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Migrant Labor Housing

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Welcome

Welcome to Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's (MDARD) first Migrant Labor Housing Program (MLH) Newsletter.

Our goal is to publish two issues of this newsletter on an annual basis.

Realizing the importance of adequate and safe migrant labor housing, we hope that this newsletter serves as a tool to reach out to growers and housing providers and provide housing related information related to migrant labor housing in Michigan.



Camp Operator Weekly Inspection Report

Rule 9 of Part 124, of Public Act 368, requires that migrant labor housing providers conduct weekly inspection of their housing. The Rule states that the camp owner or operator shall inspect the camp area, structures, toilets, showers, and other facilities at least once a week and ensure that each is maintained in a clean and orderly condition and that broken or damaged property is repaired. To assist growers, MDARD has created an easy to use inspection form for this purpose. The form "Camp Operator Weekly Inspection Report" is attached to this newsletter and can also be downloaded at www.michigan.gov/mlh.

A copy may also be obtained by calling your assigned area field inspector. MDARD does not require submittal of this weekly inspection report to any of its staff. However, we highly recommend that growers and housing weekly providers use and keep the completed form with other related camp documents and records.

Conducting in-season maintenance and keeping records of your efforts reduces risks of complaints and enforcement actions.



Safety & Health Tip

Fresh produce carries some risk of food-borne illness. In the United States, there are 76 million reported cases of food-borne illnesses a year. Many cases could have been prevented with proper sanitation and good work practices in the field. Safe handling of food products is crucial in preventing illness, and employers should help their workers to understand and follow the guidelines of good hygiene.

Drinking Water Supply Types and Sampling Requirements

Safe water samples for Nitrates and Total Coliform are required to be submitted to MDARD prior to issuing a migrant labor housing license. For information on how to chlorinate a well, contact a registered well driller or your MDARD housing inspector. To be considered safe for drinking, nitrate concentration must be 10 mg/l or less and Coliform Bacteria count is zero or non-detect. There are three types of drinking water supplies in Michigan:

- Type I Community Public Water Supply: provides year round service to more than 25 residents. These are also known as municipal water supplies.
- Type II Non-community Public Water Supply: serves less than 25 for at least 6 months per year.
- Type III: Anything that is not Type I or Type II. The majority of migrant labor housing camps fall under this category.

Building New or Adding to an Existing Camp

Are you planning to build a new migrant labor housing camp or planning an addition of an existing one? A plan review is required. This pre-construction plan review is free and addresses major items such as:

1. Zoning and site development
2. Water supply and sewage disposal
3. Fire and electrical safety
4. Electrical and heating
5. Design and occupancy levels
6. Egress windows and exit doors
7. Natural light and ventilation calculations
8. Facilities required for the type of camp proposed

In-Season Occupancy Inspection

This year, Migrant Labor Housing Program staff will be conducting in-season occupancy inspections with a focus on safety and public health protection. It is anticipated that safety violations such as unsafe use of electrical cords, blocking of egress windows, and over crowdedness will be reported. Growers and occupants are reminded to read the Guidelines and Rules for Camp Operators and Occupants which can be downloaded from our website at www.michigan.gov/mlh or by simply calling your area designated field inspector.

Bed Bugs

Bed bugs are small, brownish insects that feed on human blood. They are not life threatening but can impact a person's quality of life. Once infested, it is hard to get rid of them. The best defense against bed bugs is to take preventive measures against their spread. The following suggestions are recommended for homes infested with bed bugs:

- Application of pesticide by a licensed pesticides applicator. The use of non-chemical methods such as heat is also recommended.
- Repeated cleaning by a licensed pest management company.
- Don't apply pesticides to mattresses or to surfaces that would be in direct contact with a person, unless allowed by manufacturer.

**FIND US ON
THE WEB AT**

www.michigan.gov/mlh



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Occupancy of Unlicensed Camps and the Law

Occupying an unlicensed migrant housing camp carries a fine of \$1000 per day to a maximum of \$10,000. If you have not received a license to post, then your housing is not licensed. If you have 5 or more workers at the camp and you haven't been inspected, or licensed yet, you are subject to fines and penalties.