

Farm Worker Housing Quiz

This quiz was developed by members of the Agricultural Workforce Development Council (AWDC) to help farm managers assess the current status of their worker housing. It also serves as a starting point to create a farmworker housing “responsibilities” document, so that all involved parties understand their roles in ensuring a safe, comfortable living environment. The statements below reflect a combination of good housing management as well as compliance with current regulations.

The AWDC is a group of agricultural organizations dedicated to the proactive promotion of positive on farm employment practices and resources, in an effort to ensure access to productive, well-trained and competitively compensated employees as a critical component to the future of New York State agriculture.

Mark your response to each statement then add up your score at the end.

		Yes	No
1.	We have an assigned person who inspects housing periodically and when an employee vacates the premises.		
2.	We have a written housing agreement signed by occupants that outlines employer and employee responsibilities.		
3.	Heating equipment is in working order and will maintain a mean temperature of 70°F during occupancy.		
4.	We provide employee training and instructions for maintaining critical aspects of the housing including hot water, wells, septic drains, heating system, lights, and fire alarms.		
5.	Interior walls, floors, and ceilings are in good condition. There are no holes in walls, cracked floors, broken or missing electrical outlet covers.		
6.	The kitchen floors, walls, ceilings, tables, shelves, and counter tops are made of cleanable materials and are maintained in a clean and sanitary condition.		
7.	A rated fire extinguisher is provided within 30 feet of all rooms containing cooking facilities.		
8.	The dwelling has smoke detection devices that are in operating order and each sleeping room has a smoke detector.		
9.	Garbage containers are provided and arrangements have been made for regular garbage removal at least once every two weeks.		
10.	Hot and cold running water is provided for hand washing, bathing and laundry. Hand washing basins are provided at a ratio of one basin to every six occupants.		
11.	At least one bathing facility is provided for every 10 occupants.		
12.	Clothes washing machines are provided and maintained with proper vents and drains. Facilities for drying clothes are provided.		
13.	We have a written set of rules for living in group housing and showing respect for each resident.		
14.	Cooking equipment is in good working order, clean and free of grease, vented and a shut-off valve is provided for gas heating appliances.		
15.	Sleeping rooms are separated from other living space with at least 50 square feet of floor space for each occupant. Sleeping rooms have windows that provide egress and ventilation.		

		Yes	No
16.	A suitable, separate bed, constructed of sturdy and comfortable material is provided to each occupant. The sleeping quarters contain adequate space for the storage of clothes and personal possessions of each occupant.		
17.	Mattresses are covered with a bedbug resistant cover.		
18.	The house is free of rodents.		
19.	All electrical wires and outlets are safe and in working order.		
20.	Windows that open to the outside in rooms used for living, dining, cooking, sleeping, bathing and toilet facilities are maintained with insect screening. Exterior door openings have insect-proof screen doors or solid doors.		
21.	Adequate food refrigeration space is provided for all residents of the housing unit.		
22.	A minimum of one toilet is provided for each 10 occupants.		
23.	Locks are provided on each window and exterior door.		
24.	The housing is free of bedbug and cockroach infestations.		
25.	Employees have free access to visitors.		

Bonus Question:

All household mechanical systems are in working order including furnace, toilets, hot water heater, etc., and are tested at least once every six months.

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How to Score the Worker Housing Management Quiz

This quiz is scored on a total of 100 points. The correct answer to each statement is “yes”.

Total “yes” answers _____ x 4 points each _____ Total points _____

SCORE

80 – 100 Congratulations! You put major emphasis on ensuring that employee housing is safe and comfortable. Continue to look for ways to do even better.

60 – 79 Identify several areas where changes are needed and make a plan for improvement.

Below 60 Take a hard look at your entire housing situation and create a prioritized long range plan for improvement.

- Resources:** NYDOH-<http://w3.health.state.ny.us/dbspace/NYCRR10.nsf/56cf2e25d626f9f785256538006c3ed7/8525652c00680c3e8525653000653ec0?OpenDocument&Highlight=0,15.2>
- OSHA-https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=STANDARDS&p_id=9791
- H-2A- <http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/retrieveECFR?gp=&SID=e49246f7d4b425e90b916ea9d4b8f3e4&mc=true&r=PART&n=pt20.3.654#pt20.3.654.e>

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