

Good Agriculture and Collections Practices

A voluntary tool developed for the industry by the industry to prove use of safe traceable practices while growing or developing quality products.

*Developed with support
from the industry and...*



Saskatchewan
Ministry of
Agriculture

Growing Forward 

 Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada / Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada

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GACPs

*A tool to prove safety, quality and
traceability.*

**Saskatchewan On-Farm Food
Safety Implementation Program**



GACPs

Good Agriculture and Collection Practices

GACPs were developed, trialed and tested by those in the industry. Pilots were done across the country with those actually wild collecting and farming. A combination of funding from varied Agriculture Canada programs over a number of years plus thousands of industry hours went into their development. The final piece to this puzzle involved the Canadian Food Inspection Agency ensuring that the system that was developed is technically sound.

So are they truly voluntary?

The short answer yes. **This is a tool to be used where and when needed. It is not regulation.** Will there be cases where you may have to use it - yes. Companies like Loblaws insist that the products they sell are 'wrapped in the security blanket of food safety.

If you want to sell to them, your choices may be to:

- a) use their program that they developed knowing little about your industry or
- b) use the GACPs that were developed by your industry.

What funding do you qualify for...

Producer direct funding

- 50% funding for on farm technical advice
- 50% funding for equipment up to \$1500.00
- 50% funding up to \$1000 for first audit

Seminars and Workshops

To use the GACPs you must take a workshop. We need a minimum 10 people to hold a workshop. You must be a member of SHSA to take the workshop. Please contact us if you are interested.

Equipment that qualifies for 50% funding

- *Labellers*
- *Record keeping software*
- *Field Microbial testing units*
- *Time Temperature recorders*
- *Safety switches*
- *Water treatment equipment*
- *Backflow valves*
- *Safety lights*

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*For wild harvesters and farmers alike, day-to-day busyness (i.e., getting the work done) is usually the first priority. Regardless of their end market reality today is evaluating all of the risks to their collecting or producing to ensure a safe, high quality product is equal priority. This means refining their practices to ensure this able to be proved. GACPs are a **tool** that can help.*

What exactly are GACPs?

GACPs are voluntary practices developed by industry with the support of Agriculture Canada and NHPD, for industry, as a tool to help you grow, collect, handle, and (or) process a variety of plant (and animal) products sustainably, ethically and safely. For many if not most wildcrafters and farmers, sustainability, following ethical and environmental practices and safety already form a good foundation for their day to day practices.

But,,, can they prove they do it? Can they separate themselves and distinguish their products from those that do not practice the same due diligence? Can they keep small problems small?