

How to be a Gold Star Housing Provider

Register your farm worker housing with the NC Department of Labor, Agricultural Safety & Health Bureau, at least 45 days prior to occupancy.

- Have your local health department inspect & approve your water and septic systems at least 45 days prior to occupancy.
- Have your housing 100 percent in compliance at the time of the pre-occupancy inspection. And take steps to improve your housing - go beyond the requirements! - to ensure that your housing is a Star site.

Gold Star Flag Award for Agricultural Housing & Workplace Safety



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<http://www.dol.state.nc.us/ash/goldstar.htm>

Nominations for the Flag award may be made by the grower, by another grower, or by a member of a group or organization such as one of the following: the N.C. Cooperative Extension, the Employment Security Commission, the County EHS specialist, the Agricultural Safety & Health inspector, the Farm Bureau, N.C. Growers Association.

The successful Flag candidate shall have:

- Owned or operated Gold Star Housing for a minimum of 2 years
- Knowledge and use of appropriate field sanitation
- Certification of all personnel handling pesticides
- Written or oral safety program governing: use of pesticides, Injury Prevention, Worker Training program.
- Injury and accident record below average for the industry.
- Safe, approved storage of equipment and chemicals

Prior to selection, applicant will submit request. ASH will visit the site & inspect the following:

- housing during occupancy
- general maintenance
- the OSHA 300 log for the site and for all sites contracted, if required to report safety rules, emergency procedures, and examples of safe work procedures
- a self-inspection program governing housing, field sanitation, chemical storage, and accident prevention
- written safety and health rules and a system for enforcing safety rules
- reports of employee orientation, safety-training programs
- machinery equipment repair and routine maintenance records
- pesticide training and application records
- storage and labeling of pesticides
- appropriate material safety data sheets.

Interviews may be conducted with:

- Farm employees, both full and part-time
- County extension agent
- County environmental health specialist
- Local Employment Security Commission employees (office of Rural Manpower)

The Agricultural Safety and Health Council will be presented with list of candidates, and be given a presentation listing the qualifications of each eligible candidate. This presentation may involve photographs, slides, or a "virtual visit". The Council will vote and make a recommendation to Commissioner Berry. The Commissioner will give the final decision, and present the flag to the grower eligible to fly the flag. A workplace site visit will be scheduled every other year to determine if grower is in Gold Star Flag compliance. The Commissioner will present a plaque to the grower with the year of the award noted.