

CANADAGAP  [®]

Annual Report

2025

CanadaGAP Program

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Program Overview

CanadaGAP[®] is a food safety program for companies that produce, pack, repack, store, wholesale and broker fruits and vegetables. The program was launched as a certification program in 2008 and is approaching two full decades in operation, with approximately 3,000 companies participating from across the Canadian and U.S. fresh produce industry.

CanadaGAP is designed to help implement effective food safety procedures within fresh produce operations. Audit and certification services for the program are delivered by third party, accredited Certification Bodies. Since 2010, the program has been benchmarked and officially recognized by the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) for certification options B, C and D. It is also fully recognized by the Canadian Government and has been benchmarked to the *Safe Food for Canadians Regulations* to ensure 100% alignment with Canadian regulatory requirements for food safety.

The food safety standard comprises two manuals, one specific to greenhouses, the second for other fruit and vegetable operations, which were developed by the horticultural industry and reviewed for technical soundness by Canadian government officials. The manuals are designed for companies implementing Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) and Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs) and maintaining an effective food safety program. The manuals are based on a rigorous hazard analysis applying the seven principles of the internationally-recognized HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point) approach. Program materials are available for free on the CanadaGAP website at: www.canadagap.ca

Nearly three thousand produce suppliers are currently CanadaGAP-certified. The program enjoys strong support from Canada's retail, processing and food service sectors, as well as international recognition across the range of export markets in the U.S., Latin America, Europe and Asia. Working together, a dedicated team of staff members, Board of Directors, stakeholders and program participants contribute to strengthening food safety implementation across the horticultural sector.



Highlights from 2025

1. CanadaGAP Addendum for Pollinator Health

- CanadaGAP went live with its new Addendum for Pollinator Health in 2025.
 - The addendum is benchmarked by the IPM Institute of North America and accepted by Walmart and other major retailers in Canada and the USA.
 - Certification to the new addendum was available starting April 1, 2025 for farms needing to meet customer requirements for IPM.
 - A new online training unit for auditors, released November 2024 and successfully completed by 56 auditors and CB personnel, will continue to be offered on demand to new CanadaGAP auditors.
 - Currently, 41 qualified auditors have been approved to audit the CanadaGAP Pollinator Health Addendum.
 - See more information at: www.canadagap.ca/audit-checklist/pollinator-health/



2. Certification Bodies

- A choice of five CanadaGAP certification bodies (CBs) was maintained throughout 2025.
 - This stability is welcome and gives CanadaGAP-certified companies options to explore a range of service providers. CBs compete in terms of service delivery, availability and location of auditors, and fees charged for CanadaGAP audits.
 - CBs offering CanadaGAP audits include: BNQ, Control Union, MSVS, NSF and TSLC. See more information at: www.canadagap.ca/certification/certification-bodies/
 - The number of clients choosing a different CB this year has been growing, demonstrating a gradual redistribution of the client base across CBs.

3. New Appendices

- Two new appendices to the CanadaGAP Food Safety Manuals were published in 2025.
 - These resources provide additional guidance to operations dealing with flood-related disasters and to exporters preparing for future compliance with the US FSMA 204 Traceability Rule.

4. CanAgPlus Board Five-Year Strategic Plan

- The CanAgPlus Board published its first official strategic plan for the 5-year period covering 2024-2029. A copy of the plan is available at www.canadagap.ca

5. Auditor Management

- *Auditor Database:* CanadaGAP launched its custom Auditor database in 2025 to manage data, approvals, and competency updates for the CanadaGAP auditor pool.
 - This development followed the launch of the 2024 database for Operations management. Both databases were deployed after an intensive two-year process to refine CanadaGAP-specific tools.
- *Auditor pool:* Fifteen new auditor prospects were presented by CBs in 2025. Auditor credentials must be reviewed and approved by CanadaGAP. Over half of potential candidates evaluated by CanadaGAP successfully demonstrated compliance with auditor qualification requirements.
- *Refresher testing:* Eighty candidates, including all active CanadaGAP auditors, successfully underwent refresher testing during winter 2024-2025.
- *CanadaGAP witness audits:* Annually, CanadaGAP observes a subset of auditors to assess their performance during audits, ensure maintenance of competency, and offer further support, calibration and mentoring to promote continuous improvement. Witness audits generally focus on a specific region or regions each year. Numerous auditors in BC and Atlantic Canada were witnessed in 2025, totaling 15 witness audits completed by CanadaGAP.
- *CanadaGAP Auditor Training course:* A growing number of training providers continues to expand the annual total of course offerings. Most training now takes place online.

6. GFSI Activities

- CanadaGAP has maintained GFSI recognition uninterrupted since 2010. CanadaGAP must maintain alignment with GFSI requirements whenever the normative documents are revised (CanadaGAP manuals, audit checklist, etc.), as well as each time GFSI updates its benchmarking requirements. Maintenance of recognition also entails an annual internal audit (office visit to CanadaGAP) and remote file reviews of ten files selected by GFSI each year.
- The Executive Director for CanAgPlus was named a member of the newly reconstituted GFSI Benchmarking and Harmonization Working Group. The working group has a three-year mandate culminating in public consultation and release of the next version of the GFSI Benchmarking Requirements.



CanadaGAP Auditor Recognition Award

- **Sheri Nielson Award:** Established in 2022, the annual Sheri Nielson Auditor Recognition Award celebrates CanadaGAP auditors who have shown extraordinary heart, dedication and commitment to their role.
- **2025 Award Recipient:** This year's award was presented in person in conjunction with the CanAgPlus AGM in Calgary, Alberta on December 3, 2025. The ceremony was also made available live online to those who were interested in observing the presentation.
- Warm congratulations are extended to **Cameron Korpan**, a long-time CanadaGAP auditor and strong proponent of the program. The prize was graciously presented by a previous (2024) winner of the award, Danni Kneeland, of Calgary, Alberta.



L-R: 2024 recipient Danni Kneeland, 2025 recipient Cameron Korpan, and Chair of the CanAgPlus Board Scott Wright



2025 recipient Cameron Korpan with 2024 recipient Danni Kneeland

Program Participant Achievements in 2025

Despite increasingly stringent food safety requirements and many other challenges facing growers and suppliers of fresh produce, the average audit score for CanadaGAP program participants remains well above 95%. For the one-year period ending August 31, 2025 **the average audit score for CanadaGAP program participants was 96.29%** – only slightly below the all-time high of 96.44% that certified companies achieved, on average, in 2024. Based on preliminary audit scores on the CanadaGAP audit checklist before implementation of additional corrective actions, the overall average of 96.29% was measured across participants of all CanadaGAP certification options. Consistent with the two previous years (2023 and 2024), even higher audit scores were seen among Option C and E program participants, with those scores averaging closer to 97% – another very significant accomplishment.

Compared to 2024, average audit scores in the past year were higher among the Tree and Vine Fruit sector and Greenhouse operations. Average audit scores were only slightly lower in the remaining commodity groups covered by the CanadaGAP program. Repacking and Wholesaling (Option D) audit scores were over a percentage higher than in 2024, averaging 95.66% (vs 94.31% in 2024). Those results demonstrate a highly commendable effort on the part of fresh produce suppliers and a clear commitment to achieving and maintaining a robust food safety program within their businesses.

Report from the Board

Annual General Meeting

CanAgPlus, the not-for-profit corporation that owns and operates the CanadaGAP program, holds its Annual General Meeting (AGM) for members each year in late November or early December. The 2025 CanAgPlus AGM was held in person for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting took place December 3, 2025 in Calgary, Alberta. Virtual attendance was also offered to members. Further details are posted on the CanadaGAP website at www.canadagap.ca/events/annual-general-meeting/.

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors meets face-to-face at least once a year and holds regular virtual meetings. The Board met in conjunction with the 2025 AGM in Calgary, Alberta last December.

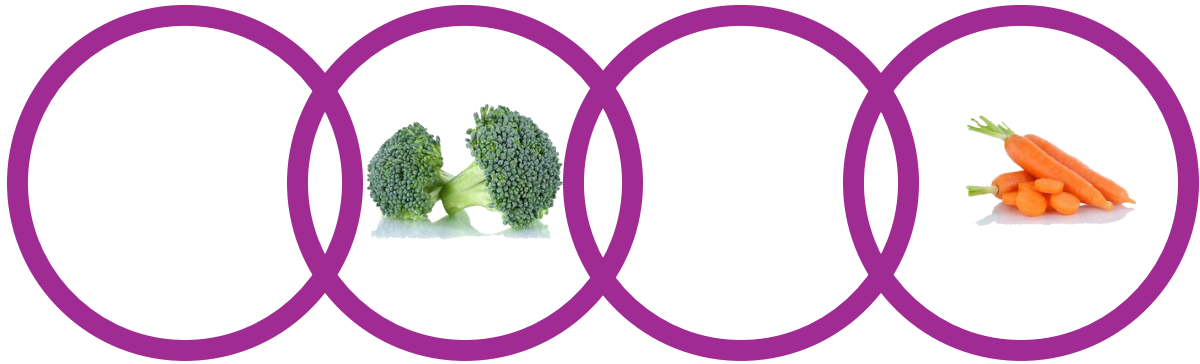
The Board is comprised of eight volunteer directors who serve two-year rotating terms, with four directors elected annually. Ian McDonnell (Snow Road Solutions) retired at the 2025 AGM, and the Board welcomed three returning directors and one newly elected member in December.

<u>Elected during 2025 AGM</u>	<u>Elected during 2024 AGM</u>
Denis Desjardins, Desjardins Seed Farm Ltd.	Alvin Keenan, Rollo Bay Holdings
Beth Pattillo, Noggins Corner Farm II Ltd.	Jody Mott, Holland Marsh Growers' Association
Julian Sarraino, Fresh Taste Produce	Susan Ranck, Ranck & Associates, LLC
Victoria Stamper, United Potato Growers of Canada	Scott Wright, University of Saskatchewan

The full list of directors and their biographies are posted at:

[http://www.canadagap.ca/history/governance/.](http://www.canadagap.ca/history/governance/)

Scott Wright has served as Board Chair since 2024, and in December 2025 he was re-elected to the position for 2026. Dr. Wright is with the University of Saskatchewan and previously served as Board Vice-chair for two years (2022 and 2023). Beth Pattillo, a tree fruit producer, packer and repacker at Noggins Corner Farm II Ltd. in Nova Scotia, has served as Vice-Chair of the Board since 2024 and was re-elected to the post in December 2025.



Management Review

The annual management review of the program was held with senior management and representatives on September 22, 2025. During the management review, directors and staff consider the following elements of program performance and opportunities for improvement:

- requests for modifications to the program
- performance of CanadaGAP Certification Bodies
- complaints and their handling
- internal audit results
- auditor training undertaken and its outcomes
- resource needs
- policies related to conflict of interest and confidentiality, among others.

Recommendations arising from the management review are presented to the full Board of Directors for further discussion and action.

CanadaGAP Technical Advisory Committee

CanadaGAP receives many requests each year from program users to revise the CanadaGAP Food Safety Manuals, generic HACCP models, and audit checklist. The CanadaGAP Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) comprises a group of qualified experts who are instrumental to providing recommendations on proposed changes to the technical standard. Requests are first considered and researched by staff, and information is presented to the committee for discussion and expert input.

Nominations to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) are accepted annually, and appointments are made by the Board for one- or two-year terms. While the Board makes efforts to appoint members who are representative of the various crop groupings within CanadaGAP’s scope, given the committee’s role the primary criteria for members is food safety knowledge, education and technical expertise. Consideration is also given to representatives with expertise in various types of production, storage, packing, repacking and wholesaling, as well as other relevant expertise (e.g., industry experience).

The committee consists of a minimum of six and a maximum of nine members, along with a chair drawn from the Board of Directors, to maximize the efficiency and productivity of meetings. Board member Beth Pattillo served her fifth term as TAC Chair in 2025, and was reappointed to the role for 2026. All members generously volunteer their time to the work of the committee.

The Technical Advisory Committee meets every summer to consider the requests for program modifications. The 2025 meeting was held remotely in June, with a pre-meeting call taking place in May to review all agenda items and ask any questions in advance of the full day meeting.

Candidates interested in serving on the TAC are encouraged to apply through the public nominations process each fall. The list of current TAC members is published on the CanadaGAP website and includes:

Member	Affiliated Organisation
Amy Cochrane-Knotek	Amy Knotek Consulting
Sara Cook	Provision Analytics
Adrien Corbiere	Whole Leaf Ltd.
Jeff Hall	Canadian Produce Marketing Association (CPMA)
Lily Indajati	Westmoreland Sales Group
Stéphanie Levasseur	Au Cœur de la pomme
Quinton Woods	Gwillimdale Farms
Board Liaison:	
Committee Chair	Beth Pattillo

CanadaGAP wishes to remind all stakeholders that the program has an open-door policy to receive feedback, suggestions for improvement, and requests for modifications to program requirements from all parties, at any time. Contact information for the CanadaGAP office is available at www.canadagap.ca

Marketing, Education and Outreach

CanadaGAP is involved in a significant number of education and outreach activities. 2025 was another busy year with engagement by CanadaGAP representatives both in-person and remotely in a number of important ongoing initiatives. The table on the following pages provides a summary of these activities.

Month	Event / Topic	Location
January	Crop Field Flooding and Food Safety: Industry and Extension Responses, Research, and Knowledge Gaps	IFPA Webinar

Month	Event / Topic	Location
January & October	CFIA Update calls on Food Safety Recognition Program	Online
January to December	CanAgPlus Board meetings	In person and Online
January to December	Monthly calls of GFSI-recognized Certification Programme Owners (Strategy and Technical Groups)	Microsoft Teams
January to December	GFSI CPO Forum (9 meetings)	Online/in-person
January to May	Coalition Planning Committee for Food Safety Education Day in Canada	Online
January to March	CPMA Reusable Plastic Containers Task Force meetings	Online
January to April	GFSI Forensic Audit	Online
January-July	Costco meetings	Online
February, April, August, October, November	Canadian Supply Chain Food Safety Coalition Board and Executive meetings	Zoom calls
February, April	Coalition Education Webinars	Online
February	Top Food Safety Non-Conformances in 2024 – Learnings & How to Prevent Re-Occurrence	Webinar
February, March, September, November	Meetings with Standards Council of Canada	Online
March, June-July	Annual Performance Review Meetings with Certification Bodies	Microsoft Teams
March & October	GFSI Office Visits (monitoring of continuous alignment)	In person
March	Internal Audit of CanadaGAP office	In person
March	CPMA Annual General Meeting	Online
March to May	Certification Body Auditor Calibration sessions	Online
March to May	Understanding the CanadaGAP Program courses	Online
March to May	CanadaGAP Auditor Training courses	Online
March-April	CanadaGAP Auditor Refresher Exam Reviews	Online
April, June, August, November	GFSI US-Canada Local Group meetings	In person and Online

Month	Event / Topic	Location
April	Global Food Safety Conference	Dublin
April	Certification Body (TSLC) Internal Audit	Online
April	International Accreditation Forum (IAF) Food Group meeting	Online
April	U.S. Center for Produce Safety Webinar	Online
April	Provision Analytics Hosted CanadaGAP Event at CPMA	Montreal
April, September	CPMA Food Safety Committee meetings	Online
April to October	CanadaGAP Witness Audits	In person
May, July, December	Coalition Board and/or Member Meetings with CFIA	Online
May	CPMA Food Safety Workshops	Online
May	ANAB Webinar on Internal Audits	Webinar
May	CanadaGAP 2025 Updates for Accreditation Bodies	Webinar
May and June	CanadaGAP Technical Advisory Committee meetings	Zoom
June	ANAB Scheme Owners Meeting (CanadaGAP presentation)	Online
June	Meazure Learning Workshops	In person, Toronto and Ottawa
June	Canadian Supply Chain Food Safety Coalition AGM	Zoom
June	ISO 22000 SCC Mirror Committee meeting	Online
June to October	GFSI US-Canada Local Group: Technical Review and Response sub-group calls	Online
July, August, November	CPMA Sustainability Committee meetings	Online
August	CanadaGAP Technical Meeting for Certification Bodies	Microsoft Teams
August-September	CanAgPlus Board Nominations Committee calls	Online
August-December	Meetings with CFIA re Maintenance of Recognition (80-month review)	Online

Month	Event / Topic	Location
September	Annual meeting with ANSI National Accreditation Board (ANAB)	Zoom
September	CanadaGAP Management Review	Online
September, December	GFSI Benchmarking and Harmonization Working Group calls	Online
September	KoreaGAP Visit to CanadaGAP office	In person
September	Ontario Food Protection Association (OFPA) Annual Event	Toronto, ON
October	GFSI Benchmarking and Harmonization Working Group meeting	Switzerland
October-November	Meetings with Provision Analytics	Online
November	CanAgPlus Board Audit Committee	Zoom
November	IAF/ILAC Webinar – Global Accreditation Cooperation	Online
November	CPMA Food Safety Recall Workshop	Online
November	CanadaGAP Presentation to BC Seed Potato Growers/ BC Vegetable Marketing Committee	In person
November	CFIA Information Session on Regulatory Updates	Online
December	Increasing Resource Conservation through Adoption of IPM 595 Conservation Practice Systems	Webinar
December	Sheri Nielson Auditor Recognition Award Ceremony	Calgary, Alberta (hybrid)
December	CanAgPlus AGM and Board meetings (hybrid)	Calgary, Alberta
December	Understanding the CanadaGAP Program course	Online
December	CanadaGAP Webinar for Certification Bodies on 2026 program updates	Microsoft Teams

Program Participant Surveys

CanadaGAP is committed to surveying program participants every three years to obtain their views and feedback on various topics related to program delivery. The most recent CanadaGAP program participant survey was sent out in the summer of 2025 along with a contact information check-in. CanadaGAP wishes to thank all program participants who responded to the survey or updated their contact information.

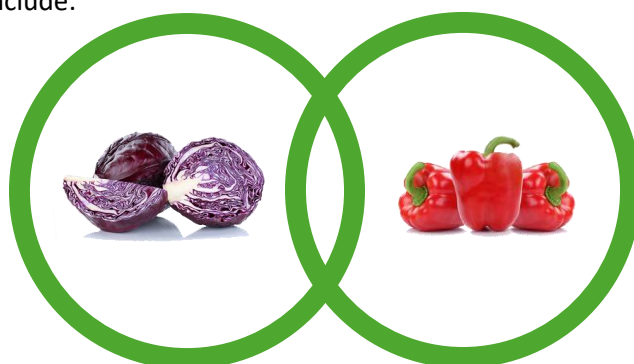
Results from the 2025 survey will be shared when the analysis is complete. Stakeholder feedback on the program is welcome at any time at info@canadagap.ca

CanadaGAP Website

The CanadaGAP website www.canadagap.ca contains guidance to improve understanding of food safety requirements and comprehensive information about how the program works. It is updated on an ongoing basis. Those interested in receiving the latest news from CanadaGAP can subscribe directly through the website by entering their information in the 'Sign up' section at the bottom of every page.

The website also makes freely available a range of handouts, posters, training tools, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), and other communication materials to support operator and employee training. The most frequently accessed sections of the website include:

- Manuals downloads page
- List of CanadaGAP certified companies
- Presentations
- Hand washing signs
- FAQs



Other Stakeholder Communications

CanadaGAP communicates regularly with program participants and other stakeholders through regular communiques. CanadaGAP issues approximately 30 public communiques each year. Any interested parties can sign up on the CanadaGAP website to receive communications. Past communiques can be accessed at: www.canadagap.ca/publications/communiques/.

Announcement of upcoming CanadaGAP training sessions, both for auditors and a more general audience, occurs towards the end of the year. This communique provides a summary of all courses that will be on offer by CanadaGAP-approved training providers in the coming months.

Auditor training notes are also distributed to affected stakeholders, including auditors, Certification Body representatives and program participants. These materials are equally available on the CanadaGAP website by visiting the 'Auditors' page.

In conjunction with the 2025 Annual General Meeting in Calgary, CanadaGAP launched an online presence through LinkedIn to provide interested stakeholders with regular updates on relevant activities. Find and follow us on LinkedIn at 'CanadaGAP Program'.

Media Relations

CanadaGAP works collaboratively with interested media outlets to respond to requests as well as proactively to share relevant food safety and program information. For a listing of media coverage of CanadaGAP, consult the website at: <http://www.canadagap.ca/media/articles/>

Understanding the CanadaGAP Program course

In 2014, CanadaGAP developed a two-day orientation course entitled ‘Understanding the CanadaGAP Program’. The two-day course is designed to educate attendees on the main elements of the CanadaGAP program and provide some fresh produce food safety background to assist with their understanding of program requirements. The course materials are available from CanadaGAP upon request, in both English and French.

While CanadaGAP does not provide training directly, the ‘Understanding the CanadaGAP Program’ course is offered by various approved training providers. Training providers are permitted to deliver the course as long as they use a facilitator approved by CanadaGAP to offer the training and present the required materials. The facilitator must be familiar with the CanadaGAP Program and manual requirements (e.g., must have successfully passed the CanadaGAP Auditor Training Course).

A number of courses are offered by training partners each year in English and French. Four public courses were offered virtually in 2025. A fifth course was offered privately. Public courses are advertised through the CanadaGAP website ‘Calendar of Events’ or by signing up to receive CanadaGAP communications directly at: www.canadagap.ca/publications/communiques/.

Further information is available at: <https://www.canadagap.ca/program/training-resources/> or by contacting the CanadaGAP office.

Program Participation

Nearly 3,000 producers are currently participating in CanadaGAP. Although program participation is still not fully restored to pre-pandemic levels, new enrolments have grown by 4% over the last year, mainly due to recovering levels of participation by members of the BC tree fruit industry. While not all former members of the BC Tree Fruit Cooperative have re-enrolled as individual participants in the CanadaGAP certification program, the growth rate in BC has increased by a significant 9.5%. Growth in US-based certification has also risen almost as much (8.8%) over the last year.

The table below shows year-over-year changes in the number of producers participating in the program since its inception. The numbers below reflect net growth or decline, which factors in normal attrition resulting from changes in farming operations, retirements from the industry, voluntary terminations of certification, etc.



Year-over-Year Change in CanadaGAP Participation

Year (Sept – Aug)	Number of producers	Increase (Decrease)	Annual Rate of Growth (Decline)
2008-2009	537	537	100%
2009-2010	781	244	45%
2010-2011	1879	1098	141%
2011-2012	2204	325	17%
2012-2013	2440	236	11%
2013-2014	2526	86	4%
2014-2015	2927	401	16%
2015-2016	3042	115	4%
2016-2017	3127	85	3%
2017-2018	3156	29	1%
2018-2019	3185	29	1%
2019-2020	3233	48	2%
2020-2021	2930	(303)	-9%
2021-2022	3097	167	6%
2022-2023	2978	(119)	-4%
2023-2024	2772	(206)	-7%
2024 – 2025	2870	98	4%

Participation Trends

An overall increase of 4% in CanadaGAP program participation occurred over the last year. The following participation trends are noteworthy for 2025:

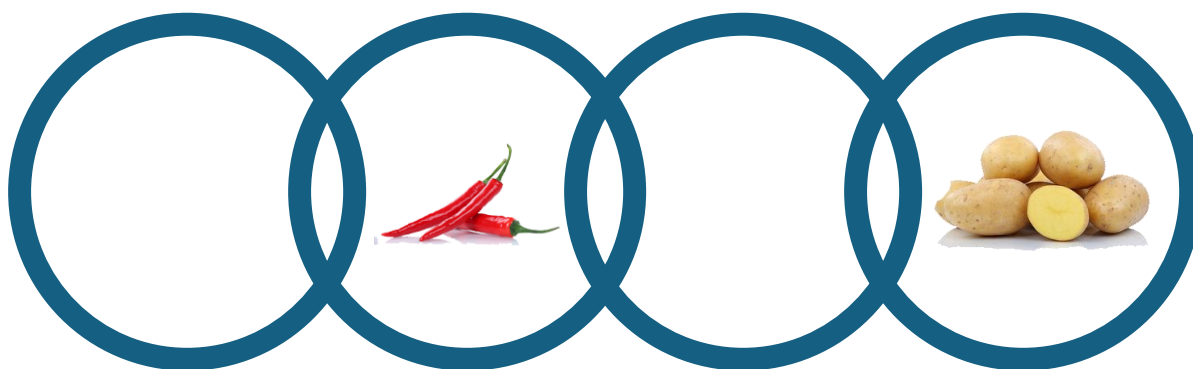
Regional Trends

- Counteracting the 2024 departure of a significant number of program participants from the BC tree fruit industry, a recovery in participation levels from growers in British Columbia occurred in 2025. Growth in the US was also significant in 2025.
- Quebec and New Brunswick are the only provinces where participation levels fell slightly in 2025. Quebec saw a net decline of 0.9%, while the numbers in New Brunswick dropped by 1.7%.

- Saskatchewan and Manitoba numbers remained stable through 2025, whereas small gains were recorded in Alberta, Ontario, Nova Scotia, PEI, Newfoundland-Labrador, and the territories.
- British Columbia continues to maintain proportionally the highest enrolment levels overall, representing 30% of all CanadaGAP-certified companies (up from 28% in 2024), followed by Ontario (24% of program participants) and Quebec (18% of program participants). Proportionally, Quebec is down one percentage point from 2024 levels, while there has been no change in the ratio of program participants from Ontario. The remaining Canadian provinces each represent from 1 to 7% of program participants, with Saskatchewan having the fewest, relative to the total number of participating companies.

Certification Options

- **Stable participation trends by certification option:** The headline of 2025 is that proportionally, there were few changes in the levels of participation across the various options for CanadaGAP certification. in comparison with 2024 statistics:
 - Participation in Option C (GFSI-recognized) certification for production, packing and storage operations remained at 62% in 2025.
 - As in 2024, 5% of program participants chose Option D, the GFSI-recognized certification option for repacking and wholesaling facilities.
 - Thirty-four per cent of program participants remained enrolled in non-GFSI recognized certification options.
- **Growing acceptance of non-GFSI recognized certification (Options A1, A2, E and F):** In 2025, the proportion of companies seeking CanadaGAP certification in non-GFSI recognized options remained steady at 34%. The industry continues to gain understanding and acceptance of Options E and F, which were introduced in 2022. The chart below provides an overview comparison of GFSI-recognized certification options C and D, with the two new certification options (E and F).



Options C and D (GFSI-recognized)	Options E and F (Not GFSI-recognized)
<u>SAME:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Safety standard • Audit criteria • Audit rigour • Audit frequency (annual) • Autofail items
Unannounced Audits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No advance notice from the auditor 	Unannounced Audits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 to 5 business days' notice from the auditor
Passing score: 100% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All non-conformities corrected prior to certification 	Passing score: 95% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some wiggle room for minor non-conformities or items requiring a significant capital investment

Further information about CanadaGAP certification options is available on the website at: www.canadagap.ca/certification/certification-options/

- **No uptake of Group Certification:** There has been no uptake of CanadaGAP Group Certification (Option B) since 2024, when the last group departed the program as a result of the dissolution of the BC Tree Fruit Cooperative. Prior to 2024, other groups that were previously CanadaGAP-certified left the program to pursue non-GFSI recognized group certification.

Commodity and Sector Trends

- For the purposes of analyzing participation trends, enrolment figures are broken down by five crop groupings:
 - Tree and Vine Fruit
 - Field Vegetables
 - Potatoes
 - Small Fruit
 - Greenhouse

Total participation in CanadaGAP is 100%. The proportion of that total occupied by each crop grouping is presented below and within the attached program statistics, where further details as well as a provincial breakdown are included. Data is current as of August 31, 2025.



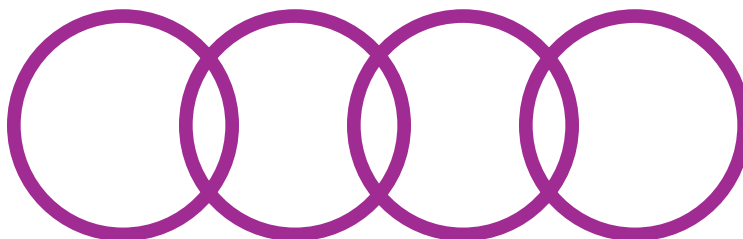
**Proportion of CanadaGAP Participants
represented by crop grouping:**

Based on # of producers	Tree and Vine Fruit	Field Vegetables	Potatoes	Small Fruit	Greenhouse	Repacking, wholesale & brokerage	Total CanadaGAP Participation
Percentage of CanadaGAP participants in 2025	18%	32%	19%	15%	8%	8%	100%
For comparison:							
2024	16%	31%	20%	17%	8%	8%	100%
2023	21%	29%	19%	17%	7%	7%	100%
2022	24%	27%	18%	19%	6%	6%	100%
2021	21%	29%	19%	19%	6%	5%	100%
2020	24%	30%	17%	18%	6%	5%	100%
2019	24%	29%	18%	19%	7%	3%	100%
2018	24%	27%	18%	20%	8%	3%	100%
2017	24%	25%	19%	21%	8%	3%	100%
2016	30%	24%	18%	20%	8%	Not reported	100%
2015	33%	23%	18%	18%	8%	Not reported	100%

- Overall distribution of CanadaGAP program participants across commodity groups remains generally comparable to 2024.
 - There was no change to the proportion of Greenhouse operations participating in CanadaGAP, remaining at 8% of the total number of 2025 program participants.
 - Similarly, 2025 saw no net change in relative participation among repacking, wholesaling and brokerage businesses (Option D had 5% of all program participants and Option F had 3%).

- A 2% increase in enrolments from the Tree and Vine Fruit sector was offset by a corresponding 2% drop in participation from the Small Fruit industry. 2025 provides an interesting point to observe the ten-year trend in participation by Small Fruit producers.
 - The proportion of program participants from the Small Fruit sector continued to decline over the last year.

- Figures since 2015 demonstrate a fluctuation of 6% in the level of program participants who are growing or packing small fruit. At its peak in 2017, 21% of all CanadaGAP program participants were from this sector. By 2025, the proportion dropped to 15%. In part at least, this trend likely reflects recent severe climate impacts on BC growers of small fruit crops, including blueberries, raspberries, strawberries and others.



Audit Trends

- *Number of CanadaGAP Audits (for Options A1, A2, C, D, E and F, and Group Management System audits)*

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
No. of audits reported	2171	1940	1885	1921	2019	1748	1650

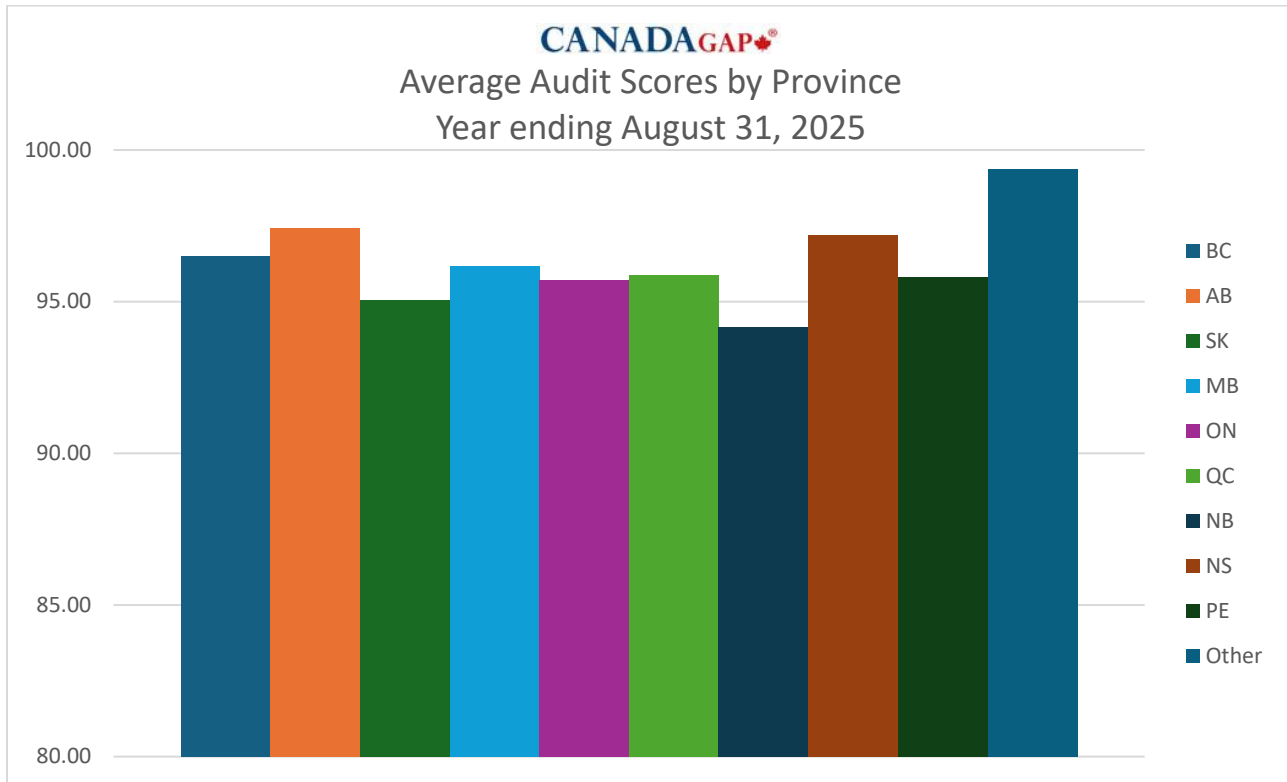
Reporting period from September 1 to August 31 based on certificates issued.

- *Average Audit Score by Crop Grouping (from September 1 to August 31 based on certificates issued)*

<i>Crop Grouping</i>	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Potato	96.20	96.39	95.91	95.81	94.55	94.59
Greenhouse	96.97	96.89	97.43	97.24	96.91	95.66
Tree & Vine Fruit	95.82	95.44	95.97	94.61	93.54	93.76
Leafy Vegetable & Cruciferae	95.15	96.38	96.51	95.57	93.95	93.78
Small Fruit	96.63	97.34	96.89	95.77	94.45	94.25
Combined Vegetable	96.39	96.82	97.14	96.18	94.87	94.38
Overall Average	96.29	96.44	96.38	95.70	94.61	94.28

Based on preliminary audit scores on the CanadaGAP audit checklist before implementation of additional corrective actions, the overall average of **96.29%** was measured across participants of all CanadaGAP certification options, representing a very slight difference from 2024. Changes within commodity-specific results were also very minor. Big congratulations are extended to CanadaGAP-certified companies, for continuing to maintain and achieve high levels of food safety within their operations!

The graph below illustrates average audit scores by province:



Random Audit Programme

CanadaGAP offers certification on a four-year cycle to companies participating in Option A1 and A2. These certification options are not GFSI-recognized as they do not fully meet GFSI benchmarking requirements.

To become certified, companies undergo a scheduled audit in the first year of the four-year cycle. To be recertified in the subsequent three years, they may be randomly chosen for an audit in any or all of the three years. If they are not randomly selected, they must complete a self-declaration and self-assessment and submit it to the Certification Body to demonstrate their ongoing adherence to program requirements.

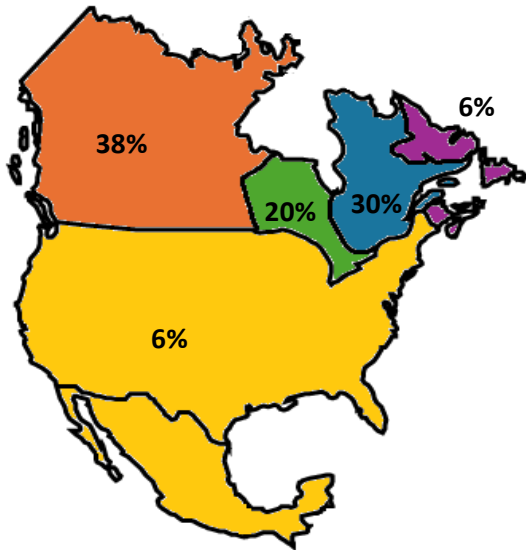
The table below compares certification audit scores to random audit scores since 2010. The interesting trend observed since 2017 continues, with operations randomly selected for an audit achieving on average *higher scores* than Option A1/A2 operations undergoing their regularly scheduled audit. Data pertaining to 2025 random audits will be available in 2026.

CanadaGAP Random Audit Results for Option A1 and A2

<i>Year</i>	Average Audit Score during Regular 4-year Audit	Average Audit Score for Random Audits
2010	93.85	95.21
2011	91.28	90.72
2012	87.56	90.65
2013	91.85	91.55
2014	90.14	91.92
2015	91.03	93.50
2016	91.16	88.05
2017	91.06	93.64
2018	91.82	92.92
2019	90.35	92.69
2020	90.82	94.40
2021	91.82	93.26
2022	92.30	94.52
2023	93.50	94.70
2024	93.94	95.60

CanadaGAP Auditors

- The auditor pool consists of 66 active and qualified CanadaGAP auditors currently working for a Certification Body (CB). This represents 11% of those who have taken the CanadaGAP auditor training course and 19% of those who have passed the course.
- The map below shows auditors by region:



	# of auditors	Percentage
West	25	38%
Ontario	13	20%
Quebec	20	30%
Atlantic	4	6%
U.S./LatAm	4	6%
Total	66	100%

Data current as of December 17, 2025

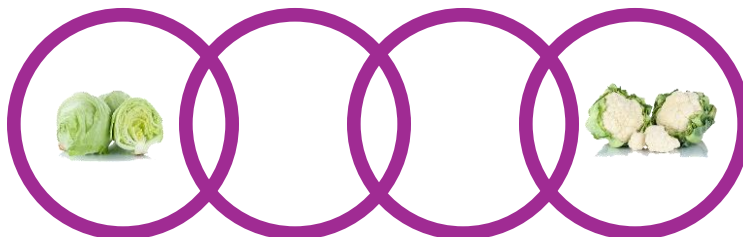
With respect to the CanadaGAP auditor pool, 2025 was a relatively stable year, with a net loss of two auditors. The West and Atlantic regions saw minor declines in the number of auditors, while Ontario gained one new auditor and Quebec remained unchanged. Despite the relatively stable numbers, certification bodies and CanadaGAP continue to actively seek and recruit new candidates to meet the growing number of CanadaGAP audits each year.

Training of New CanadaGAP Auditors

High levels of auditor training activity in recent years began to level off in 2025, with four publicly available courses running in a virtual format.

Although the course is primarily designed to train potential auditors, the practical knowledge provided in the auditor training course is as beneficial to a food safety manager who is implementing the program at their operation as it is for an auditor who is being trained to verify compliance.

Remote courses continue to reach more potential auditor candidates along with consultants, personnel within certified companies, buyers and other stakeholders who attend for educational purposes.



Summary of CanadaGAP Auditor Training sessions:

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	Total since 2008
Number of people who have taken auditor training course	22	46	47	50	59	37	25	606
Number of people who passed the course to date*	12	15	24	28	31	13	17	348
Percentage of people who passed the course to date*	86%	50%	71%	68%	70%	52%	77%	67%
Number of auditor training sessions	4	7	7	8	5	5	6	91

**Results are cumulative as of December 19, 2025. All four courses from 2025 have exam rewrites still ongoing (participants have one year from the date they took the training to complete all exam attempts). Data is not yet complete. These numbers are therefore not considered final or representative. Those who attended the course for educational purposes only were not included when calculating the number or the percentage of people who passed the course.*

CanadaGAP Repacking and Wholesaling Auditor Training

The scope of the CanadaGAP program has included certification for repacking and wholesaling operations since 2014. Training of new and current auditors continues to take place when CBs identify the need to qualify additional auditors for this scope. For some years, the Repacking and Wholesaling training unit has been embedded within the regular CanadaGAP Auditor Training course for new auditor candidates. Currently, 37 CanadaGAP auditors (56% of active auditors) are approved to perform repacking and wholesaling audits.

CanadaGAP Auditor Refresher Training and Testing

First introduced in 2014, auditor refresher training and assessment have been administered by CanadaGAP to ensure ongoing auditor comprehension of program requirements, including new requirements that have been more recently introduced or points that have been identified as requiring further confirmation of correct application during CanadaGAP audits. It is mandatory for currently qualified auditors to complete refresher assessments, and where applicable, for all internal auditors who work for Groups (under certification Option B). Generally speaking, auditor refresher assessment is completed every two to three years. The most recent refresher assessment took place over the winter of 2024-2025. An exam based on CanadaGAP material was administered, and all active CanadaGAP auditors were required to pass the exam in order to reconfirm the validity of their record of course completion.

Train-the-Auditor Trainer – New Auditor Trainers and Refresher Testing

Trainers delivering the CanadaGAP Auditor Training Course must first be qualified and approved by CanadaGAP. Trainers must have passed their original CanadaGAP Auditor Training course with at least 90%, then must complete an additional Train-the-Auditor-Trainer course. There were no Train-the-Auditor-Trainer courses held in 2025.

Auditor trainers must undergo periodic refresher testing by CanadaGAP. Trainers’ credentials are valid for a five-year period, after which approved trainers must maintain their competency by successfully completing refresher testing. In 2022, eight qualified trainers who were up for renewal successfully completed their refresher exams. All current auditor trainers will undergo refresher testing again in 2027.

Certification Bodies

The following five Certification Bodies maintained a license to offer CanadaGAP audits and certification in 2025:

- Bureau de normalisation du Québec (BNQ)
- Control Union
- MSVS (Management Systems Verification Services Canada Inc.)
- NSF Canada Ag
- TSLC (TSL Certification Services International Canada Ltd.), in partnership with ASI Food Safety LLC, with services provided in Quebec by subcontractor **Gestion Qualiterra Inc.**



CanadaGAP auditors are employed or contracted directly by the Certification Body, and some auditors work for more than one CB.

Information about each Certification Body is available on the CanadaGAP website at:

<https://www.canadagap.ca/certification/certification-bodies/>

Integrity Programme to Oversee Certification Body and Auditor Performance

CanadaGAP's integrity surveillance programme for Certification Bodies consists of:

- Mandatory annual performance review meeting with each CB
- Service standards set out in licensing agreements, monitored and reported on annually
- Certification Body office audits encompassing all service providers over a 5-year cycle (PJRFSI: 2022; NSF: 2023; BNQ: 2024; TSLC and Gestion Qualiterra: 2025; Control Union and/or MSVS: planned for 2026)
- Audit report spot checks for technical competence
- CanadaGAP participation on certification body calls where auditors receive updates and are calibrated to program requirements and scoring. CanadaGAP staff have an opportunity in this way to monitor auditor performance, gaps in auditor knowledge, etc. and support certification bodies and auditors as needed.
- Witness audits – our goal is for CanadaGAP to see every auditor at least once over the 5-year audit cycle, with a focus particularly on newer auditors
- Auditor Refresher Testing is repeated on a regular basis to ensure ongoing auditor comprehension of CanadaGAP program requirements
- Complaints monitoring and ongoing follow-up.

What's Ahead for 2026?

- CanadaGAP is in the process of re-benchmarking the program to new GFSI requirements (Version 2024 of the GFSI Benchmarking Requirements). The process will conclude sometime in 2026.
- In compliance with the Canadian Government Food Safety Recognition Program, CanadaGAP is undergoing its 80-month Maintenance of Recognition Review by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. This process will conclude in early 2026.
- A new version of the CanadaGAP normative documents will take effect on April 1, 2026. Version 11.0 will be published prior to the effective date:
 - Release of Version 11.0 the CanadaGAP Food Safety Manuals for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables and for Greenhouse Product is anticipated by late January 2026.
 - Publication of Version 11.0 of the CanadaGAP Audit Checklist is planned for early March 2026.
 - Version 11.0 of the CanadaGAP Program Management Manual will be publicly available on the website by late March 2026.

Thank you to CanadaGAP Staff and Valued Partners

CanadaGAP extends sincere thanks and appreciation to our partners at the Certification Bodies – BNQ, Control Union, MSVS, NSF Canada Ag and TSLC – and to each hard-working CanadaGAP auditor.

Management and directors wish to express heartfelt thanks to the small, dedicated team of highly competent staff members who are instrumental to the smooth and efficient functioning of the CanadaGAP program.

CanadaGAP thanks the hard-working volunteers from industry who make up our talented Board of Directors and Technical Advisory Committee. We value and appreciate the ongoing interest from those across the country who generously give their time and energy to participate in CanadaGAP activities.

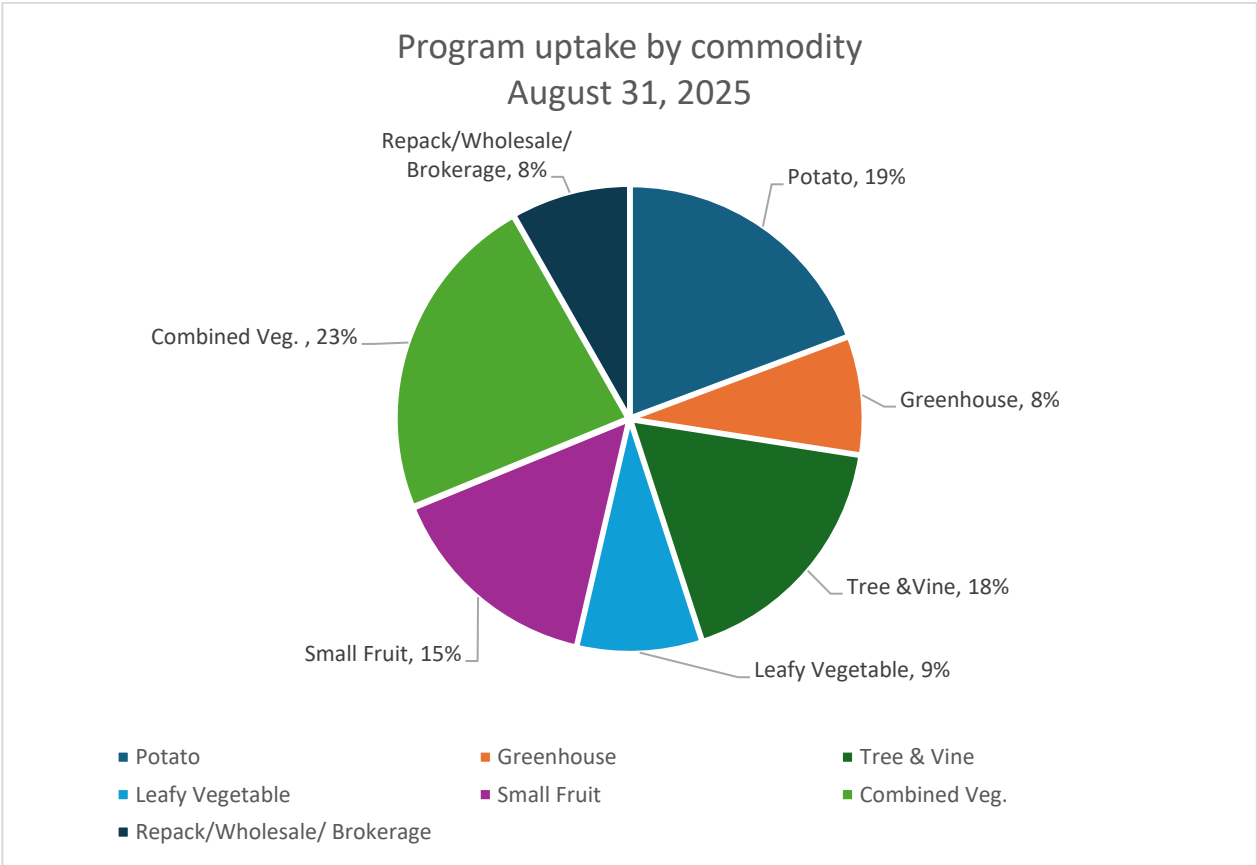
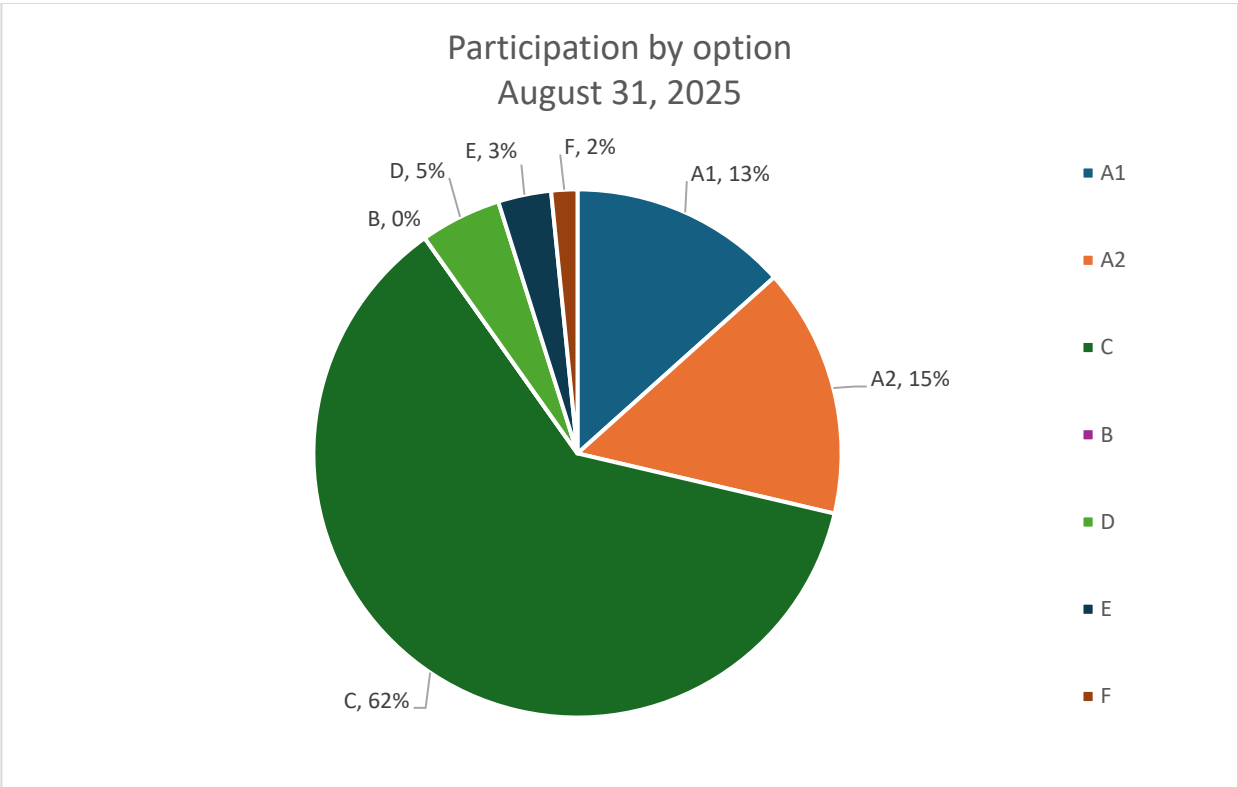
CanadaGAP Program staff and Directors recognize and appreciate the efforts of every CanadaGAP-certified operation in their commitment to producing food safely for the benefit of all.



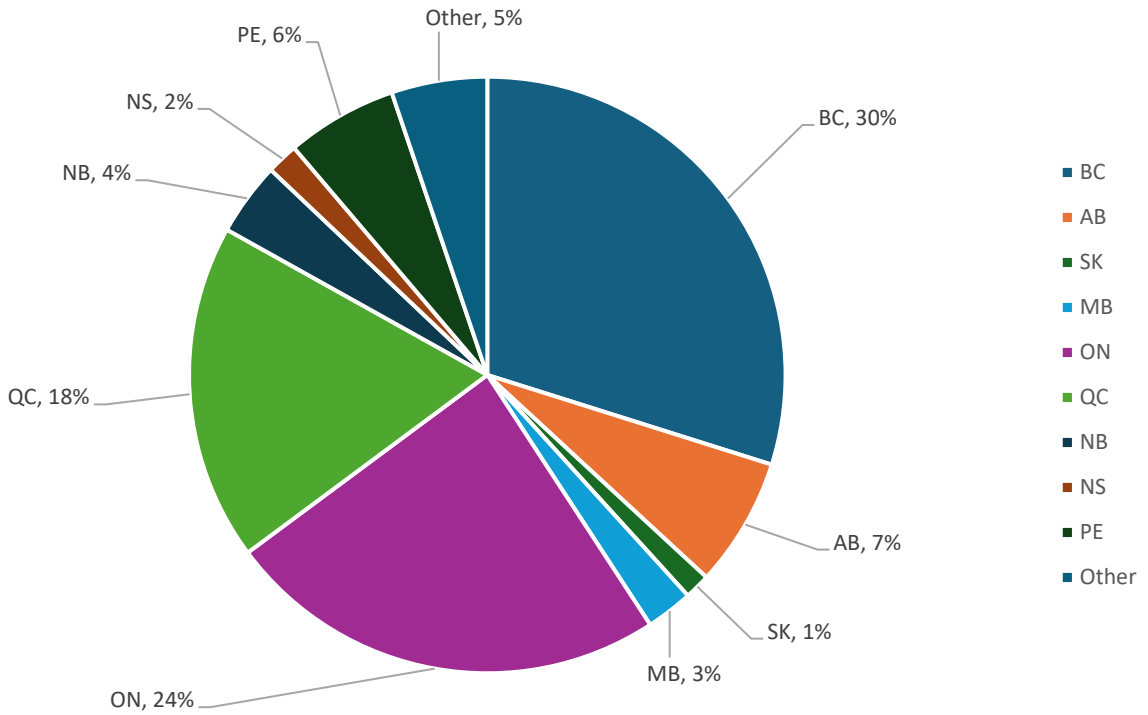
CanadaGAP

Program Uptake

Statistics 2025



Operations enrolled by province Aug 31, 2025



Commodity by Province - August 31, 2025

