

GAPs cost share funds available to MO produce growers

The University of Missouri (MU) Extension has USDA GAPs cost share funding available for Missouri produce growers, which will pay for up to half the cost of USDA GAP certification, with a maximum payment of \$800 per farm. These funds are available for MO farmers who are re-applying for USDA GAPs certification OR for farms who are applying for USDA GAPs certification for the first time. MU Extension will directly pay USDA up to half of the cost of the audit, after the farmer has passed the audit and has paid the remaining certification costs. These funds can only be used for USDA GAPs audits occurring between November 1, 2019 and October 31, 2021. 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 will not pay for GAPs audits from other entities (such as Primus), but will only pay for any type of USDA 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 Londa Nwadike of MU Extension to indicate your interest in this program. Once you have passed your GAPs audit and paid your portion of the GAPs audit costs, MU Extension will directly pay USDA AMS up to half the cost of your USDA GAPs audit, up to \$800/ farm. These limited funds are available on a first come, first served basis, until the available funding is utilized.

For more information, contact:

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You can also contact *Patrick Byers* byerspl@missouri.edu, *Travis Harper* harpertw@missouri.edu, *Robert Balek* balekr@missouri.edu, or *Debi Kelly* kellyd@missouri.edu all of MU Extension 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 Londa Nwadike at nwadikel@missouri.edu

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