



Current NC Farmworker Housing Conditions

In 2003, approximately 107,828 migrant and seasonal farmworkers worked in North Carolina fields (64% migrant and 36% seasonal).

Housing for migrant and seasonal farmworkers is often **overcrowded and unsanitary**.

Many migrant housing units have **inadequate laundry, kitchen, and bathroom facilities**.

A 2004 Study of NC Farmworker Family Housing found that 40% of the farmworkers surveyed lived in overcrowded housing and most (63-84%) did not have washing machines or dryers.

Most farmworkers live in labor camps in isolated, rural areas that **lack telephones** making it difficult to call for assistance in the event of an emergency.

Many farmworker housing units **lack locks on doors or windows** making them susceptible to break-ins and robberies.

Since **mattresses are not required** by law, many farmworkers resort to sleeping on wooden bed frames, cardboard boxes or blankets.

All H-2A camps are inspected annually by the NC DOL before they are occupied, **whereas less than half of other farmworker housing is inspected at all**.

Recommendations to Improve The NC Migrant Housing Act

- Mattresses should be provided by growers. *Mattresses are currently NOT REQUIRED.*
- Each labor camp should have 1 telephone, and at least 1 per 10 migrant workers. *Telephones are currently NOT REQUIRED.*
- Camps should have a washer and dryer where 3 or more farmworkers live, and at least 1 per 10 workers. *1 laundry tub per 30 workers with hot and cold water is currently required.*
- 1 showerhead per 5 farmworkers should be available. *1 showerhead per 10 workers is currently required.*
- Each camp should have 1 toilet per 10 people and 1 urinal per 15 men. *1 toilet per 15 people of the same sex and 1 urinal per 25 men is currently required.*
- Farmworkers should have the right to visitors. *There is NO reference to visitors in the Act.*
- The Act should reflect the NC DOL's current practice that holds both crewleaders and growers responsible for compliance with the Migrant Housing Act. *Language is not currently in the Act.*
- NC DOL should conduct post-occupancy inspections with priority given to units whose operators have been fined or have had complaints filed against them within the last 3 years. *Post-occupancy inspections are currently conducted randomly.*

NC DOL = North Carolina Department of Labor

SAFE HOUSING ENSURES A SAFE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITY FOR ALL IN NC.

ADEQUATE HOUSING IS A HUMAN RIGHT.

SB 962

HB1180

About (FAN) Farmworker Advocacy Network

The Farmworker Advocacy Network (FAN) is a network of organizations that advocates for improvements in farmworkers' living and working conditions. FAN members include: Episcopal Farmworker Ministry, Farm Labor Organizing Committee, Farmworker Unit of Legal Aid*, National Farm Worker Ministry, NC Community Health Center Association, NC Justice Center's Immigrants Legal Assistance Project, NC Farmworkers' Project, NC Farmworker Health Program* and Student Action with Farmworkers. *Advisory Members only.

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