

■ **UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION LAW**

TERMS: Every farm operator or other agricultural employer who paid cash wages of \$20,000 or more for agricultural labor during any 3-month period (calendar quarter) in the current or preceding year, or employed 10 or more farmworkers for some portion of a day in 20 different calendar weeks this year or last, must pay unemployment insurance taxes to the state. The state agency credits each worker for the amount of wages reported by the employer.

An unemployed farmworker who has accumulated the necessary wage credits from working for one or more such employers, and who meets the program's other qualifications, may be eligible for weekly unemployment benefits.

ENFORCEMENT: *Unemployment Insurance Division, South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation, Aberdeen, South Dakota 57402 (605-626-3172)*. Workers may apply for unemployment compensation by phone, at 605-626-3179, or online at www.sd.uiclaims.com.

SPECIAL NOTE: Unemployment claims filed by workers who have recent earnings from certain seasonal industries are subject to special rules which may limit the workers' eligibility for benefits, as well as the amount and duration of benefits.