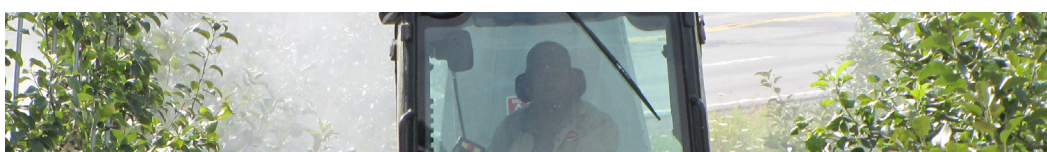
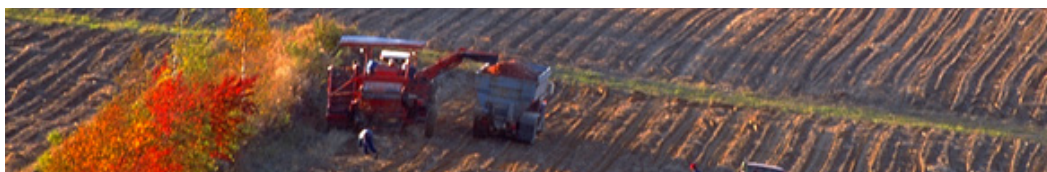
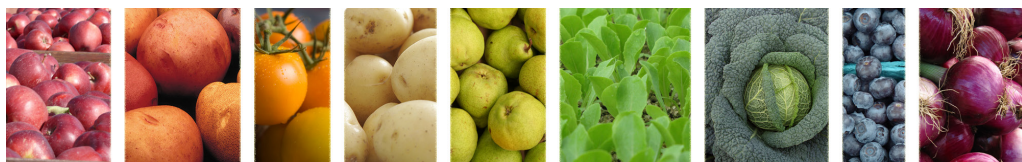


2021

# ANNUAL REPORT

# CANADAGAP<sup>®</sup>

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



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## Annual Report 2021

### Program Overview

CanadaGAP® is a food safety program for companies that produce, pack, repack, store, wholesale and broker fruits and vegetables. The program officially launched in September 2008 with the enrolment of five hundred potato growers, and has grown to 3,000 participating companies today 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.

Two manuals, one specific to greenhouses, the second for other fruit and vegetable operations, have been 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](http://www.canadagap.ca)

Close to 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 2021

The past two years have brought unprecedented challenges to the horticultural industry. Many sectors of the economy were profoundly disrupted by the global coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, not least the food industry as a whole, and producers of fresh fruits and vegetables in particular. CanadaGAP and its partner Certification Bodies worked to be responsive in adapting to the shifting landscape facing operations that continue to need food safety certification during these difficult times. Some program adjustments made in 2020 were continued where possible into 2021:

- Postponement of audits and extensions of CanadaGAP certificates for up to six months, when audits could not proceed as planned
- Modified procedures to allow for CanadaGAP audits to be performed using partially remote auditing methods, to reduce the auditor's time on-site
- Holding meetings and events in an online format
- Maintaining regular dialogue with all stakeholders.

2021 proved a challenging year as well for operations needing to maintain compliance with increasingly stringent food safety expectations. CanadaGAP underwent re-benchmarking to the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) requirements over the course of 2020-2021, and as a result introduced a number of changes to the program that raised the bar on achieving certification. In spring 2021, operations requiring GFSI-recognized certificates had to address all non-conformities raised during the audit before they could be certified. Corrective action plans became more commonplace among CanadaGAP program participants. In the fall, new requirements came into effect relative to unannounced audit requirements. More detailed information about these changes is available on the CanadaGAP website at [www.canadagap.ca](http://www.canadagap.ca).

Despite the many challenges to the industry resulting from COVID, the one-year period ending August 31, **2021 has resulted in the highest ever average audit score for CanadaGAP program participants.** Based on preliminary audit results (before corrective actions were implemented), the overall average of 94.61% was measured across participants of all CanadaGAP certification options. While consistent with results over the last six years, average audit scores in the past year are slightly higher across all commodity groups except for Potatoes and Tree and Vine Fruit. Big congratulations are extended to CanadaGAP-certified companies, for continuing to maintain and achieve high levels of food safety within their operations!



## Overview of CanadaGAP Activities 2021

While navigating pandemic impacts and maintaining a focus on enabling the safe production and handling of fresh fruits and vegetables, CanadaGAP successfully undertook a number of activities over the past year:

**Maintaining Government Recognition:** CanadaGAP first received full Government Recognition in 2017 under the Canadian Government Food Safety Recognition Program. To maintain government recognition, CanadaGAP must continue to demonstrate sound management of the certification system, align with all applicable regulatory requirements, and receive approval from CFIA for any proposed changes to the program. In August 2021, CanadaGAP submitted materials as required for CFIA to complete their annual review of changes and to undertake a 40-month check on CanadaGAP processes. CFIA and interested provincial governments undertake a comprehensive review to ensure that the food safety standard remains technically sound, and that CanadaGAP and its delivery agents are operating the program in accordance with government requirements. The 40-month maintenance of recognition review is expected to conclude by early 2022.

**Updates to the CanadaGAP Food Safety Manuals:** Version 9.0 of the CanadaGAP Food Safety Manuals was released at the end of 2020, and took effect on April 1, 2021. A correction notice was issued mid-season with respect to supplier approval program requirements for certified companies sourcing cucumbers and peppers for pickling. CanadaGAP is not anticipating that an update will be issued to the Food Safety Manuals in 2022.

**Expanded Availability of Certification Bodies:** A new Certification Body for CanadaGAP, Perry Johnson Registrars Food Safety, Inc. (PJRFSI), completed its first full year of offering CanadaGAP audits and certification in 2021. The other two certification bodies licensed by CanadaGAP – NSF Canada Agricultural Certification Services, and Bureau de normalisation du Québec (BNQ) – continue to offer their services in Canada and the U.S. CanadaGAP has also been approached by a number of other CBs over the past year expressing potential interest in offering CanadaGAP certification to their clients. We expect to announce soon the addition of a fourth CB to expand the options available to CanadaGAP program participants.

**Responsive/electronic documentation solutions:** CanadaGAP has made efforts to respond to program participants requesting solutions to challenges related to maintaining documentation and record-keeping. The program continues to increase partnerships with several affiliate organizations who have developed proprietary software for record-keeping, a fillable Word version of the manuals, and translation of the CanadaGAP template forms in various languages. For several years CanadaGAP has made available the Food Safety Manuals in Spanish as a resource. Last year we introduced fillable PDFs for the food safety manuals and the self-assessment checklist. Efforts are ongoing to improve access to electronic versions of CanadaGAP materials through cooperative ventures. See the “Food Safety Links” page on the CanadaGAP website for further details.





- **Maintaining GFSI Recognition:** To maintain recognition by the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI), CanadaGAP began re-benchmarking to the latest GFSI requirements (v.2020.1) in May 2020. The re-benchmarking process was completed in May 2021. CanadaGAP has been benchmarked and officially recognized by GFSI since 2010. GFSI recognition remains important for CanadaGAP program users, as it is crucial to securing support for the certification from retailers, processors and food service customers



## 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 November/December. Due to the global coronavirus pandemic, the 2020 AGM was held virtually on December 2, 2020. The meeting saw a record turnout and three resolutions were adopted by members. Among the resolutions, members endorsed a proposal to update the corporate by-laws relative to the composition of the CanAgPlus Board of Directors. Brought forward by the Board with the support of the corporation's two founding organizations [the Canadian Horticultural Council (CHC) and the Canadian Produce Marketing Association (CPMA)], members approved changes that:

- secure an appropriate ratio of representatives from each of its stakeholder groups (producer, packer, repacker/wholesaler/brokerage, customers, etc.), and
- empower members to elect their own Board of Directors without needing approval from CHC and CPMA after elections occur.

The 2021 AGM will again be held online and is scheduled for November 29, 2021 at 1:00 PM Eastern time. Further details are posted on the CanadaGAP website.



## Board of Directors

The Board of Directors meets face-to-face twice annually, under normal circumstances, and holds regular conference calls. Meetings have been held virtually since March 2020.

The Board is comprised of eight volunteer directors who serve two-year rotating terms, with four directors elected annually. The Board welcomed one new and one returning director at the 2020 AGM: Susan Ranck (Ranck & Associates, LLC) and Scott Wright (formerly with Star Produce, now with the University of Saskatchewan). Jody Mott (Holland Marsh Growers) and Alvin Keenan (Rollo Bay Holdings) were both re-elected to another two-year term. Following the AGM, Stephanie Lariviere (Erie James Ltd.) was selected by directors as Chair of the Board for a third term, and Robert Allard (Pommes Philip Cassidy Apples Inc.) was chosen Board Vice-chair for 2021. Four director positions are available to aspiring candidates at the 2021 AGM. The full list of directors and their biographies are posted at: <http://www.canadagap.ca/history/governance/>

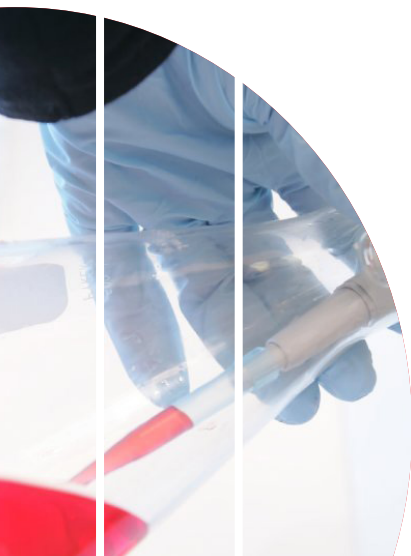
## Management Review

The annual management review of the program was held with senior management and representatives on September 29, 2021. 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.

## Technical Advisory Committee

In 2021 CanadaGAP made a significant change to the structure and composition of its longstanding advisory committee. For a number of years, the CanadaGAP Board appointed a Stakeholder Advisory Committee, also known as the SAC. In 2021, the Board updated the Committee Terms of Reference and renamed the group the Technical Advisory Committee, to refocus committee activities on providing sound technical advice to the Board relative to proposed changes to program materials. CanadaGAP receives many requests each year from program users to revise the CanadaGAP Food Safety Manuals, generic HACCP models, and audit checklist. A group of qualified experts is 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.



In December 2020, the Board appointed to the revamped Technical Advisory Committee a full slate of new members, some of whom were returning members of the previous Stakeholder Advisory Committee. While the Board makes efforts to appoint members who are representative of the various crop groupings within CanadaGAP's scope, the primary criteria for members is food safety knowledge, education and technical expertise, given the committee's role. 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 size of the Committee is set at 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 was appointed to chair the new TAC in 2021.

Nominations to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) are accepted annually, and appointments are made by the Board for one- or two-year terms. Interested candidates are encouraged to apply through the public nominations process each fall. The list of current TAC members is published on the [CanadaGAP website](https://www.canadagap.ca).

The Committee usually meets face-to-face each summer, and holds conference calls as needed. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, meetings were held virtually in both 2020 and 2021.

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

## **Marketing, Education and Outreach**

CanadaGAP is involved in a significant number of education and outreach activities. Obviously, with the global pandemic ongoing into 2021, opportunities to represent the program outside of virtual meetings have been limited. Nevertheless, CanadaGAP was able to engage in a number of important ongoing initiatives. The table on the following pages provides a summary of these activities.





<b>Month</b>	<b>Event/ Topic</b>	<b>Location</b>
January	GFSI Task Group on Key Performance Indicators for Certification Programme owners	Conference call
January	Briefing with CFIA on ISO 22003-2	Microsoft Teams
January & February	CanadaGAP Auditor Refresher Exam Review	Conference calls
January to April	GFSI Task Group on Auditor Training and Continuous Professional Development	Conference calls
January to August	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Roundtable Calls (COVID-19)	Conference calls
January & September	SCC Mirror Committee calls on ISO 22003-2	Zoom call
January to November	Canadian Supply Chain Food Safety Coalition Board Meetings	Conference calls
February	International Federation for Produce Standards (IFPS) Food Safety Committee	Conference call
February	Coalition Risk Management Workshop	Webinar
February	CanadaGAP Webinar for Certification Bodies	Webinar
February to November	GFSI Leafy Greens Technical Working Group	Conference calls
March	Global Food Safety Conference and CPO meeting with GFSI Steering Committee	Webinar
March	GFSI Workshop on Public-Private Partnerships; Panel Discussion	Webinar
March	Muck Vegetable Conference	Zoom
March	Certification Body Auditor Calibration sessions	Webinars/calls
March	Understanding the CanadaGAP Program course (Food Safety Solutions)	Virtual/Live Online
March	CHC AGM and Food Safety Committee meeting	Zoom
March	CPMA Annual General Meeting	Webinar





Month	Event/ Topic	Location
March, April, May, December	ISO/CASCO JWG36 meetings on ISO 22003-2	Zoom calls
March, May, October	International Accreditation Forum (IAF) Food Group meetings	Zoom calls
March, July, October	GFSI Race-to-the-Top Updates (quarterly)	Zoom calls
March & November	ISO/CASCO JWG36 (Drafting Group) meetings on ISO 22003-2	Zoom calls
March to November	National Critical Infrastructure Cross-Sector Forum (bi-monthly)	Conference calls
March to December	GFSI CPOs Working Group (monthly calls)	Zoom
April	ISO 22003-2 Working Group on Multi-site Certification	Zoom calls
April	CanadaGAP Auditor Training course (Food Safety Solutions)	Virtual/Live Online
April	Understanding the CanadaGAP Program course (private)	Virtual/Live Online
April	CFIA Food Safety Industry Expert meeting	Zoom call
April	CPMA Fresh Week (panelist)	Zoom call
May	CanadaGAP Auditor Training course (private)	Virtual/Live Online
May	CanadaGAP Webinar for Accreditation Bodies	Webinar
May	Canadian Supply Chain Food Safety Coalition AGM	Zoom call
May & September	CPMA Food Safety Committee meetings	Conference calls
June	CanadaGAP Auditor Training course (Food Safety Solutions)	Virtual/Live Online
June	Annual Performance Review Meetings with CBs	Microsoft Teams
June	CFIA Industry Relations Update with Coalition members	Webinar
June	Center for Produce Safety Research Symposium	Webinars
June	CPMA Canadian Industry-Government Meeting (CGIM)	Zoom



<b>Month</b>	<b>Event/ Topic</b>	<b>Location</b>
June	CanadaGAP Auditor Training course (private)	Online
June & July	CanadaGAP Technical Advisory Committee meetings	Zoom
July to November	CanadaGAP Witness Audits	Across Canada
June to December	CFIA Review for 40-month Maintenance of Government Recognition	Zoom calls
August	Annual technical meeting of CanadaGAP Certification Bodies	Zoom
August	CanadaGAP Auditor Training course (Food Safety Solutions)	Virtual/Live Online
August	Center for Produce Safety Agricultural Water Research Webinar	Webinar
August & September	Western Growers Root Cause Analysis & Sampling Webinars	Webinars
September	GFSI Auditor Training and Professional Development Webinar	Webinar
September	Certification Programme Owner meeting with GFSI Steering Committee	Zoom call
September	CanadaGAP Management Review	Zoom
October	GFSI Annual office visit (remote review)	Zoom calls
October	GFSI US-Canada Local Group meeting	Zoom call
November	Annual meeting with ANAB-ANSI	Zoom
November	Annual meeting with Standards Council of Canada	Microsoft Teams
November	Ontario Food Protection Association AGM and Food Safety Symposium (panelist)	Brampton, ON
November	CPMA Meeting with Industry on GFSI Requirements	Zoom call
November	CanAgPlus Annual General Meeting and Board meetings	GoToMeeting
November - December	CanadaGAP Auditor Training course (Food Safety Solutions)	Virtual/Live Online





## Program Participant Survey

Every three years, CanadaGAP formally surveys program participants on various aspects of program operations. The last complete survey was completed in 2019, and will be repeated in 2022.

In 2021, a shorter survey was conducted to gather specific feedback on the fillable PDF versions of the CanadaGAP Food Safety manuals and the Spanish translation of materials. While a limited number of responses was received, the feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and confirmed CanadaGAP's commitment to continue offering these resources to program participants. Of the forty-nine respondents to the survey on the fillable PDF versions, twenty-three program participants shared comments about why they found the fillable PDF useful:

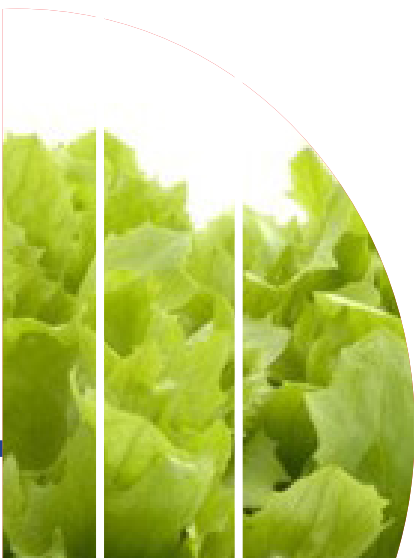
- Ease of use (10)
- Save on printing/less paper (3)
- Practical/simplicity (5) (for training, to make operation specific)
- Saved time (2)
- Easier to make changes (2)
- Additional comments: good way to monitor your progress, fits with working remotely, working on digitizing all paperwork.

Several respondents had suggestions about ways to improve the fillable PDF versions, which CanadaGAP is looking into:

- Fillable option in Spanish/other languages
- Clarify what is required for digital signatures
- Reduce repetition
- Different options for printing
- More responsive options for N/A (e.g., N/A at top of section and section can be skipped, etc.)
- Would like the Spanish forms also in Excel
- Include space for annotations/personal notes
- Maybe illustrate the documents
- All forms should be written in the same order in all languages so everyone can follow along together.

Those who were aware of the fillable PDFs but opted not to use them cited the following reasons:

- Prefer paper
- Did not work very well
- Habit – will use next year
- In the midst of switching to electronic format.



Among the thirty-eight program participants who responded to the survey on the Spanish translation of the manuals, seventeen respondents explained how they were using the materials:

- Most are using them in parts (forms, training, SSOPs)
- One person was using only the forms
- One respondent was using the entire manual
- Two program participants were using the translation mainly for the signs
- One respondent was using Section 23 to explain deviations.

Fifteen of sixteen respondents said they liked the translation of the manuals into Spanish, and a few made additional comments:

- It would be helpful if the forms were both English/Spanish combined (so it's understood by both languages but uses only one sheet) – Ed. note: this format is available through the BC Vegetable Marketing Commission website
- Would like it in Excel
- Very useful for working with TFW
- Gives confidence that [the workers] understand and we can hang up the signs in Spanish for everyone to refer to continuously.

CanadaGAP also asked program participants if they were using resources made available on the CanadaGAP website (training resources, handwashing signs, etc.) and by partner organizations such as the BC Vegetable Marketing Commission. The feedback received was as follows:

a. Which one(s) do you use?

- Posters/signs
- Bilingual forms
- Bilingual signs
- Forms C & D in Punjabi.

b. Do you like the resources available?

- 22/22 respondents said yes
- Additional comments: sometimes find them outdated or corny, more signs with images, would like handwashing signs for the field where there is no water – Ed. note: these are available on the CanadaGAP website.

We thank all respondents who took the time to participate in the survey and welcome feedback on CanadaGAP resources at any time.





## CanadaGAP Website

The CanadaGAP website [www.canadagap.ca](http://www.canadagap.ca) contains guidance to improve understanding of food safety requirements and comprehensive information about how the program works. The website makes freely available a range of handouts, posters, training tools, Frequently Asked Questions, and other communication materials to support operator and employee training. An improved search function was introduced last year to make the content more accessible and the website more user-friendly.

## CanadaGAP Newsletter

2021 saw the revival of a quarterly CanadaGAP newsletter to promote more open communication with program participants and other stakeholders.

The newsletter features the same comprehensive content that users are accustomed to accessing on the CanadaGAP website, but presented with clearer and more impactful messaging. While the FAQs, manuals and pertinent program information can be found online in the same places, the newsletter was designed to simplify and distill the content into digestible chunks.

Some of the featured newsletter content includes:

- Exploring Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) – highlighting pertinent information for program participants and auditors
- Buyer's Corner – where customers (retailers, food service, manufacturers, and processors) are interviewed and offer their perspective on the CanadaGAP program
- Success Stories – featuring operations who can see clear benefit from having implemented the CanadaGAP program
- Pulled content from CanadaGAP communications, including annual reports, presentations, brochures and communiques
- External resources from the Food Safety Links page presented in a fashion where the many available tools are made visible.

## Other Stakeholder Communications

CanadaGAP communicates frequently with program participants and other stakeholders through regular communiques, published at: <https://www.canadagap.ca/publications/communiques/>.

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.

For a listing of media coverage of CanadaGAP, consult the website at: <http://www.canadagap.ca/media/articles/>



CanadaGAP also makes available to training delivery partners across the country a two-day introductory course called 'Understanding the CanadaGAP Program'. Further information is available at: <https://www.canadagap.ca/program/training-resources/> or by contacting the CanadaGAP office.

## Program Participation

Close to three thousand producers are currently participating in CanadaGAP. The past year saw a number of producers departing the program due to increasingly stringent expectations around group certification to align with new GFSI requirements. In addition, a number of program participants suspended their participation in CanadaGAP as a result of COVID-19. The 2021 departures signaled the first net decline in program participation levels since the inception of the program in 2008.

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

### Year-over-Year Changes in CanadaGAP Participation

Year (Sept-Aug)	Number of Producers	Increase (Decrease)	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%)





## Participation Trends

The following participation trends are noteworthy for 2021:

- Participation in 2021 declined most markedly among producers in BC and the United States.
- BC continues to maintain the highest enrolment levels overall, at 34% of all CanadaGAP-certified companies. This year's number compares to BC having 36% of all program participants in 2020.
- Among commodity groupings, a small increase in participation was seen across all crop groupings, except for two sectors where participation levels fell more significantly: Tree and Vine Fruit, and Combined Vegetables (fruiting vegetables, bulb and root crops, etc.).
- The number of companies enrolling in Option D for repacking, wholesaling, and brokerage operations continues to climb. Over 200 facilities are now participating in Option D, which represents 5% of all CanadaGAP-certified companies.
- Group certification now reflects a mere 7% of producers participating in CanadaGAP. For twelve years, the proportion of participants from groups ranged between 20% to 30% of all enrolments. A steep decline in groups has occurred since the introduction of more stringent GFSI requirements for group certification.
- The balance individual and group enrolments has shifted markedly over the past year as a result of new group certification requirements. A significant number of those moving to individual certification are choosing non-GFSI certification options. For 2021, 27% of certified companies are enrolled in the four-year audit cycle, which is a substantial increase from 2020 when 23% of program participants chose Option A1 and A2.
- The number of program participants moving to an annual audit under Option C has also increased, corresponding proportionally to the loss of groups. Option C now includes 61% of all participants, up from 58% of CanadaGAP-certified companies in 2020.
- For the purposes of analyzing participation trends, enrolment figures are broken down by five crop groupings:
  - o Tree and Vine Fruit
  - o Field Vegetables
  - o Potatoes
  - o Small Fruit
  - o 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, 2020.

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

Based on # of producers	Tree and Vine Fruit	Field Vegetables*	Potatoes	Small Fruit	Green-house	Repacking, wholesale & brokerage	Total CanadaGAP Participation
<b>Percentage of CanadaGAP participants in 2021</b>	21%	29%	19%	19%	6%	5%	100%

#### For comparison

<b>2020</b>	24%	30%	17%	18%	6%	5%	100%
<b>2019</b>	24%	29%	18%	19%	7%	3%	100%
<b>2018</b>	24%	27%	18%	20%	8%	3%	100%
<b>2017</b>	24%	25%	19%	21%	8%	3%	100%
<b>2016</b>	30%	24%	18%	20%	8%	Not reported	100%
<b>2015</b>	33%	23%	18%	18%	8%	Not reported	100%

\*Leafy Vegetable operations hold an increased proportion of CanadaGAP certificates in 2021, but producers of other types of field vegetables (fruiting veg, bulb and root crops, etc.) have left the program in proportionally higher numbers (23% of program participants in 2020, down to 21% in 2021). The combined effect is a reduction in the proportional level of participation across the “Field Vegetable” category, which includes both leafy and other vegetables.

### Audit Trends

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

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
<b>No. of audits reported</b>	2019	1748	1650	1589	1538	1390	1270

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

In addition, approximately 100 farms that belong to groups are audited each year.



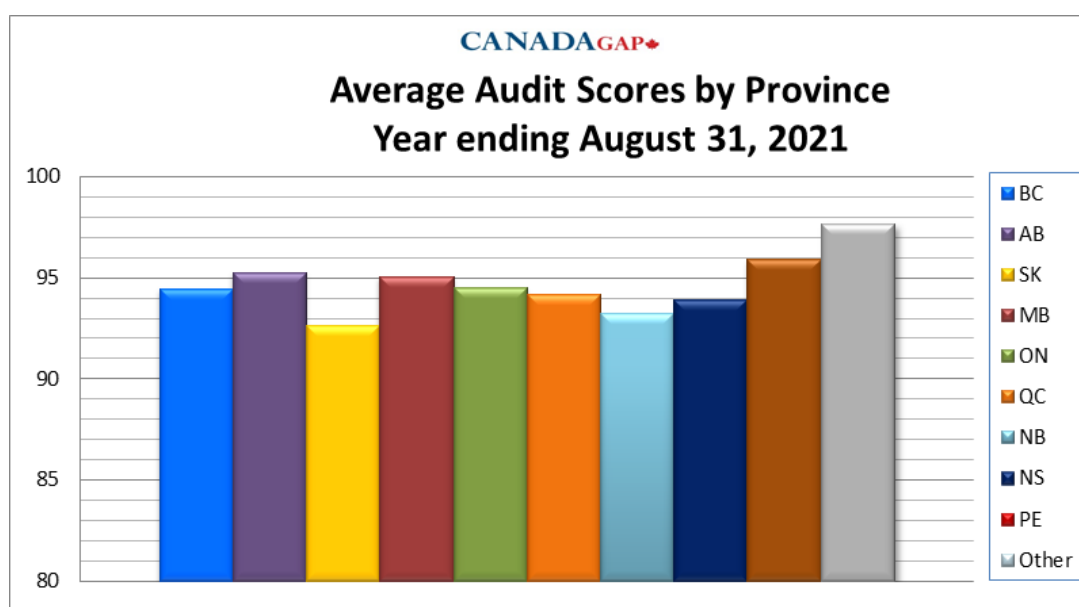


- *Average Audit Score by Crop Grouping (from September 1 to August 31 based on certificates issued)*

Crop grouping	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
<b>Potato</b>	94.55	94.59	94.46	94.98	93.84	94.36	94.03
<b>Green-house</b>	96.91	95.66	96.63	96.36	95.55	95.98	96.63
<b>Tree &amp; Vine Fruit</b>	93.54	93.76	92.84	93.75	93.97	93.20	91.92
<b>Leafy Vegetable &amp; Cruciferae</b>	93.95	93.78	93.82	94.61	93.97	94.41	94.40
<b>Small Fruit</b>	94.45	94.25	92.92	93.29	92.44	92.30	90.17
<b>Combined Vegetable</b>	94.87	94.38	94.50	94.61	92.86	94.11	94.01
<b>Overall Average</b>	<b>94.61</b>	<b>94.28</b>	93.98	94.34	93.24	94.04	92.84

Despite the many challenges to the industry resulting from COVID, the one-year period ending August 31, **2021 has resulted in the highest ever average audit score for CanadaGAP program participants.** Based on preliminary audit results (before corrective actions were implemented), the overall average of 94.61% was measured across participants of all CanadaGAP certification options. While consistent with results over the last six years, average audit scores in the past year are slightly higher across all commodity groups except for Potatoes and Tree and Vine Fruit. 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 entail an annual on-site audit. 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 2012. The interesting trend of the last four years continues, with operations randomly selected for an audit achieving on average a higher scores than Option A1/A2 operations undergoing their regularly scheduled audit. Data pertaining to 2021 random audits will be available in 2022.

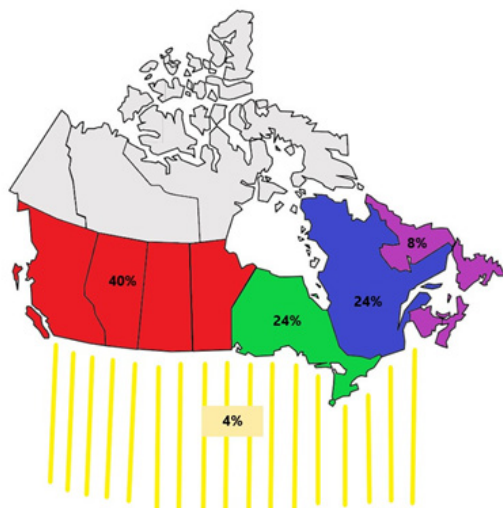
### CanadaGAP Random Audit Results for Option A1 and A2

<i>Year</i>	<b>Average Audit Score during Regular 4-year Audit</b>	<b>Average Audit Score for Random Audits</b>
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



## CanadaGAP Auditors

- The auditor pool consists of 50 active and qualified CanadaGAP auditors currently working for a Certification Body. This represents 12% of those who have taken the CanadaGAP auditor training course and 20% of those who have passed the course. The map below shows auditors by region:



	# of auditors	Percentage
<b>West</b>	20	40%
<b>Ontario</b>	12	24%
<b>Quebec</b>	12	24%
<b>Atlantic</b>	4	8%
<b>U.S.</b>	2	4%
<b>Total</b>	50	100%

Data current as of August 31, 2021

## Training of New CanadaGAP Auditors

Summary of CanadaGAP Auditor Training sessions:

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Total since 2008
Number of people who completed CanadaGAP auditor training course	66	16	48	19	25	37	48	<b>430</b>
Number of people who passed the course	38	9	32	11	17	13	17	<b>255</b>
Percentage of people who passed the course	58%	75%	70%	65%	77%	54%	71%	<b>67%</b>
Number of auditor training sessions	6	4	7	3	6	5	4	<b>64</b>

*Notes: Cumulative as of August 31, 2021. One course in 2020 has exam rewrites that are ongoing. Four courses in 2021 have exam rewrites still ongoing. 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.*



The auditor training course was offered virtually for the first time in November 2020. Since then, courses have been offered virtually throughout 2021. These virtual course offerings filled up and reached maximum registration capacity. The courses not only reached more potential auditor candidates but also consultants, food safety managers and other stakeholders, as many people attended the courses for education purposes. Although the course is primarily designed to train potential auditors, the practical knowledge provided in the auditor training course is equally beneficial to a food safety manager who is implementing the program at their operation, as it is for an auditor who is verifying compliance.

### **CanadaGAP Auditor Refresher Training and Testing**

First introduced in 2014, auditor refresher training and assessment have been done by CanadaGAP every two years to ensure ongoing auditor comprehension of program requirements, including new requirements that have been recently introduced. It is mandatory for currently qualified auditors, and for all internal auditors who work for Groups (under certification Option B).

In 2020, a mandatory exam was administered to active auditors (English and French), as well as all interested inactive auditors. Participants who were unsuccessful after their first attempt were permitted one re-write. The certification bodies reviewed the commonly missed concepts from all completed refresher exams during calibration sessions they held for their auditors in March 2021. The next refresher assessment is planned for 2022.

### **Understanding the CanadaGAP Program Course**

CanadaGAP developed a two-day orientation course entitled “Understanding the CanadaGAP Program”. The 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.

Since 2014, the “Understanding the CanadaGAP Program” course has been offered by various training providers. The course materials are available from CanadaGAP upon request, in both English and French. Training providers can deliver the course provided that they use a facilitator approved by CanadaGAP to offer the training. The facilitator must be familiar with the CanadaGAP Program and manual requirements (e.g., must have successfully passed the CanadaGAP Auditor Training Course).

Those interested in offering the Understanding the CanadaGAP Program course are encouraged to contact the CanadaGAP office.



## Certification Bodies

CanadaGAP program participants can choose from among the following three auditing firms approved to offer CanadaGAP audits:

- Bureau de normalisation du Québec (BNQ)
- NSF Canada Ag (including sub-contractor Gestion Qualiterra in Quebec)
- Perry Johnson Registrars Food Safety, Inc. (PJRFSI)



CanadaGAP auditors are employed or contracted directly by the certification body (CB), 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/>

CanadaGAP welcomed Perry Johnson Registrars Food Safety, Inc. (PJRFSI) as a newly licensed CB in 2020. PJRFSI has increased its pool of available auditors and now has over a year of experience offering CanadaGAP audits.

### 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 certification body
- 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 (SGS: 2015, Gestion Qualiterra: 2016; BNQ: 2018; NSF: 2019, Gestion Qualiterra: 2021)
- Audit report spot checks (at least one per auditor each year)
- CanadaGAP participation on CB 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.
- Witness audits – our goal is to see every auditor at least once over the 5-year audit cycle. After a year (2020) where witness audits were virtually halted due to COVID, these activities resumed over the course of the 2021 auditing season.
- Auditor Refresher Testing is repeated every two years to ensure ongoing auditor comprehension of CanadaGAP program requirements
- Complaints monitoring and ongoing follow-up.



## What's Ahead for 2022?

- Program Participant Survey and Town Hall Sessions – planned for Q1 of 2022.
- Auditor Refresher Testing – planned for Q4 of 2022.
- Active engagement in GFSI activities will continue, including participation in the US-Canada Local Group, various GFSI “Race to the Top” initiatives, and regular meetings with the GFSI Steering Committee and management.
- CanadaGAP will continue its active participation in the development and implementation of the new ISO/IEC 22003-2 standard.
- CanadaGAP does not expect to publish an update to the Food Safety Manuals in 2022, although a few changes are in the works for the CanadaGAP Audit Checklist. For further updates please visit the program website at [www.canadagap.ca](http://www.canadagap.ca)

## Thank you to CanadaGAP Staff and Valued Partners

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

Management and directors wish to express heartfelt thanks and kudos to the small, dedicated team of highly competent staff members who are instrumental to the smooth and efficient functioning of the CanadaGAP program. We are sorry to say goodbye this fall to Auditor Coordinator Justine Payne, who leaves her position with CanadaGAP after four years. We wish Justine the very best in her future endeavours!

CanadaGAP wishes to recognize the valuable contributions of retiring director Robert Allard, who will conclude his second year on the CanAgPlus Board at the upcoming Annual General Meeting on November 29, 2021. Robert has been a long-time supporter and contributor to the CanadaGAP program and he will be dearly missed by staff and directors alike.

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.

### Report prepared by

Heather Gale, Executive Director  
CanadaGAP Program, CanAgPlus





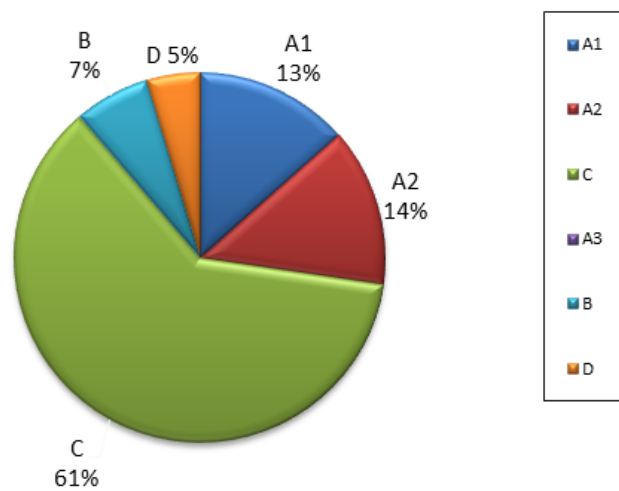
# CanadaGAP

## Program Uptake

### Statistics



### Participation by option Aug 31, 2021



### Program uptake by commodity August 31, 2021

