

CAC GAP Program Revised

New Manual Now Available



As reported in the *From The Grove* Fall 2014 issue, in August, 2014 the California Avocado Commission's Board approved a revised Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) manual that supports a grower becoming certified under the Primus Ranch audit. Since August of 2011, when the Commission launched the CAC-GAP program, the majority of audits were conducted under the United States Department of Agriculture's GAP audit. In just over three years great progress has been made with nearly 40 percent of Cali-

fornia's avocado acres now voluntarily certified. But many of the major buyers consider the USDA GAP audit "entry level" and it is not widely accepted. After numerous meetings with buyers, the Commission's GAP Committee recommended revising the manual in a handful of areas to support a grower audit under the Primus Ranch audit. This audit is broadly accepted by buyers. Key areas revised included water quality testing levels and record keeping for fertilizer and pesticide applications.

For the fourth year since the

start of the CAC-GAP program, the Commission is continuing to offer a grower rebate of up to \$300 for actual audit costs. To see the new CAC-GAP manual online or learn more about the CAC-GAP rebate go to: www.californiaavocadogrowers.com/growing/gap, or if you'd like a manual mailed, please contact the Commission office. In addition, many handlers have field representatives who can assist growers interested in becoming GAP certified. 🥑