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 either USDA or Quality Fresh GAP certification, with a maximum payment of $800 per farm. These funds are available for MO farmers who are re-applying for USDA or Quality Fresh GAPs certification OR for farms who are applying for USDA or Quality Fresh GAPs certification for the first time. 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. These funds can only be used for USDA or Quality Fresh GAPs audits occurring between November 1, 2019 and August 30, 2022. 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 than USDA or Quality Fresh (such as Primus), but will only pay for any type of USDA or Quality Fresh 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 or Quality Fresh up to half the cost of your USDA or Quality Fresh 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:
Londa Nwadike, MU/KSU Extension Food Safety Specialist
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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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