

GAPs cost share funds available to MO produce growers

The University of Missouri (MU) Extension has Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) cost share funding available for Missouri produce growers, which will pay for up to half the cost of USDA, Quality Fresh, or any other GAP certification, with a maximum payment of \$800 per farm/year. These funds are available for MO farmers who are re-applying for GAPs certification OR for farms who are applying for GAPs certification for the first time. For USDA and Quality Fresh GAPs audits, MU Extension will directly pay USDA or Quality Fresh up to half of the cost of the audit, after the farmer has passed the audit and has paid the remaining certification costs. For Primus, Global GAP or other GAP audits, farmers need to pay the cost of their audit and then send MU Extension an invoice of the audit expenses and you will be reimbursed up to \$800/year for audits occurring in the grant period. These funds can only be used for GAPs audits occurring between Nov. 1, 2019 and Sept. 30, 2025. MU Extension can also provide technical assistance to farmers in preparing for the GAPs audit. These funds are available through a Specialty Crop Block Grant funded by the US Department of Agriculture, through the Missouri Department of Agriculture.

Note that we have recently expanded this funding to include all types of GAPs audits. More information on the USDA GAPs auditing process and templates that can be used for the required USDA GAPs food safety plan and record keeping is available from: www.ksre.k-state.edu/foodsafety/produce/usda-gap/index.html

How can I take advantage of these funds?

Contact Juan Cabrera-Garcia of MU Extension to indicate your interest in this program. Once you have passed your USDA or Quality Fresh GAPs audit and paid your portion of the GAPs audit costs, MU Extension will directly pay USDA AMS/MDA or Quality Fresh up to half the cost of your USDA or Quality Fresh GAPs audit, up to \$800/ farm. For other GAPs audits, send your paid invoice to Juan Cabrera-Garcia to initiate the reimbursement process. These limited funds are available on a first come, first served basis, until the available funding is utilized.

For more information, contact:

Juan Cabrera-Garcia
573-882-0567
jcabrera-garcia@missouri.edu

You can also contact MU Extension specialists *Patrick Byers* byerspl@missouri.edu, *Travis Harper* harpertw@missouri.edu, or *Debi Kelly* KellyD@missouri.edu for more information.

MU Extension is committed to making its services, activities and programs accessible to all participants. If you have special requirements due to physical, visual, or hearing disability, please contact Juan Cabrera-Garcia