

### **Recommendations with Consensus and Ready to Go:**

1. Codify the AWWC Committee in MN statute so that there is a formal, and ongoing way to convene diverse stakeholders and continue to address health and safety issues for these essential workers. (Legislative)
2. Create office of an ombudsperson for the safety, health, and wellbeing of agricultural and food processing workers. This office will provide independence and will assist with centralizing functions that are housed in separate State Departments, and facilitate the navigation of issues including housing, workplace safety, and fair labor standards. (Legislative)
3. Fair Labor Standards Statutory Changes (Legislative - changes to existing statutes)
  - Strengthen each of the existing MN laws that specifically provide protections to agricultural workers and workers in the meatpacking and poultry processing industries
4. Establish a program through the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry designed to assist employers who own and provide housing for their workforce in making the housing safer and healthier. (Legislative)
5. Adopt “penalty conformity” for OSHA safety violations, so that state penalties are consistent with federal penalties. (Legislative)
6. Develop formal alliances between state agencies and worker advocacy groups to help those groups direct workers to the right state support in the moment, when they need it. (Agency Level)
7. Identify the need for additional OSHA emphasis programs within the various subsectors of the agriculture and food processing industries to increase the number of proactive inspections. (Agency Level)

### **Recommendations with Consensus that Need More Information:**

8. Develop a more aggressive procedure for temporarily shutting down employers who have repeated incidents of workplace injuries, illnesses, or deaths. (Legislative/Administrative)
9. Develop a competitive recognition program for employers that have excellent workplace safety records. (Agency Level)
10. Ensure that employers are communicating information about workplace safety, worker rights, and where to get help in all languages spoken by their employees and provide support for employers to access translated materials. (Agency Level)
11. Develop informational content for anyone with complaints or problems regarding the safety, health, and wellbeing of agricultural and food processing workers to quickly and easily connect with the appropriate jurisdictional authority. Informational content should be gathered in one central location, available in relevant languages, and updated annually. (Agency Level)
12. Strengthen housing regulations so that:
  - all housing regulations meet the highest/best standards among those currently in statute and/or rules,
  - more inspections happen on a proactive basis, and while housing is occupied – especially if there is a complaint or known issue. (Agency Level)