

INFORMATION FROM OFVGA, October 18, 2022:

Webinar Alert – Keeping employees safe, funding programs, and best practices

Join OMAFRA and our partners from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of the Solicitor General, and the Ontario Federation of Agriculture to learn more on a range of topics from vaccine recommendations to mental health. This session will inform the agri-food sector on how to continue keeping employees safe and well, and where to find information on funding programs, best practices for prevention, and more.

Date: Tuesday, October 25, 2022

Time: 12:00pm - 1 pm

You must register in advance. For more information on the agenda and to register, please visit omafra.gov.on.ca/webinars (after registering, you will receive Zoom details).

Questions regarding this webinar should be directed to OMAFRA at omafra.labour@ontario.ca.

Provincial Inspections from Ministry of Labour

(for users of Temp Agencies and employers of Temporary Foreign Workers)

Ontario's Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development has two inspection initiatives currently underway. One is focused on employers of Temporary Foreign Workers (e.g. SAWP and/or Ag Stream) – see details about this initiative called "Fall Harvest" - below. The other initiative is focused on farms who use local Temp Agencies. Farmers who are selected for a field visit related to temp agency use can expect a call from the Ministry prior to being visited. Farmers will be asked for information about temp agencies they use to source short-term workers. This second initiative is a collaboration by the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Finance and is part of the Ontario government's broader work on inspecting temp agencies in Ontario for their compliance with provincial employment standards.

Details about 'Fall Harvest' inspection initiative focused on farms with TFWs:

Time period

Inspections running through November 30, 2022.

What are inspectors focusing on?

The focus of the Fall Harvest inspections is to determine if:

- workers understand their rights under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* (OHSA)
- a copy of the OHSA posted
- the workplace has a health and safety policy and program
- workers have access to health and safety information in the language of the majority of employees on-site
- workers are aware of the hazards in their work and how to perform the work safely
- basic occupational health and safety awareness training has been completed for workers/supervisors ([O.Reg. 297/13](#))

WSPS resources to prepare for a possible inspection

Workplace Safety & Prevention Services (WSPS) has resources and information available, including:

- Agriculture & Horticulture resources: <https://www.wsps.ca/resource-hub/agriculture>
- Greenhouse resources: <https://www.wsps.ca/resource-hub/greenhouse-growers>
- Spanish Language Resources: <https://www.wsps.ca/resource-hub/spanish>

Support in building your health and safety program

WSPS can help you get started, provide guidance, answer questions, and review your program components. Visit the [WSPS website](#) to get in touch.

Specific resources for training temporary workers:

- Tailgate Talks: <https://wsps.news/tailgatetalk>
- New Worker Orientation: Seasonal Agricultural Workers: <https://wsps.news/seasonalorientation>
- Orientation on Health & Safety for New Agricultural Workers: <https://wsps.news/neworientation>
- Temporary Foreign Agricultural Workers – Safety Resource List: <https://wsps.news/TFAW>