

■ **EMPLOYER'S LIABILITY AND WORKERS' COMPENSATION LAW**

TERMS: A farm operator or other agricultural employer who pays \$10,000 or more in wages during the year is required to have workers' compensation insurance or have sufficient financial resources to pay compensation directly in the event of a worker's injury on the job.

A worker who performs agricultural services for such an employer and who is injured in an accident connected with the job is entitled to immediate medical care, hospital services and related supplies, as well as regular cash benefits if disability results from the injury. If the injury leads to the worker's death, benefits are payable to the worker's surviving dependents.

ENFORCEMENT: *Workers' Compensation Division, Vermont Department of Labor, Montpelier, Vermont 05601 (802-828-2286)*. A worker who is injured on the job must promptly notify the employer of the accident. In general, no claim for compensation is valid unless it is filed with the employer within 6 months after the injury or death of the worker.

SPECIAL NOTE: An employer may not fire or discriminate against a worker because the worker has filed a workers' compensation claim, and it is also illegal for an employer to refuse to hire a job applicant because the applicant has ever filed a claim. Any such act of retaliation or discrimination should be reported to the *Vermont Attorney General's Office, Montpelier, Vermont 05609 (802-828-3171)*.