

[Farm Name & Address, or Letterhead]

ESSENTIAL FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYEE WORK PERMIT

March 2020

The identified farm/business hereby requests this employee be granted the right to proceed to work and the right to proceed home after work consistent with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) identification that the production and supply of food is one of 16 critical infrastructure areas providing vital service to the nation.

Food and Agriculture industries have each been designated a "Critical Infrastructure Segment" under Presidential Policy Directive 21 and Department of Homeland Security emergency readiness programs implementing the USA PATRIOT Act of 2001. 42 U.S.C. § 5195c(e). It is therefore the policy of the United States government that these industries continue to function with minimal disruption in the event of an emergency. Furthermore, in March 16th guidance, the President of the United States has instructed employees of Critical Infrastructure Industries, including the food and agriculture sector, to continue to perform their normal job functions during the coronavirus pandemic. The President's Coronavirus Guidelines for America (March 16, 2020).

As such, the individual in possession of this letter is a "critical infrastructure industry employee" of identified farm/business in the Agricultural industry sectors and should be considered exempt from any state or local restrictions such as curfews, shelter-in-place orders, and other mobility restrictions when reporting to, returning from, or performing his or her work functions. We ask that you allow this individual to continue with his or her job in the interest of protecting public health and security.

_____ [Insert Employee Name] is an employee of

_____ [Insert Farm Name/Business Name],

For verification or inquiries regarding this request, please contact the farm business above at [insert phone].

Issued by:

[CEO/Owner]

Date

The Department of Homeland Security defines Food and Agriculture workers as:

- Workers supporting groceries, pharmacies and other retail that sells food and beverage products
- Restaurant carry-out and quick serve food operations - Carry-out and delivery food employees
- Food manufacturer employees and their supplier employees—to include those employed in food processing (packers, meat processing, cheese plants, milk plants, produce, etc.) facilities; livestock, poultry, seafood slaughter facilities; pet and animal feed processing facilities; human food facilities producing by-products for animal food; beverage production facilities; and the production of food packaging
- Farm workers to include those employed in animal food, feed, and ingredient production, packaging, and distribution; manufacturing, packaging, and distribution of veterinary drugs; truck delivery and transport; farm and fishery labor needed to produce our food supply domestically
- Farm workers and support service workers to include those who field crops; commodity inspection; fuel ethanol facilities; storage facilities; and other agricultural inputs
- Employees and firms supporting food, feed, and beverage distribution, including warehouse workers, vendor-managed inventory controllers and blockchain managers
- Workers supporting the sanitation of all food manufacturing processes and operations from wholesale to retail
- Company cafeterias - in-plant cafeterias used to feed employees
- Workers in food testing labs in private industries and in institutions of higher education
- Workers essential for assistance programs and government payments
- Employees of companies engaged in the production of chemicals, medicines, vaccines, and other substances used by the food and agriculture industry, including pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, minerals, enrichments, and other agricultural production aids
- Animal agriculture workers to include those employed in veterinary health; manufacturing and distribution of animal medical materials, animal vaccines, animal drugs, feed ingredients, feed, and bedding, etc.; transportation of live animals, animal medical materials; transportation of deceased animals for disposal; raising of animals for food; animal production operations; slaughter and packing plants and associated regulatory and government workforce
- Workers who support the manufacture and distribution of forest products, including, but not limited to timber, paper, and other wood products
- Employees engaged in the manufacture and maintenance of equipment and other infrastructure necessary to agricultural production and distribution