



***Pine Tree Legal Assistance
Farmworker Unit: 207-942-0673
WhatsApp 207-233-2930
ptla.org***

Agricultural Workers Have Special Rights

There is a federal law called the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act. It provides special protections for agricultural workers.

The law establishes employment standards related to wages, housing, transportation, and record keeping. It also provides employers must keep promises made to you about your work.

Information an employer must give when it hires you:

If an employer or labor contractor recruits you to do seasonal agricultural work away from your home, they must give you written notice when they recruit you. The notice must say:

- Where you will work
- Your pay rate
- The work you will do, including the crop you will pick
- How long the job will last
- Whether it is offering housing, transportation and the cost

If you are a **local agricultural worker**, you also have the right to this information, but only if you **ask for it**.

The information must be provided in your language (for example, Spanish).

If you do not get this information, ask for it! The employer may not discriminate against you for asking for this information. If you do not get this information, or the employer breaks any of these promises, **contact the Farmworker Unit. of Pine Tree Legal Assistance at 207-942-0673 or at WhatsApp 207-233-2930.**



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Wage Information Required

Growers must give farmworkers a **written wage statement** – a pay stub – each time they pay you. Keep all your pay stubs in an envelope or other safe place. Your pay stubs must say:

- How much you earned
- The number of hours you worked
- Whether you were paid by the hour or “piece rate” (bushels, boxes, pound, carton, bin)
- If paid by the piece, how much you picked, pruned or thinned
- Any money taken out of your pay, like income taxes, social security taxes or loans
- The employer’s name and address

The pay statements must list and explain and deductions from your wages. While deductions for Social Security and taxes are permitted, other deductions – housing, transportation, tools – may be illegal if they lower your wages below the minimum wage.

Housing

Farmworker housing or labor camps provided by an employer or contractor must meet standards set by state and federal law. Labor camps must be inspected before you move in. Inspection certificates must be posted where you can read them.

If you are in dirty, dangerous or housing in poor condition call the Farmworker Unit.



**The Farmworker Unit provides free legal advice to farmworkers. If you have any questions, please contact us. All calls and information are confidential.
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