

# 2017 ANNUAL REPORT



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**CANADAGAP**  <sup>®</sup>

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## Annual Report 2017

CanadaGAP<sup>®</sup> is a food safety program for companies that produce, pack, repack, store, wholesale and broker fruits and vegetables. It 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. The program has been benchmarked and officially recognized by the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) for certification options B, C and D.

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)

2017 marks nine years since CanadaGAP certification first became available to fresh fruit and vegetable producers. As we enter our tenth year of operation, we are bound to reflect on the significant progress that has been achieved by growers in the implementation of robust food safety programs on-farm. The program has been blessed over the years with unparalleled support by the Canadian industry, and with the commitment and efforts of a dedicated team of staff members, Board of Directors, stakeholders and program participants.

Over the course of 2017, growth in participation has continued at a steady and stable pace. The number of participating companies now exceeds 3,100 across Canada and the United States. 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.



## Key Achievements

2017 has been a very busy and productive year for CanadaGAP. Highlights include the following:

- **Government Recognition:** CanadaGAP achieved full Government Recognition in 2017 under the *Canadian Government Food Safety Recognition Program*. Please see the section below to read more about what this means for the program and for CanadaGAP-certified companies.
- **Re-benchmarking** of the CanadaGAP program to GFSI (Global Food Safety Initiative) requirements Version 7 got underway this summer. The process will continue into the winter of 2018. An on-site assessment at the CanadaGAP office will be part of the updated GFSI benchmarking process.

- **Unannounced Audits:** As part of new GFSI benchmarking requirements, Unannounced Audits were introduced by CanadaGAP on April 1, 2017. Under this new element of the program, 5% of CanadaGAP-certified companies are selected each year by their certification body to undergo an audit “unannounced” – i.e., with only 2 to 5 business days’ notice. Logistically, this can be challenging for the certification bodies and program participants, since it is already difficult to schedule audits for weather-dependent situations and activities like harvesting, and some crops experience seasonal fluctuations. Despite these challenges, CanadaGAP is committed to rolling out the unannounced audit program to continue to drive integrity and credibility for its certification.
- **Food Fraud:** Also within the context of GFSI re-benchmarking, CanadaGAP introduced new requirements to the 2017 standard relative to assessing and managing risks related to Food Fraud. Food Fraud is defined as economically motivated intentional adulteration of product that could impact consumer health. To assist with implementation and auditing of the new record-keeping requirement for Food Fraud, earlier this year CanadaGAP issued a note providing further guidance to program participants, certification bodies and auditors regarding completion of the new Form U.
- **Growth in Option D:** Interest in CanadaGAP certification for repacking, wholesaling and brokerage operations continued growing at a steady pace in 2017. Option D for repacking and wholesaling activities was successfully benchmarked by GFSI (Global Food Safety Initiative) in 2016. Seventy-nine repacking, wholesaling or brokerage operations are now CanadaGAP-certified. Customer demands for supply chain certification continue to drive uptake of Option D.
- **Spanish Manuals:** For the first time, CanadaGAP made available a translation of the Greenhouse and Fruit and Vegetable food safety manuals in Spanish, in response to a growing number of requests.
- **FSMA Resources:** Also in response to requests from users, CanadaGAP developed and published a series of resources to help CanadaGAP-certified companies understand the impact of the U.S. Food Safety Modernization Act on their export or U.S.-based business. The resources include the following documents, which are available on the CanadaGAP website under “Food Safety Links”:
  - Information for Canadian exporters to the United States about the Foreign Supplier Verification Program (FSVP)
  - Comparison of CanadaGAP requirements with the U.S. Produce Safety Rule
  - Guidance on whether the U.S. Preventive Controls Rule applies to your business
  - Links to external sources containing useful information about implementation timeframes, exemptions and exclusions, flow charts, etc.
- **Sustainability:** Last year, CanadaGAP entered into a partnership with the North American Potato Sustainability Initiative (PSI) to offer verification audits for potato growers. The first Potato Sustainability audits occurred in late 2016 and early 2017 in conjunction with the processing potato shipping season. Nine CanadaGAP auditors have been cross-trained on the PSI requirements.

## Government Recognition

CanadaGAP was pleased to announce the achievement of full Government Recognition in March 2017. This stamp of approval by federal and provincial governments positions the program favourably in the context of new food safety regulations that will come into force over the coming year. CanadaGAP is recognized as a “model system” for food safety preventive controls that fresh produce operations will need to have in place under the *Safe Food for Canadians Regulations*.

Full government recognition under the *Canadian Government Food Safety Recognition Program* is available to food safety programs developed in Canada that meet all government requirements for a technical soundness and an effectively administered and delivered program. CanadaGAP’s pursuit of government recognition has been a years-long effort that began with technical reviews of commodity-specific food safety requirements in 2004. Several stages are involved in achieving full recognition:

Step	What is reviewed	Who does the review?	Completion Date
Technical Review of the standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Generic HACCP Models (commodity-specific)</li><li>• Food Safety Manuals</li></ul>	Canadian government officials (federal and provincial)	2004-2012
Technical Review of the Management System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Program Management Manual and procedures</li><li>• Audit Checklists</li><li>• Auditor Training materials</li></ul>	CFIA	2014-2015
Third party audit to assess program implementation and delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• National office audit</li><li>• Certification body assessments</li><li>• On-farm witness audits</li></ul>	Third party auditor and Accreditation bodies	2015-2016
Evaluation by government of third party audit findings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Third party audit report</li><li>• Accreditation assessments</li><li>• Witness audit reports</li></ul>	Canadian government officials (federal and provincial)	2016-2017

CanadaGAP was honoured to be presented with a formal Letter of Recognition by CFIA President Paul Glover in September, 2017.

L-R: Amelia Balsillie (CanadaGAP), Paul Glover (CFIA), Heather Gale (CanadaGAP)







Front row (L-R): Barbara Jordan (CFIA), Richard Arsenault (CFIA), Heather Gale (CanadaGAP), Tim Mellor (CFIA), Robyn Edwards (CFIA). Back row (L-R): Martin Firth (CFIA), Iliyan Staykov (CFIA), Paul Glover (CFIA), Mylène Rochon (CFIA), Amelia Balsillie (CanadaGAP), Boubacar Sidibe (CFIA).

### CanadaGAP Partnership with CFIA

CanadaGAP has been partnering with CFIA in other ways to ensure the continued alignment of program requirements with federal regulatory initiatives and expectations.

- Technical Discussions with CFIA on the proposed *Safe Food for Canadians Regulations*: Since the *Safe Food for Canadians Act* became law in 2012, CanadaGAP has participated in a number of discussions with CFIA. In 2015 CanadaGAP provided key technical comments on an early draft of the *Safe Food for Canadians Regulations*, which led to further consultation within the produce industry as the regulations were reviewed and refined over the course of 2016-2017. Further sessions were held in 2017 to provide a forum for technical discussions on how to align CanadaGAP requirements with the new regulations. The regulations are expected to come into force in 2018.
- CanadaGAP has also been cooperating in the development of CFIA's Private Certification Policy. Technical comments were provided on the policy, and CanadaGAP was chosen as the pilot program for an on-site visit by CFIA, designed to gauge the policy in action at a CanadaGAP-certified operation. CanadaGAP will also be participating in piloting the CFIA-developed assessment tool to compare private certification schemes with regulatory requirements.



## Report from the Board

### Annual General Meeting

CanAgPlus, the corporation that owns and operates CanadaGAP, holds its Annual General Meeting (AGM) for members each December. A number of resolutions were debated at the 2016 AGM. A report on the resolution that was tabled to the Board of Directors will be brought forward to this year's meeting.

The Board of Directors is comprised of eight volunteer directors. In keeping with the by-laws developed by the corporation's founding organizations, four directors are approved by the Canadian Horticultural Council and two by the Canadian Produce Marketing Association, with another two directors at-large. Directors serve two-year rotating terms, with four directors elected annually. Four new candidates are up for election or re-election at the 2017 AGM on December 6.

The Board and staff wish to extend their thanks to retiring director Dean Thomson. Dean grows and manages a 400-acre apple orchard in the Montérégie region of Québec. He is a past president of the Québec Federation of Apple Producers, and has served on numerous boards and on local council, including a term as mayor of St-Paul d'Abbotsford. Dean has also made significant contributions to the Canadian Horticultural Council (CHC), serving as chair of the national Crop Protection Committee for over five years. Dean has actively contributed to the CanadaGAP program's direction as a Board member since 2015. His term ends with the 2017 AGM. We thank Dean for his service to CanAgPlus and wish him continued success.



### Board Chair and Vice-Chair

The Board Chair and Vice-Chair are elected annually. Currently serving as Chair is Jack Bates, and Hugh Bowman as Vice-Chair. The Board meets face-to-face twice annually and holds regular conference calls. The full list of directors and their biographies are posted at: <http://www.canadagap.ca/about-us/governance/>

### Management Review

An annual management review of the program is held each June with senior management and representatives from the Board. The management review encompasses a review of:

- requests for modifications to the program
- performance of CanadaGAP certification bodies
- complaints and their handling
- internal audit results
- auditor training undertaken and its outcomes
- provision of resources
- policies related to conflict of interest and confidentiality, among others.

## Stakeholder Advisory Committee

CanadaGAP has a Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) that is appointed by the Board and whose role is to review requests for technical changes to program materials. The Committee meets face-to-face each summer and holds conference calls as needed. At the June 2017 meeting the Committee had another full agenda. CanadaGAP receives dozens of requests each year for changes to the food safety manuals, audit checklist or other technical documents. Each request is considered and researched by staff, and recommended changes are presented to the Committee for discussion and input.

This year, some changes are being introduced to the committee structure and terms of reference. Starting in 2017, nominations to the SAC are being accepted annually, and appointments made by the Board for one-, two- or three-year terms. Interested candidates are encouraged to apply through the nomination process each summer. While commodity-specific representation on the committee will continue to be important, a number of positions on the SAC are now also reserved for food safety specialists.



## Communication, Member Outreach and Media Liaison

2017 was a very active year for CanadaGAP communications. A CanadaGAP employee is now dedicated full-time to the management of communication and outreach activities, including serving as a technical resource for member inquiries. In addition to member support and communications, Amelia Balsillie is also managing relationships with important external stakeholders. This involves coordinating arrangements with providers of parallel and complementary services, including as software applications like the Gap App, Farm Credit Canada's Field Pro Manager, and other such services.

A high number of communiques were dispatched by CanadaGAP this year. Significant communication activities also included overhauling the "Frequently Asked Questions" webpage at [www.canadagap.ca](http://www.canadagap.ca) and a complete redesign and relaunch of the website this fall.

Media coverage of CanadaGAP continues to be strong. Once again CanadaGAP was invited to contribute articles to the Global Food Safety Resource (GFSR), and will be featured in the annual food safety issue of *The Grower*. For a full list of news articles, visit the CanadaGAP website at:

<http://www.canadagap.ca/media/articles/>

## Marketing, Education and Outreach

CanadaGAP is involved in numerous education and outreach activities. Following is a list of events and presentations in which CanadaGAP participated in 2017:

Month	Event / Topic	Location
January	Presentation to CFIA Office of Food Safety Recall	Ottawa, ON
January	CanadaGAP Booth at Pacific Agriculture Show & presentation at Blueberry Session	Abbotsford, BC
February	Participation in FDA Public Hearing on Strategic Partnerships to Enhance the Safety of Imported Foods	Webinar
February	Presentation at MAPAQ Journée horticole	L'Assomption, QC
February	Participation in Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Convention	Niagara Falls, ON
February-April	Survey of program participants: CanadaGAP Expert Assistance	Ottawa, ON
February- March	Participation in <i>Safe Food for Canadians Regulations</i> consultations meetings	Ottawa, ON
February- March	Presentation and participation in Global Food Safety Conference, GFSI Task Force calls and meetings	Houston, TX
March	Completion of Full Government Recognition	Ottawa, ON
March	CanadaGAP presentation – OMAFRA webinar series on GFSI-recognized programs	Webinar
March	Presentation to CHC AGM Food Safety Committee	Winnipeg, MB
March-June	GFSI Auditor Competence programme review calls	Webinars
April	Introduction of CanadaGAP Unannounced Audits	Ottawa, ON
April	Release of CanadaGAP Manuals in Spanish	Ottawa, ON
April	Agri-Food Subcommittee on Food Safety meeting	Ottawa, ON
April	International Federation for Produce Standards Food Safety Committee	Conference call
April	Hosted visit by Conference Board of Canada interns from Government of Indonesia	Ottawa, ON
April	Potato Sustainability Initiative (PSI) update training	Webinars



April	Submission of CanadaGAP comments on proposed <i>Safe Food for Canadians Regulations</i>	Ottawa, ON
April	Presentation at Brock University conference	St. Catharines, ON
April	Participation in Canadian Supply Chain Food Safety Coalition meetings with CFIA	Ottawa, ON
May	Publication of Resources for FSMA Compliance	Ottawa, ON
May	Refresher training for Accreditation Body assessors	Webinar
May	CanadaGAP Booth at Canadian Produce Marketing Association Trade Show and CPMA Convention	Toronto, ON
May	Canadian Government Industry Meeting (CPMA)	Ottawa, ON
May-June	GFSI Benchmarking Requirements Task Force meeting and Multisite Sampling Working Group calls	Washington, DC
June	CanadaGAP Stakeholder Advisory Committee and Board meetings	Ottawa, ON
June	Annual meeting of CanadaGAP Certification Bodies	Ottawa, ON
June-July	Canadian Supply Chain Food Safety AGM and Board	Ottawa, ON
July	Internal Audit of CanadaGAP office	Ottawa, ON
August	Annual meeting with American National Standards Institute	Conference call
September	CPMA Food Safety Committee semi-annual meeting	Conference call
September	Presentation of Letter of Recognition by CFIA President	Ottawa, ON
September - Oct	Participation in I.E. Canada meetings	Toronto, ON
September - Oct	GFSI Benchmarking Requirements Task Force meetings	Conference calls
October	Presentation to International Accreditation Forum	Vancouver, BC
October - Nov	Annual meeting with Standards Council of Canada and witness audit	Ottawa and Quebec
October - Nov	Launch of new CanadaGAP website	Ottawa, ON
November	Canadian Government Industry Meeting (CPMA)	Ottawa, ON
November - Dec	Submission of GFSI Re-benchmarking package	Ottawa, ON
December	CanAgPlus Annual General Meeting and Board Strategic Planning session	Ottawa, ON

## Program Participant Survey on Expert Assistance

Following the success of the program participant survey of 2016, a second survey was sent to members between February and April 2017 to gauge response to the idea of CanadaGAP expanding its services to include Expert Assistance. Proposed services included technical consulting by phone, email, in-person training, workshops, or on-farm guidance. The response to the survey was disappointingly low, and reaction was mixed. To date, no decision has been taken by the Board whether to proceed with the initiative. A strategic planning session will further consider whether to move ahead. We thank all members who took the time to provide their comments and welcome any additional feedback.



## Staffing Changes

A number of staffing changes in 2017 are noteworthy:

- Long-time Program Administrator, Elizabeth Laska, retires on December 1, 2017. Elizabeth has been an important part of the CanadaGAP team from its inception. She has processed over 4,400 enrolments since she took up her post in the CanadaGAP office in September 2008. Over the years she has spoken personally with almost every CanadaGAP program participant, and has formed strong connections with growers, her contacts at the certification bodies, her fellow staff members, and other program allies. We wish her the very best for her retirement. She will be greatly missed!
- In Elizabeth's place, CanadaGAP is pleased to welcome Samantha Townsend as our new Program Administrator. Samantha began training with Elizabeth earlier this fall, and is well prepared to take on her new role upon Elizabeth's retirement.
- A new position of full-time Auditor Coordinator was created at CanadaGAP this year. Justine Payne has ably taken up the post, which is focused on managing activities such as auditor training, new auditor approvals, refresher training and testing, and other coordination related to ensuring CanadaGAP auditor competency.

## Program Participation

Over 3,100 producers are now participating in CanadaGAP. The table below shows year-over-year growth in the number of producers participating in the program. The growth rates below reflect net growth – i.e., they already account for departures from the program, which may be due to changes in a farming operation, retirement, voluntary termination of certification, etc.

## Year-over-Year Increase in CanadaGAP Participation

Year (Sept – Aug)	Number of producers	Increase	Growth Rate
2008-2009	537	537	100%
2009-2010	781	244	31%
2010-2011	1879	1098	58%
2011-2012	2204	202	10%
2012-2013	2440	236	9%
2013-2014	2526	86	3%
2014-2015	2927	401	14%
2015-2016	3042	115	4%
2016-2017	3127	89	3%

### Participation Trends

The following participation trends are significant for 2017:

- The rate of growth in CanadaGAP participation has slowed over the past year, to 3%. There were a significant number of retirements and farm sales in 2016-17, as growers aged out of their operations. However, the growth in enrolments continues to offset those leaving the program.
- For the first time, the fastest growing participation rate across the provinces was in Alberta, thanks to the entry of several new haskap growers. Ontario has the next greatest increase in enrolments, made up mostly of potato growers enrolling in Option C, and repacking and wholesaling operations. Modest increases were also seen in segments of the Quebec and British Columbia industries, as packers and processors increasingly seek to source their supply of product from certified producers.
- Growth in Option D enrolments for repacking, wholesaling, and brokerage operations continues to increase, up nearly 20% over last year.
- U.S. grower participation in the program also continues to rise. CanadaGAP is attracting American farmers who are organizing in groups to pursue food safety certification.
- BC maintains the highest enrolment levels overall, representing 37% of all CanadaGAP-certified companies. This number has dropped from its peak of 42% of all participating producers in 2016.

- Participation in the four-year audit cycle has leveled off, with very little change in the number of Option A1 and A2 participants since last year. Approximately 25% of CanadaGAP-certified farms participate in these certification options.
- Enrolments in Option C (annual audit) have exceeded half of all program participants for the first time, representing 52% of all certified companies this year.
- Group certifications have seen a modest decline, standing at 21% of all enrolments, which is down from 24% last year.
- 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.

### 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
<b>Percentage of CanadaGAP participants in 2017</b>	24%	25%	19%	21%	8%	3%	100%
<b>For comparison:</b>							
<b>2016</b>	30%	24%	18%	20%	8%	Not reported	100%
<b>2015</b>	33%	23%	18%	18%	8%	Not reported	100%
<b>2014</b>	35%	24%	18%	15%	8%	Not reported	100%

Data current as at August 31, 2017

- Comparison of the data from 2014 to 2017 as presented in the table above shows two clear trends: stability in the Potato, Greenhouse and Vegetable crop groupings, and a relative decline in the Tree & Vine Fruit sector that is directly connected to the relative gains in participation among the Small Fruit sector. Most of this proportional shift has been driven by the BC fruit industry.

- Looking at trends over 2016-2017, there has been little change in the proportional participation of various crop groupings.
  - Tree fruit industry participation had the most significant change, proportionally declining from 30% in 2016 to 24% in 2017.
  - Some of the difference is made up by new participation from repacking, wholesaling and brokerage operations, which now represent 3% of all CanadaGAP-certified companies.
  - Combined vegetables increased marginally to 19%, as compared to 18% of all program participants in 2016.
  - Rates of participation by the greenhouse and leafy vegetable sectors have been stable since 2015, respectively at 8% and 6%.

## Audit Trends

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

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
<b>No. of audits reported</b>	1538	1390	1270	1037	1031	771	557

Reporting period from September 1 to August 31

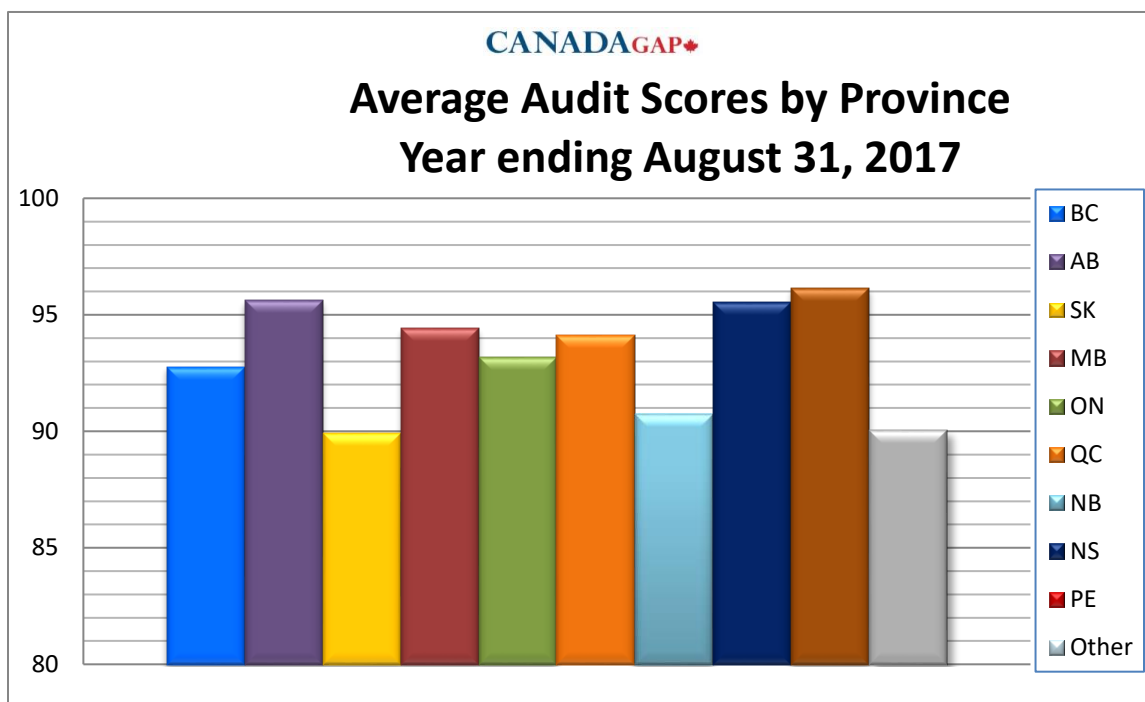
- In addition, approximately 100 farms that belong to groups are audited each year.
- Average Audit Score by Crop Grouping*

<i>Crop Grouping</i>	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
<b>Potato</b>	93.84	94.36	94.03	94.19	92.54	93.19	92.88
<b>Greenhouse</b>	95.55	95.98	96.63	92.40	94.80	95.16	95.07
<b>Tree &amp; Vine Fruit</b>	93.97	93.20	91.92	89.19	92.71	88.99	89.77
<b>Leafy Vegetable &amp; Cruciferae</b>	93.97	94.41	94.40	91.76	92.43	90.35	89.42
<b>Small Fruit</b>	92.44	92.30	90.17	90.91	92.71	91.11	90.91
<b>Combined Vegetable</b>	92.86	94.11	94.01	92.85	93.40	91.52	90.96
<b>Overall Average</b>	<b>93.24</b>	94.04	92.84	92.70	92.81	91.65	91.83

Reporting period from September 1 to August 31

- Overall, the average audit score of 93.24% is down slightly from its peak last year, but remains higher than all other years previous to 2016. **Our continued congratulations extend to CanadaGAP program participants for their ongoing commitment to maintaining and improving their food safety programs.**
- Trends: Commodity-specific average scores have remained stable for the past few years. The Tree & Vine and Small Fruit sectors continue to show a trend of increasing audit scores.





## Random Audit Programme

CanadaGAP offers certification on a four-year cycle to companies participating in Option A1 and A2. 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 continuing adherence to program requirements.

The table below compares certification audit scores to random audit scores since 2010. <sup>1</sup> This data has been updated and revised from previous annual reports.

### 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<sup>1</sup></b>
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

Data pertaining to 2017 random audits will be available in 2018.

Measures introduced by CanadaGAP in 2016 to streamline the distribution of documents to producers participating in Option A1 or A2 have been working well. Self-declaration and self-assessment checklists are now mailed to growers at two distinct times of year. Potato growers receive a copy of the forms in the summer so that they have them ready to complete when harvest begins. All other Option A1 or A2 producers receive their package in March so that they can time the submission of their self-assessment to their spring, summer or fall production cycle.

## Certification Bodies

CanadaGAP has three licensed certification bodies. These auditing firms are approved to offer CanadaGAP audits:

- Bureau de normalisation du Québec (BNQ)
- NSF Canada Ag (including sub-contractor Gestion Qualiterra in Quebec)
- SGS Canada



## Integrity Programme to Oversee Certification Bodies

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 that are monitored and reported on annually
- Certification body office audits encompassing all service providers over a 5-year cycle (BNQ: 2013, NSF: 2014, SGS: 2015, Gestion Qualiterra: 2016; BNQ planned for 2018)
- Audit report spot checks (at least one per auditor each year)
- CanadaGAP participation on calls where auditors receive updates and are calibrated to program requirements and scoring. This gives CanadaGAP staff an opportunity 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 (2011-Ontario; 2012-BC and Alberta; 2013-Atlantic; 2014-Manitoba and Ontario; 2015-Quebec; 2016-Quebec; 2017-Ontario; 2018 planned-BC)
- Auditor Refresher Testing introduced in 2014 is repeated every two years to ensure ongoing auditor comprehension of CanadaGAP program requirements. In 2016, all active CanadaGAP auditors had to attend a mandatory CanadaGAP training webinar before attempting the exam.
- Complaints monitoring and ongoing follow-up.

## CanadaGAP Auditors

- The auditor pool consists of 44 active and qualified CanadaGAP auditors (currently working for a Certification Body). This represents 16% of those who have taken the CanadaGAP auditor training course and 25% of those who passed the course.

*Auditors by region:*

	West	Ontario	Quebec	Atlantic	U.S.	Total
# auditors	14	10	13	5	2	44
Percentage	32%	22%	30%	11%	5%	100%

### • Training of New CanadaGAP Auditors

*Summary of CanadaGAP Auditor Training sessions:*

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	Total since 2008
Number of people who completed CanadaGAP auditor training course	27	16	61	27	28	23	275
Number of people who passed the course	18	9	35	13	16	19	179
Percentage who passed the course	67%	75% <sup>1</sup>	57%	48%	57%	83%	65%
Number of auditor training sessions	4	4	6	3	5	3	40

<sup>1</sup> Of the 16 people who took the course in 2016, 4 were auditing the course, so 75% of participants who attempted the exam passed.



- **CanadaGAP Auditor Refresher Training and Testing**

Auditor refresher testing, introduced in 2014, is repeated every two years to ensure ongoing auditor comprehension of CanadaGAP program requirements, including new requirements that have been recently introduced. At the end of 2016, CanadaGAP administered auditor refresher training webinars in conjunction with the testing. All active auditors attended the webinar and attempted the exam. The testing and exam were also made available to people who have successfully completed CanadaGAP auditor training and want to maintain the currency of their status.

Eighty-one per cent of CanadaGAP active auditors passed the 2016 exam. One auditor was retiring from auditing and did not wish to requalify. The remaining auditors who did not pass but who wished to continue auditing were required to requalify with additional CanadaGAP training and examination.

	<b>Active Auditors</b>	<b>Other Trainees</b>
Number that wrote the 2016 refresher exam	43	9
Number that passed the refresher exam	35	3

## What's Ahead for 2018?

- GFSI Re-benchmarking to Version 7
- Implementation of GFSI Auditor Competency program
- Coming into force of the *Safe Food for Canadians Regulations*
- Updates to 2018 Manuals – publication in January, revisions effective for audits starting April 1
- Continued promotion of CanadaGAP inside and outside of Canada

Report prepared by

Heather Gale, Executive Director  
CanadaGAP Program, CanAgPlus



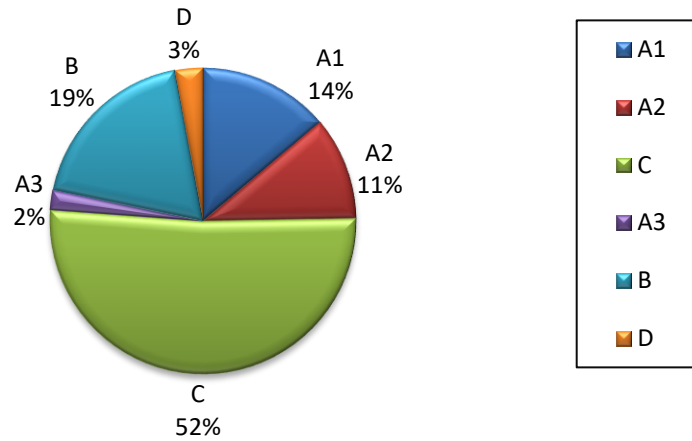
# CanadaGAP

## Program Uptake

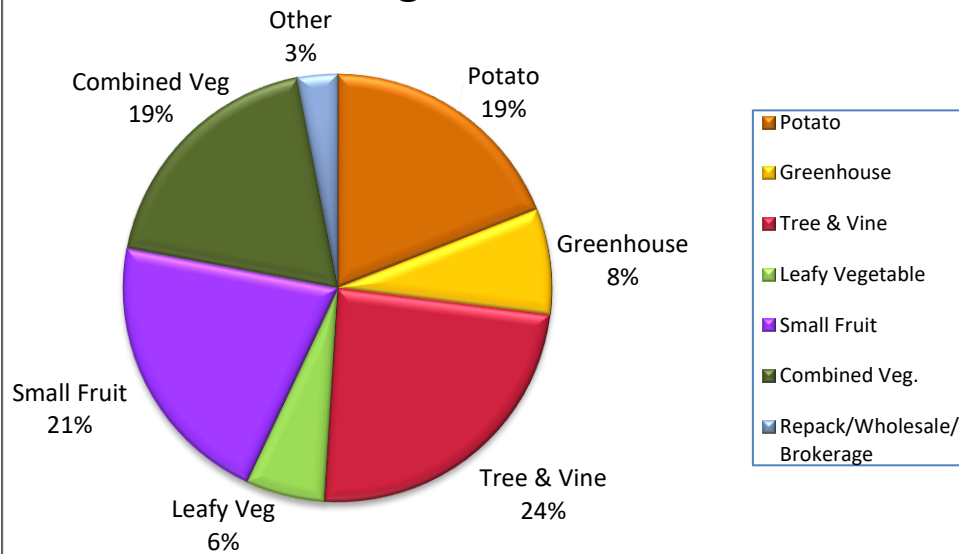
### Statistics



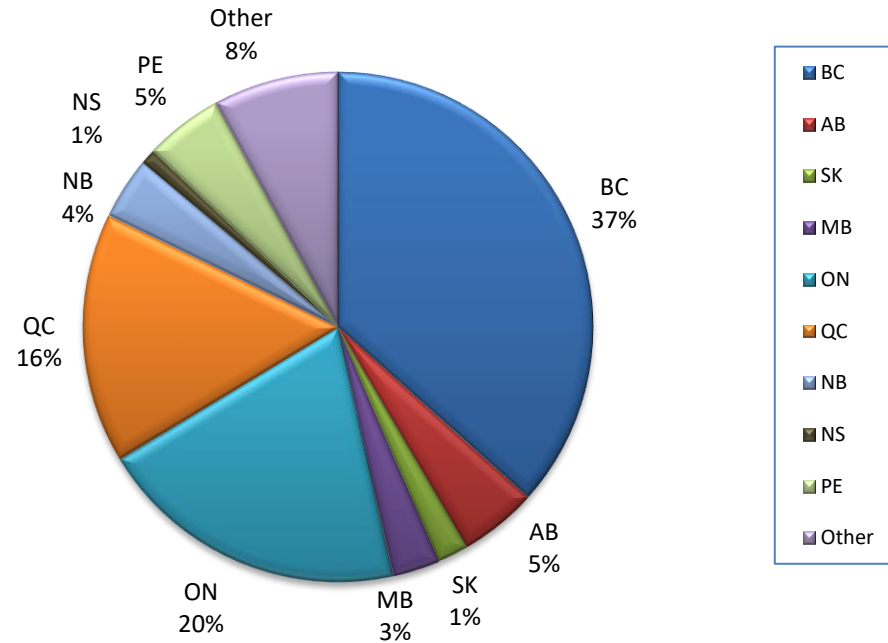
### Participation by option August 31, 2017



### Proportion of CanadaGAP participants represented by crop grouping August 31, 2017



## Operations Enrolled by Province August 31, 2017



## Commodity by Province - August 31, 2017

