



## State of New Jersey

### DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

HEALTH / AGRICULTURE BUILDING

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PHILIP D. MURPHY

*Governor*

SHEILA Y. OLIVER

*Lt. Governor*

DOUGLAS H. FISHER

*Secretary*

May 17, 2018

Dear Ag Community:

Attached please find a letter from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (NJDCA) to local building code enforcement officials.

When complaints about specific farm labor housing came to the attention of NJDCA, the New Jersey Department of Agriculture began a discussion with NJDCA officials regarding their concerns with farm labor housing in general.

While that discussion was ongoing, NJDA learned that the attached letter had been sent by another unit within NJDCA to all county and local building code enforcement officials. NJDA then asked for a copy of it so we could share it with the farm community.

The letter from NJDCA concerns farm-labor housing, especially any agricultural buildings that previously served other purposes but have been converted to farm-labor housing. It also emphasizes a phased-in approach to helping farms, if they need it, to come into compliance with fire code requirements over time. This was a key issue that NJDA stressed in the earlier discussions with NJDCA, to minimize impacts to farming operations.

The NJDA wants all farmers in New Jersey to be aware of the information in the attached letter and that inspections could be performed by either fire or construction officials. If you have any questions, please contact the NJDA's Division of Agricultural and Natural Resources at 609-292-5532.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "DHF 5/17" followed by a stylized initial.

Douglas H. Fisher