



STATE of MINNESOTA

Executive Department

Governor Tim Walz

Executive Order 24-08

Amending Executive Order 21-14

I, **Tim Walz, Governor of the State of Minnesota**, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and applicable statutes, issue the following executive order:

Agriculture and food processing, and the workers employed in this industry, are critical to the success of Minnesota's economy. On March 19, 2021, I issued Executive Order 21-14, establishing the Governor's Committee on the Safety, Health, and Wellbeing of Agricultural and Food Processing Workers ("Committee"). The Committee's original purpose was to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic by coordinating resources across state government, the public sector, and the private sector before the 2021 growing and food processing season. In doing so, the Committee sought to address and improve agricultural and food processing workers' wellbeing and avoid unnecessary interruption to agricultural production.

The Committee's work revealed the continuing needs and problems of agricultural and food processing workers, particularly as the industry has evolved since the end of the COVID-19 public health emergency. Accordingly, I am issuing this Order to continue the important and collaborative work of this Committee.

For these reasons, I order as follows:

1. Paragraph 2 of Executive Order 21-14, as amended by Executive Order 23-05, is deleted and replaced with a new paragraph 2 (as indicated by underlined text):
 2. The Committee's objectives are to:
 - a. Design a proactive strategy and plan to effectively deploy public, private, and non-profit compliance resources to protect and promote the safety, health, and wellbeing of agricultural and food processing workers.
 - b. Develop a system for effective communication between state agencies, community organizations, advocacy groups, and agricultural and food processing employers and workers, including the workers' families and communities.
 - c. Provide government agencies, community organizations, advocacy groups, employer and worker organizations, employers, and workers a forum to engage, collect and analyze data and information, coordinate resources, and plan for future agricultural growing, food production, and processing seasons.
2. Paragraph 3 of Executive Order 21-14, as amended by Executive Order 23-05, is amended by the following deletion (indicated by strikethrough):
 3. ~~By December 1, 2021, provide recommendations for state policy and legislative changes to relevant state agencies, to be considered for communication to the Governor's Office for inclusion in budget and policy proposals.~~
3. Paragraph 4 of Executive Order 21-14, as amended by Executive Order 23-05, is deleted and replaced with a new paragraph 4 (as indicated by underlined text):
 4. The members of the Committee are:
 - a. The Commissioners of the following agencies or their designees:

- i. Department of Agriculture (“MDA”)
 - ii. Department of Employment and Economic Development (“DEED”)
 - iii. Department of Health (“MDH”)
 - iv. Department of Labor and Industry (“DLI”)
 - v. Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (“MHFA”)
 - vi. Department of Education (“MDE”)
- b. United Food and Commercial Workers (“UFCW”) Local 663, Director of Organizing or their designee
 - c. Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services (“SMLRS”), AWP Project Manager or their designee
 - d. Unidos MN, Executive Director or their designee
 - e. HACER, Executive Director or their designee
 - f. Minnesota Farm Bureau, President or their designee
 - g. Minnesota Farmers Union, President or their designee
4. Paragraph 8 of Executive Order 21-14, as amended by Executive Order 23-05, is amended by the following additions (indicated by underlined text) and deletions (indicated by strikethrough):
- 8. The duties of the Committee are as follows:
 - a. Meet at least ~~twice per month and more often as necessary~~ four times per year.
 - b. Identify and engage leaders, experts, practitioners, and representatives of employers and workers who can inform discussion of strategies and plans necessary to achieve the Committee’s objectives.
 - c. Direct, oversee, and implement stakeholder engagement, focusing on the engagement of agricultural and food processing workers and employers necessary to implement the Committee’s objectives.
 - d. Submit regular reports to the Governor, at frequencies determined by the Co-Chairs, that provide updates on progress toward achieving the Committee’s objectives.
 - e. ~~By August 1, 2021,~~ Submit annual written reports, in December, to the Governor setting out how the Committee’s objectives will be achieved.
 - f. Communicate recommendations within member networks, organizations, and associations.
5. Paragraph 9 of Executive Order 21-14, as amended by Executive Order 23-05, is amended by the following addition (indicated by underlined text):
- 9. MDA and DEED will provide staff and administrative support for the Committee. MDH and DLI will provide additional staffing and administrative support as necessary to assure effective coordination and communication. The Minnesota Department of Human Rights and MDE will provide technical expertise and advice to the Committee. MHFA will provide a representative to help the Committee understand the housing issues faced by agricultural and food processing workers.

This Executive Order is effective fifteen days after publication in the State Register and filing with the Secretary of State. It will remain in effect until rescinded by proper authority or until it expires in accordance with Minnesota Statutes 2023, section 4.035, subdivision 3.

A determination that any provision of this Executive Order is invalid will not affect the enforceability of any other provision of this Executive Order. Rather, the invalid provision will be modified to the extent necessary so that it is enforceable.

Signed on July 11, 2024.

Handwritten signature of Tim Walz in black ink, written in a cursive style.

Tim Walz, GOVERNOR

Filed According to Law:

Handwritten signature of Steve Simon in black ink, written in a cursive style.

Steve Simon, SECRETARY OF STATE

Filed July 11, 2024
Office of the Minnesota Secretary of
State, Steve Simon