



# Farm work: A guide for Working Holiday Makers

## Working on Australian farms

NATIONAL FARMERS' FEDERATION

Living and working in rural Australia can be very rewarding, creating memories that will last a lifetime. Taking these simple steps to ensure you are prepared will help make yours an experience to remember.

### What can you expect on Australian farms?

Working on Australian farms can be physically demanding, but rewarding and is an opportunity to meet lots of people and make lasting connections. Be prepared for farm work conditions. Work can be in remote areas, outside in hot or cold weather. Hours and days of work can depend on the weather and ripening of crops. Make sure that you have the right kind of clothing - enclosed shoes, protective clothes, sunscreen. Make sure that you have lots of water to drink while working.

### Get informed on working in Australia

When you start work, you should get information about Australian workplace laws and where to go for support. You can find some information [here](#):

### Play by the rules

Does your visa allow you to work in Australia? Don't put yourself in a position where you are concerned about being reported to the authorities. Play by the rules, and never work in breach of your visa. The Visa Entitlements Verification Online ([VEVO](#)) system helps you keep track of your work rights, so you don't get into trouble.

### Get organised

If you need 88 days of work for a second year visa, don't leave it to the last minute. Plan ahead, thinking about places you want to visit and the kind of work you'd be able to do. Consider whether you need any training before you start. Leaving it too late might limit your options. Make sure you get payslips and any other documents you need as evidence of your 88

days, including a signed piecework agreement if you are doing piecework.

### Travel in company

Farm work is often in rural and remote places, a long way from town. Internet connection is not guaranteed, and you might have to rely on strangers for transport or a place to stay. Travelling with a friend means you are not alone, and you have someone to call for help if you need it.

### Do your homework on locations

Before you travel long distances, try and find out as much as you can about where you are going. Do lots of other travellers go there? If so, you may need to make sure there is enough work available because you are competing with lots of others.

### Keep your documents safe

Never hand over your passport or other important documents to strangers as this could make you vulnerable. Keep your documents safe at all times.

### Never pay for work

In Australia, there are hundreds of companies who will help you find work at no cost. Being asked to pay for the promise of work is a sign that things are not all they seem.

### Transport and accommodation

Transport and accommodation are often provided with the job. Keep an eye on how much you are charged for transport and accommodation – if costs seem higher than you could organise yourself, think about sourcing your own transport or finding somewhere else to stay.

### If there is a problem?

Australia has some of the strongest workplace laws in the world and you can expect to be employed in accordance with these.

You can report any concerns of wrongdoing to:

- The Fair Work Ombudsman: 13 13 94
- A State WorkSafe Authority
- The Australian Police: 131 444 or for emergencies 000
- A relevant employee Union



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A promotional graphic for AustralianFarmers.org.au. It shows a laptop and a smartphone displaying the website and app. The text reads: 'AustralianFarmers connect | stay informed | have your say' and 'JOIN FREE AT FARMERS.ORG.AU'.

[www.farmers.org.au](http://www.farmers.org.au)

# Farm work: Checklist

## Right to work

- Do you have the right to work in Australia? Check here: [VEVO](#)
- Only do work your visa allows

## Get informed

- Get informed about Australian working conditions. Download information here: [Fair Work Information Statement](#)  
[Working safely in Australia](#)

## Get organised

- Plan ahead so you are not under pressure at the end of your visa.
- Make sure you get all the documents you need to prove your 88 days, including payslips and a signed piecework agreement in writing if you do piecework. A list of documents is [here](#).

## Do your homework

- Do you know where you are going?
- Have you checked that there will be work available?

## Keep your documents safe

- Keep your passport and other important documents safe at all times

## Never pay for work

- Ensure you aren't paying for work
- If you are asked to pay a bond (eg. for rental accommodation), [make sure it's legal](#).

## Deductions for transport and accommodation

- Are you being charged too much for transport or a place to stay?
- Are there other options?
- Can you organise it yourself?



*Working on farms can mean long hours outdoors. Sometimes, it can be very hot or very cold.*

*Be prepared. Think about where you are going – will you need a sun hat and boots? A warm jacket, gloves or raincoat?*

*Avoid alcohol and drugs, follow instructions and drink plenty of water.*

*Farm work can be a rewarding experience.*



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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