

■ SEASONAL FARM LABOR ACT (*SEASONAL FARM LABOR CAMPS*)

TERMS: The Seasonal Farm Labor Act, among other things, regulates the operation of seasonal farm labor camps in Pennsylvania. Briefly, a farm labor camp is any living quarters intended for use by workers employed seasonally or temporarily in the planting, cultivation, harvest, sorting or packing of farm crops before processing, or housing operated by an employer or farm labor contractor and occupied by 4 or more unrelated persons.

Permits — It is illegal for anyone to operate a seasonal farm labor camp, or allow such a camp to be occupied, without first obtaining a permit from the state to do so. Application for a permit must be made at least 60 days prior to occupancy. Permits are valid for one year from the beginning month of operation.

Inspection — The state enforcement agency will not issue or renew a permit until an inspection is completed and the agency finds that the camp meets the standards discussed below. The camp may also be inspected from time to time thereafter.

Minimum Standards — To provide for safe, healthful and sanitary living conditions, the state has adopted detailed standards that seasonal farm labor camps must comply with as a condition for occupancy and continued operation. Among other factors considered in determining if a housing facility meets the standards are these:

- The condition of the housing site
- The condition of the housing structures
- The adequacy of the space to accommodate the number of residents
- Lighting and electrical facilities
- The water supply
- The sewage disposal system
- Cooking and eating facilities
- Toilet facilities
- Bathing facilities
- Laundry facilities
- Sleeping accommodations
- Trash collection equipment and procedures
- Heating equipment
- Pest control equipment and measures
- Safety equipment and emergency escape facilities
- Restrictions on storage of hazardous materials

ENFORCEMENT: *Farm Labor Camp Housing Program, Bureau of Food Safety and Laboratory Services, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110 (717-787-4315).* Any seasonal farmworker or representative of seasonal farmworkers who believes a farm labor camp is in violation of the Act may request an inspection by the Department. At the request of the worker, the worker's name may be kept confidential until such time as formal enforcement proceedings, if any, are brought against the camp owner.

SPECIAL NOTE: Interference with, harassment of, eviction of, or termination of the employment of any seasonal farmworker for having filed a complaint under the Seasonal Farm Labor Act is punishable as a criminal offense.