

UConn Extension GAP (Good Agricultural Practices) School for Fruit and Vegetable Producers



Good Agricultural Practices are guidelines developed by FDA (US Food and Drug Association) and USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) to help produce farmers reduce the chance that their products will be contaminated by foodborne pathogens such as *E. coli O157:H7* and *Listeria monocytogenes*.

While there is no regulatory requirement (state or federal) for farmers to have a GAP food safety program, some retailers and distributors want their suppliers to have GAP programs in place. A third party and/or USDA audits may also be required. This GAP School will help both farmers who need GAP programs in order to comply with customer demands and also those who want to develop a food safety plan in order to add value to their business, whether required to or not.

Why attend the UConn Extension GAP School?

- To learn about ways to reduce microbial contamination of fruits and vegetables you produce on your farm.
- To meet the demands of your customers—whether they are schools, retailers or distributors.
- To gain the knowledge/skills to help you write your GAP food safety plan
- To learn how to prepare for a USDA or other third party audit.

How is the Connecticut GAP School going to be different from other GAP workshops I might have attended?

This school will be comprehensive, providing farmers with more of the tools they need to develop a GAP food safety program. You will get some experience writing a plan as well. Two series of weekday sessions will be held at the Tolland County Extension Center in Vernon and the New Haven County Extension Center in North Haven. **Pre-registration is required.** Each session will include lectures, handouts, a review of the pertinent audit items, and steps for farmers to take to achieve success in each audit section that pertains to their operation. Here is the schedule/content of each of the sessions:

	Tolland County Extension Center 24 Hyde Avenue, Vernon	New Haven County Extension Center 305 Skiff Street, North Haven
Introduction and GAP Audit General Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The whys and hows of GAP ▪ Is this a regulation or a guideline? State, federal considerations ▪ What is a GAP Audit? ▪ Worker health and hygiene ▪ Traceability In the Field: GAP Audit Parts 1 and 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Water, soils ▪ Sewage treatment, manure, animals/wildlife/livestock ▪ Field harvest, transportation and field packing 	January 25, 2012 9:00 am to 3:30 pm	February 1, 2012 9:00 am to 3:30 pm
In the Packing Facility: GAP Audit Parts 3 and 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Packing house sanitation, pest control ▪ Receiving area, washing/packing line, storage areas ▪ Ice and refrigeration ▪ Transportation Putting It All Together <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Training your employees ▪ Conducting a self audit ▪ Writing a plan ▪ Record keeping and documentation 	January 26, 2012 9:00 am to 3:30 pm	February 2, 2012 9:00 am to 3:30 pm
Snow Date	January 27, 2012	February 3, 2012

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Diane Wright Hirsch at 203-407-3163 or diane.hirsch@uconn.edu or Candace Bartholomew at 860-570-9067 or candace.bartholomew@uconn.edu.

Registration:

Registration fee is \$40 per person. Registration fees cover some program costs and morning break and lunch.



You must pre-register. Registration materials must be received by January 20 for the January 25-26 class and January 27th for the February 1-2 class.

GAP School sites:

Tolland County Extension Center
24 Hyde Avenue
Vernon, CT 06066
860-875-3331

New Haven County Extension Center
305 Skiff Street
North Haven, CT 06473
203-407-3161

Sponsored by: The University of Connecticut College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Cooperative Extension System in cooperation with the Connecticut Department of Agriculture

This course is presented with the support of funds provided by CSREES/USDA Specialty Crop Project, awarded by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture.



An equal opportunity program provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, Stop Code 9410, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202)720-5964.



Every effort will be made to provide special accommodation if requested at least one month in advance.

Connecticut GAP School Registration Form

Please check the box next to the session you plan to attend:

January 25-26, 2012
(January 27, snow date)
Tolland County Extension Center
24 Hyde Avenue, Vernon
Registration deadline: January 20

February 1-2, 2012
(February 3, snow date)
New Haven County Extension Center
305 Skiff Street, North Haven
Registration deadline: January 27

Registration: Registration fee is \$ 40 per person. Registration fees cover some program costs, morning break, and lunch. **Please make checks out to the University of Connecticut or UCONN.**

Send to: Diane Wright Hirsch, New Haven County Extension Center, 305 Skiff Street, North Haven, CT 06473

Participant Name: _____

Operation (Farm) Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

(Please make sure that this phone is one that can be called in case weather causes us to postpone a session)

Products/commodities produced on your farm: _____