

OIA North America
2603 NW 13th St. #228, Gainesville, FL 32609
Ph: (352)336-5700 Fax: (866)325-8261
www.oianorth.com

December 26, 2011

To: All FARMGAP Applicants
Subject: 2012 FARMGAP Season

As the 2012 FARMGAP season kicks off in early January, many operations have questions about the renewal process and about changes to FARMGAP in 2012. This notice is both a reminder to renew your FARMGAP certification and also an overview of some changes in 2012.

Changes to FARMGAP Standards

Two changes have been made to the US FARMGAP standards in 2012 as a response to requests by stakeholders and developments within the industry. The first change is that a specific blood/bodily fluid contact provision has been added to the standards in section 6 Personal Health and Hygiene practices. Added as subsection 6.1. (I), the policy requires that FARMGAP certified farms have in place a policy *“Requiring that should product or product handling surfaces come into contact with blood or other bodily fluids, that workers shall cease work immediately and shall not resume work until the contaminated product handling surfaces are cleaned and sanitized thoroughly and the contaminated products are disposed of through the operation’s standard waste disposal process. Every effort must be made to ensure that contaminated products do not enter the food chain. “This requirement has also been added to the appropriate section of the packer standards. The second change has been to further extend the traceability and recall standards so as to require an annual mock recall to test the recall system and ensure that operations are familiar with its use.*

Both the standards and the model compliance plan have been revised to incorporate these new requirements. Operations applying for FARMGAP certification in 2012 must have plans, procedures, and practices that are compliant with the revised standards. Written compliance plans must incorporate these requirements. Two simple ways to update your compliance plan are: 1) Print out the new Section 6.1 from the 2012 revised model compliance plan, execute it, and replace just that section in your current compliance plan, or; 2) Reprint entire model compliance plan and re-execute.

The updated model compliance manuals and revised standards can be downloaded from the OIA website at www.oianorth.com. Just choose the FARMGAP tab.

Changes to Fee Structure for 2012

We expect to have some additional efficiency in conducting renewals under FARMGAP this year. Accordingly, the price of FARMGAP certification in 2012 for grower operations has been reduced to \$350 which includes the certification and inspection but not the inspection mileage. This is a large price reduction over last year’s \$500 cost, and we hope that it makes compliance that much more feasible for operations of all sizes.

OIA North America
2603 NW 13th St. #228, Gainesville, FL 32609
Ph: (352)336-5700 Fax: (866)325-8261
www.oianorth.com

Renewal Process

Don't forget to send in your renewal application and forms. To renew please send the following:

Application: You can either update your existing application or submit a new one.

Revised Compliance Manual: Don't forget to update your compliance manual to bring it in line with the changes to FARMGAP Standards as indicated in this memo.

Water Test Results: Please include the most recent water test results with your renewal application. Don't wait for test results to send in your application though---we can check them during the inspection.

Fees: Don't forget to send in your fees!

All of the application documents can be downloaded at our website at www.oianorth.com, or use the attached hardcopy versions.

Please call if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Austin

OIA North America