

[Farm Name & Address, or Letterhead]

**ESSENTIAL FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR WORK
PERMIT
March 2020**

The identified farm/business hereby requests this independent contractor be granted the right to proceed to work and the right to proceed home after work consistent with the Governor of Maryland's executive order on March 23, 2020, and 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.

In his executive order closing nonessential businesses, the Governor cited guidance issued on Thursday, March 20 by DHS indicating that *"If you work in a critical infrastructure industry, as defined by the Department of Homeland Security, you have a special responsibility to maintain your normal work schedule."* <https://www.cisa.gov/publication/guidance-essential-critical-infrastructure-workforce>

Agricultural labor is identified as a critical component of that food supply, and thus it is important that workers who make up an essential part of the food supply chain be allowed to remain operational.

As the state continues to implement COVID-19-related movement restrictions, it is imperative that they allow for the appropriate movement of critical infrastructure workers within and between jurisdictions.

[Insert Independent Contractor Name, and address] is an employee of [Insert Farm Name/Business Name], and requests permission to travel to and from the farm per the official state guidance issued by the Governor of Maryland and federal guidance document issued by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

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