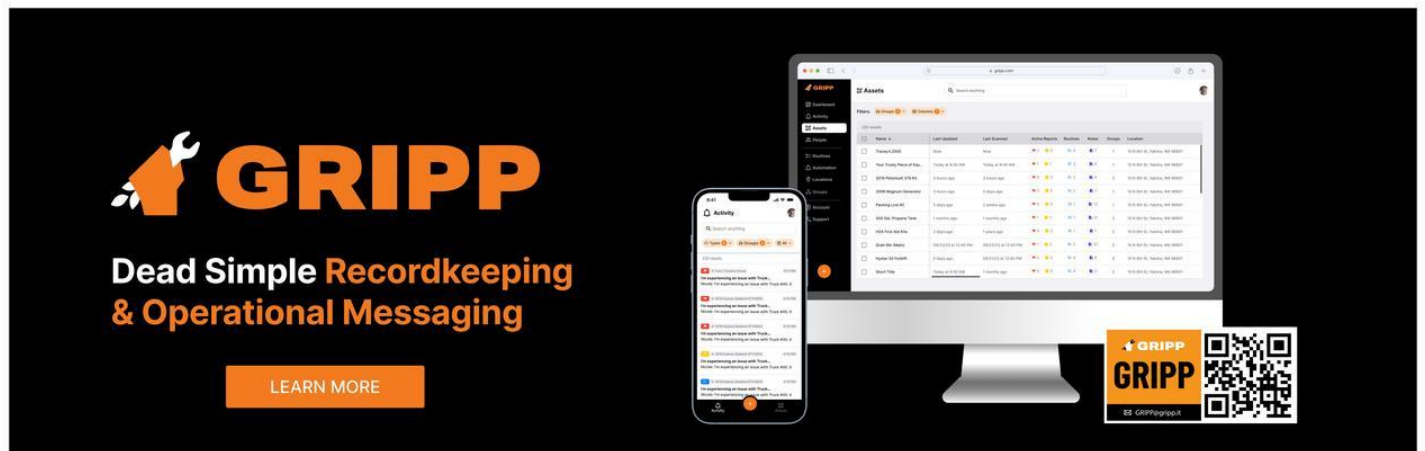
1806 S. Goldsboro St.
Wilson, NC 27893

Anyone interested in tobacco is encouraged to attend.

R.S.V.P. to 919-821-7670 or tar@tobaccoassociatesinc.org

Lunch to follow.

Special Thank You to our 2025 GAP Connections Sponsors



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GoldLeaf Seed is the name growers worldwide trust for quality tobacco seed.



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we drive them!



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Give it a try...GAPC HR/Legal Helpline

GAPC has a 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).

Jackson Lewis





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