



Steven W. Troxler
Commissioner

North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

MEMO

TO: NC RETAIL GROCERIES

FROM: STEVE TROXLER, COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

RE: AGRICULTURAL WORKER BULK GROCERY PURCHASES

DATE: APRIL 9, 2020

I want to thank you for what you do every day for the citizens of North Carolina and to ask for your help. Agriculture and grocery stores of course go hand in hand. As such, I hope I can count on your collaboration as we meet head on our current challenge of serving North Carolina amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

To help facilitate the movement of groceries from the store to the workers on a farm, I would like for each farm to be able to designate one or more person(s) to do the grocery shopping for the temporary agricultural workers at that farm. This will help reduce the number of people at the store and hopefully help facilitate workers staying at home. And so, I am sending out a NOTICE OF TEMPORARY AGRICULTURAL WORKER BULK PURCHASE AUTHORIZATION that can be used by farms to allow for a more efficient movement of groceries while also aligning with the measures put in place to guard against the spread of COVID-19, such as social distancing. Having just a few designated person(s) shopping for the temporary farm worker population will prevent each worker from having to physically visit the store, thus cutting down on the potential for the spread of the virus.

The designated employee(s) will be instructed to present the authorization at the cash register at checkout in order to verify that the employee(s) is/are designated by the farm/business to purchase groceries for the other temporary agricultural workers on the farm. It will of course be necessary for this designated employee to purchase groceries in sufficient quantities given the number of individuals he/she is shopping for, which could be in excess of individual limitations put in place by a particular grocery store (example: two gallons of milk per customer). I believe this measure will go a long way in promoting individuals to stay at home, helping slow the spread of the virus, and thus keeping our farms operational. The health of our agricultural workers is of utmost importance at a time like this in order to ensure a safe and abundant food supply.

If you have any questions, please contact NCDA&CS at 919-707-3000.