

What Classifies a Farm Laborer?

A farm laborer is classified by the USDA as “any person (and the family of such person) who receives a substantial portion of his or her income from primary production of agricultural or aquacultural commodities or the handling of agricultural or aquacultural commodities in the unprocessed stage, or the processing of agricultural or aquacultural commodities , without respect to the source of employment, except that (A) such person shall be a citizen of the United States or a person legally admitted for permanent residence; (B) such term includes any person (and the family of such person) who is retired or disabled, but who was domestic farm labor at the time of retirement or becoming disabled.”

Below are some more specific examples of eligible farm laborer jobs, organized by the different farming stages:

1. Raising the commodity on the farm

Eligible activities include:

- Field Workers - hand work, field preparation, planting, irrigating, weeding, spraying, thinning, picking, pruning, loading, flagman, livestock caretakers, milkers
- Agricultural Equipment Operators - tractors, sprayers (including aerial sprays), harvesters, combines
- Professional Crop Services - agronomists, veterinarians, pest advisors, orchard managers

Ineligible activities include:

- Support activities - mechanics, chemical handlers, bookkeepers, farm labor contractors
- Agricultural suppliers - seed, chemical, equipment, and supply dealers
- Professional support services - bookkeepers, attorneys, financial consultants

2. Transporting the commodity after harvest

Eligible activities include:

- Harvester/combine operators
- Truck drivers transporting the commodities
- Loading and unloading commodities prior to processing

Ineligible activities include:

- Fuel dealers
- Truck mechanics
- Truck dispatchers

3. Post-harvest handling, storage, processing and packaging

Eligible activities include:

- Boxing, crating, loading and unloading produce, hulling nuts, drying grain
- Working in a post-harvest commodity storage facility

Ineligible activities include:

- Handling which constitutes marketing

4. Delivery to market or processing

Eligible activities include:

- Truck drivers, loading and unloading commodities prior to processing

- Trucking processed agricultural products (when employed by Processing Plant)

Ineligible activities include:

- Fuel dealers
- Off-farm truck mechanics
- Truck dispatchers

5. Processing or marketing

Eligible activities include:

- Processing plant workers - canneries, salad mix, creameries, frozen foods, dried fruit, slaughterhouse

Ineligible activities include:

- Grocery store workers - produce department
- Restaurant workers
- Auction yard workers
- Produce wholesalers and wholesale warehouse workers

Feel free to contact us for more information about how to qualify for this affordable housing community.

Harvest Court Apartments
5157 King Street
Williamson, NY 14589
(315) 589-2358

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov."

