

# 2021 October Ag Labor Survey – Information

- **Project Code:** 956 - Labor Survey
- **Reference Periods:**
  - October 10 – 16, 2021
  - July 11 – 17, 2021
- **Questionnaires:** Mailed October 1<sup>st</sup>
- **Release:** *Farm Labor Report*, November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021
- **Purpose:** To determine the types and number of farm workers employed, and wages paid.

Farm employment and wage statistics are used by federal, state, and local government agencies, farm organizations, and employers for many purposes, including planning, recruitment and placement of workers, and policy-making. The agricultural wage rate is a component of the Parity Index and is used in the establishment of minimum wage rates for domestic and foreign agricultural workers.

## **What IS Agricultural Work:** (what should be included)?

Agricultural work includes any activity performed on a farm or ranch in connection with the production and delivery of agricultural products, up to the point of first sale. Agricultural work also includes the maintenance of buildings and machinery, bookkeeping, and supervision of employees if these activities are directly related to the production of agricultural products. However, exclude any workers if their job isn't directly related to farming, such as "value-added" workers (ex: cashiers working retail sales in a store on the farm).

## **Watch for:**

- Extreme hours per week or wages per hour. Low hours could be indicative of misreported contract labor. Leave notes verifying any unusually high values.
- Misreporting of data. Be sure the operator understands we are asking for TOTALS
- Livestock operations should have livestock workers reported.
- Workers reported as "Jack of All Trades": In these cases, try to get as much detail as possible about the exact work performed, in order for office staff to code the workers accurately
- 'Other' workers reported. HQ looks at these closely, should be very few legitimate Other workers reported.

-It might be necessary to explain the type of data we're asking for on this survey to the respondent. On larger operations the first person to answer the phone might not have the hours and wages information we need for this survey.

**Terms & Definitions:** See Chapter 2 of the Agricultural Labor Survey Interviewer's Manual for specific terms and definitions as they relate to the survey.

**Questionnaire changes:**

- The questionnaire has been changed for October 2021. Previous versions asked for the hours to be broken out as Base or Overtime. The survey now is only asking for total hours worked for the week. Similarly, instead of breaking out the wages by Base/Overtime/Bonus it is now only asking for Total Gross Wages.
- These changes reduce the length of the interviews and hopefully alleviate some confusion about terminology as well. However, if the operator mentions that employee hours or pay are different than normal because of a large amount of overtime worked or bonuses paid, it would be helpful to record that in a note for office statisticians who will be analyzing the data and looking for outliers.
- Other than the changes mentioned above, the rest of the questionnaire remains the same as it was for April 2021.