

**To:** CanadaGAP Stakeholders  
**Date:** March 8, 2017  
**Subject:** CanadaGAP Program Receives Full Government Recognition

CanadaGAP is very pleased to announce that the program has received full Government Recognition.

“This achievement has been years in the making, and we are proud to receive recognition,” stated Jack Bates, Chair of the Board for CanAgPlus. “We congratulate our dedicated and hard-working staff on reaching this important milestone, and we thank government representatives for their commitment to this process.”

Government recognition is available to food safety programs developed in Canada that meet all government requirements for a technically sound, effectively delivered program. Several stages are involved in achieving full recognition:

<b>Step</b>	<b>What is reviewed</b>	<b>Who does the review?</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
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

**How will Government Recognition benefit program users?**

“Canadian government recognition of the CanadaGAP program coincides well with federal regulatory modernization that will significantly impact the fresh produce industry,” indicated Heather Gale, Executive Director for CanadaGAP. “New food safety regulations are on the way that include requirements for growing, harvesting and packing of fresh produce for interprovincial trade or export. The program is now positioned to be a ‘model system’ for program participants needing to demonstrate they have implemented effective preventive controls”.

For more information, please contact the CanadaGAP office.

*CanadaGAP® is a program developed in Canada to promote Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) for fruit and vegetable suppliers.*