

FRESH START

ON-FARM PRODUCE SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS
FROM FARM TO MARKET

COST-SHARE OPPORTUNITY

Does your produce safety equipment or facility need an upgrade for GAP compliance? Grant funds are available to reimburse 33% of eligible on-farm infrastructure improvements, up to \$5,000.

*Participants must meet certain eligibility requirements.



KICK-OFF TRAINING

To participate, join us for the kickoff training.

March 31, 2022

6-9 pm | Two SWVA Locations

Carroll County Government Center

605 Pine St, Hillsville, VA 24343

OR

Scott County Career and Technical Center

387 Broadwater Ave, Gate City, VA 24251

RSVP at <https://tinyurl.com/freshstart22>

An online attendance option is available.



If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Ashley Edwards, Carroll County VCE Office, at (276-730-3110/TDD*) during business hours of 8 am. and 5 p.m. to discuss accommodations five days prior to the event.

**TDD number is (800) 828-1120.

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COST-SHARE PROGRAM OVERVIEW

If you are a fresh produce grower or thinking of starting a commercial produce operation, this is the program for you! Sponsored by the Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission and in partnership with the Virginia Pumpkin Growers Association, this cost-share grant program offers an opportunity for eligible fresh produce growers to make necessary improvements to food safety equipment or to invest in on-farm infrastructure to meet food safety and GAP (Good Agricultural Practices) standards in any of the following categories. Requested improvements should demonstrate a food safety related purpose.

IN-FIELD

WORKER HEALTH & HYGIENE

IRRIGATION & WATERING SYSTEMS

WATER TREATMENT & MONITORING

HARVESTING

POST-HARVEST HANDLING

FACILITIES

FACILITY CLEANING & MAINTENANCE

TRACEABILITY

COOLING & STORAGE

TRANSPORTATION

ELIGIBILITY

Interested growers must reside or operate a farm in any of the participating counties and cities: Bland, Bristol, Buchanan, Carroll, Dickenson, Floyd, Galax, Grayson, Lee, Norton, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington, Wise, and Wythe. The program is intended for current and new commercial produce growers who are seeking to obtain new GAP certification, maintain, or upgrade their existing GAP certification.

By attending the required training for "Recommended Improvements for On-Farm Infrastructure," you will gain an understanding of best practices and suggestions for improvements that you can implement on your own farm. Additional resources will be made available to you.

HOW TO APPLY

If you would like to apply, please submit an application form available online or through your local Extension Office. You will receive confirmation that your application has been received and is being reviewed.

CONTACT

Please contact your local Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Agent for more details and information. You can also visit our program website to learn more about the program, apply online, or download resources.

sites.google.com/vt.edu/freshstartgrant