

Highlights for 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 was released last November and continues to be offered on demand to new CanadaGAP auditors.
 - 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 this year.
 - 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. Board Activities: Five-Year Strategic Plan and AGM 2025

- 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
- The 2025 CanAgPlus AGM is being held in person for the first time since COVID. The meeting will take place December 3 in Calgary, Alberta. Virtual attendance is also offered.





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 Coordinator:* A new CanadaGAP Auditor Coordinator was hired this year, with responsibility for auditor oversight and administrative functions.
- *Auditor pool:* Fifteen new auditor prospects were presented by CBs this year. Auditor credentials must be reviewed and approved by CanadaGAP. Over half of the candidates successfully demonstrated compliance with auditor qualification requirements.
- *Auditor Recognition Award:* The Sheri Nielson Auditor Recognition Award, introduced by CanadaGAP three years ago, has become an annual opportunity to honour exceptional CanadaGAP auditors. To date, six recipients have been celebrated. The next award will be presented in conjunction with the CanAgPlus AGM on December 3.
- *Refresher testing:* Over 100 candidates, including all active CanadaGAP auditors, successfully underwent refresher testing during winter 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 this year, totaling 15 witness audits completed by CanadaGAP.
- *CanadaGAP Auditor Training course:* A growing number of training providers continues to expand the annual number of course offerings. Most training now takes place online.



6. GFSI Activities

- CanadaGAP has maintained GFSI recognition uninterrupted since 2009. 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 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.



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 will be published prior to the effective date:
 - Release of Version 11 the CanadaGAP Food Safety Manuals for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables and for Greenhouse Product is anticipated by late January 2026.
 - Publication of Version 11 of the CanadaGAP Audit Checklist is planned for early March 2026.
 - Version 11 of the CanadaGAP Program Management Manual will be publicly available on the website by late March 2026.

Please contact the CanadaGAP office at info@canadagap.ca with any questions.

