

# Protection for Farm Workers

You should know that there are federal and state laws related to employment, which provide important protection for you.

## THESE LAWS COVER:

### Housing

Places to live that you receive as part of your job must meet certain safety and health standards. If your employer gives you a place to live and you think it is not safe or sanitary, call the nearest US Department of Labor (USDOL) Wage and Hour office and explain why you believe your housing is not safe. Their toll-free number is (866) 487-9243. You can also contact the NYS Department of Health, Bureau of Community Environmental Health and Food Protection at their toll-free number 1-800-458-1158, Ext. 27600.

### Pay

If you work on a farm, you have a right to receive a written work agreement stating the conditions of your employment in a language you understand. The information must include your rate of pay and whether you will be paid by the hour or by the piece. Your employer must follow the agreement and your pay must be at least the minimum wage (\$9.00 per hour). Contact the nearest office of the NYS Department of Labor, Division of Labor Standards at (888) 469-7365 if:

- You do not receive a written work agreement;
- You do not receive all the pay you were promised; or
- Your pay is less than minimum wage.

### Transportation

If you work for a Farm Labor Contractor who takes you to and from work, the vehicle you ride in must meet federal or state safety standards and the contractor must have vehicle insurance. If you believe the vehicle is not safe, contact the nearest USDOL Wage and Hour office. Their toll-free number is (866) 487-9243.

### Working Conditions

Federal and state laws require that workers be able to do their jobs in settings that do not threaten their health or well-being. If you think your working conditions are unsafe or unsanitary, contact the nearest USDOL Wage and Hour office. Their toll-free number is (866) 487-9243.

### Complaints

You have a right to complain to the NYS Department of Labor when:

- 1) There is a problem with an employer about a job the Labor Department sent you to; or
- 2) You feel there is something wrong with the service you received from the State Labor Department.

If your complaint is about something else, the department staff will help you find the right agency to correct the problem. Contact the NYS Department of Labor at the nearest office listed in the blue pages of your phone book, or call (888) 469-7365.