

Good Agricultural Practices

A self-audit for growers and handlers

INSTRUCTIONS

Kentucky's Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) program is a voluntary program with several components to help the individual producer best manage their potential for contamination. The main document that you will work from was developed by Cornell University after much research.

The first step in this program is education. The University of Kentucky Extension Service, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and the Kentucky Department for Public Health have joined together to formulate a small-farmer friendly program that introduces the concepts and allows the individual producer to make informed decisions for their operation.

HOW TO COMPLETE THE FARM PLAN WORKSHEETS

To begin you will need:

- 1) Good Agricultural Practices – a self-audit for growers and handlers (main document)
- 2) Good Agricultural and Good Handling Practices Self-Assessment and Farm Plan worksheet

The two instruments are designed to be used together. After reading the introduction and taking time to understand the guiding principles in the main document, you can begin to fill out your farm plan worksheet.

The main document is divided into sections covering a topic of the GAP program, such as "Water." Each section contains a number of questions with information about best practices following the question. The questions on the worksheets correspond to those on the main document.

Begin by choosing a section and dating the corresponding worksheet. Read each question and the information. A page number to help you locate the question is provided on the worksheet.

If the question does not pertain to your operation check, check N/A on the worksheet. If it does, check "Best Practices" if you are following the protocol outlined exactly. If, however, you find that that area needs improvement mark either "Minor Adjustment" or "Concerns Exist" and write in your action for improvement and the responsible person for that action on your sheet.

Complete the worksheets as you are able. This written plan is yours so don't worry about neatness or complete sentences. This plan is your notes.

Good management requires that you revisit the plan annually. There are spaces provided on the front page for you to record those annual reviews.