

INFORMATION FOR Agriculture Workers in Minnesota



I am an agricultural worker. What can the Agricultural Recruitment System do for me?

- Help you find temporary jobs lasting less than one year in agriculture and food processing in other parts of the state or country
- Give you more control over your work life, with reliable information on wages, work activities, housing and transportation before you sign a work agreement

If you are working far enough from home that you cannot return to your home the same day you work, then the Agricultural Recruitment System:

- Provides no-cost or public housing for you, and potentially also your immediate family, during your work assignment
- Ensure that you will be protected by federal and state standards for health, safety, wages, and working conditions while on the job
- Guarantees wages for the first week of your scheduled employment

For help in finding work through the Agricultural Recruitment System

Contact your local CareerForce location by visiting CareerForceMN.com/locations

or
Call to speak to an Agriculture Outreach Representative in your area or State Monitor Advocate:

CareerForce Locations

Faribault: 507-333-2088

Mankato: 507-344-2622

Rochester: 507-292-5152

Willmar: 320-441-6590

Then what happens?

1. After you tell the local Agriculture Outreach Representative that you are looking for agricultural work, you will be notified when work is available.
2. You will receive summary information on wages, working conditions and other information about the work opportunity.
3. You may be interviewed by an employer who visits your area.
4. You must tell your local Agriculture Outreach Representative if you accept a work offer.
5. You must also check in with the Agriculture Outreach Representative five to nine working days before your work assignment is scheduled to begin. Unless you are told at this point by the Agriculture Outreach Representative that the start date has been changed, you are guaranteed wages for the first week of scheduled employment, even if you are not needed to work.
6. You travel to the work site. The employer may provide transportation for you and your family or the employer may agree to pay for some or all of your transportation costs.

Your Rights under the Agricultural Recruitment System

HOUSING FOR THE WORKER AND, WHEN APPLICABLE, HIS OR HER FAMILY

Employers who recruit through the ARS guarantee that no-cost or public housing will be available for workers. If it is the practice in the area, employers must also provide housing for workers' families. This housing must meet federal and state housing standards.

ACCEPTABLE WAGE AND WORKING CONDITIONS

The wages of recruited agricultural workers may not be less than the highest of (1) the prevailing wage for similar work in the area; (2) the Federal minimum wage, or (3) the applicable State minimum wage.

Working conditions cannot be less than those of similarly employed workers in the area where the jobs are located.

GUARANTEED WAGES FOR THE FIRST WEEK

Workers must check with the Agriculture Outreach Representative five to nine working days before the date work is scheduled to start. If a worker is not informed at this time that the start date has changed, the first week's wages are guaranteed, even if the worker is not needed.

If you have additional questions or comments about the Agricultural Recruitment System

Contact the State Monitor Advocate:

Lidibette Guzman

Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development
Great Northern Building, 12th Floor

180 East 5th Street, Saint Paul, MN 55101

Phone: 651-259-7592

lidibette.guzman@state.mn.us

CAREERFORCE IS HERE TO HELP YOU.

The nearly 50 CareerForce locations throughout Minnesota offer you a full range of employment services, including interest and skills assessment, career planning focused on in-demand occupations, education and training support for eligible candidates, plus assistance with work agreement or labor regulation issues.

Migrant and seasonal farmworkers may also be eligible for services under the Department of Labor's National Farmworker Jobs Program that assists farmworkers and their dependents obtain and retain agricultural or non-agricultural employment. Ask CareerForce staff if this program can help you.



CareerForceMN.com