



South Carolina
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Hugh E. Weathers, Commissioner

NOTICE OF ESSENTIAL FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYEE

As Commissioner of Agriculture, I hereby give notice that _____, an employee of _____ (farm, business name, agricultural group or association), is an employee performing essential job functions in the area of food and agriculture. It is necessary that this employee be able to proceed to work, conduct any and all functions of his/her job in whatever setting or locale required, and to return home after work, consistent with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) identification of the production and supply of food and agriculture as one of 16 critical infrastructure areas providing a vital service to the nation. This notice is issued due to the restrictions on travel and congregation issued by various government authorities pertaining to the COVID-19 virus, such as "shelter-in-place," "stay-at-home" and similar ordinances and proclamations.

Agricultural Group Verification:

Title

Date

Organization

For verification or inquiries regarding this designation, please contact the above representative at:

Phone number

By his signature, the Commissioner of Agriculture hereby makes this designation on this the ____ day of _____, 2020.

Hugh E. Weathers, Commissioner of Agriculture

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