

## H2A DAC Hatch Farmers Meeting AI meeting summary 1.16.24:

- The speaker discusses the exemption of permits for construction on a farm or ranch, except for electrical wiring. They also mention the need to clarify regulations with legal counsel and explore potential changes through legislation. The speaker explains that New Mexico has specific building codes written into their regulations, while other states have different approaches. On-farm housing is defined as providing housing on the property where the farm is located. Permits and inspections are required for electrical connections in on-farm housing, and OSHA standards should be followed. The discussion touches upon occupancy limits, mobile homes, and ensuring the safety of buildings and occupants. There is also a mention of engaging fire services regarding properties with H2A programs for first responder awareness. Finally, there are clarifications about what constitutes an on-farm operation based on ownership and usage of land.
- BOCC seeks clarification on the requirements for housing on farmland and contacting OSHA for inspections. They discuss the need to ensure proper permitting and correct addresses for mobile homes. The county still has a role in inspecting electrical permits and mooring. BOCC emphasizes the importance of understanding different standards for housing units owned by independent contractors versus those on farming premises. They request finalized guidance documents from Sean that outline requirements, both state/local and OSHA-related. There is confusion about the distribution of these guidelines, but they will be made available on the county website. BOCC wants clear communication to avoid misunderstandings and stormy interactions with farmers. The issue of square footage allowance per inhabitant is debated, with OSHA having different requirements than state/county regulations for off-premises housing units. Occupancy regulations are directed at Dioca, not OSHA or the county. In the future, it is suggested that workers be housed within farm operations to meet higher occupancy needs while complying with OSHA requirements.
- BOCC clarifies that the county adopts building regulations from the state. The county does not want to blame the state for any issues. They adopt changes made by the state over the years. If there are specific regulations desired, they would need to go through a legislative process. It may not happen in this session but starting conversations now could lead to potential opportunities in 2025. The timeline for inspections and permits is typically three days, although it can vary depending on circumstances.
- Sean or the speaker and BOCC are available for any questions. The BOCC encourages providing a list of members and their locations to help emergency vehicles respond effectively. They express the need to know occupancy loads and who is engaged in the business. The distribution process is unclear, but they want to ensure that information about occupancy reaches all members. They discuss encouraging and supporting Travis, with no further topics mentioned. Commissioner Shelljo may not be present anymore, and everyone thanks each other at the end of the conversation.

### Action items:

- From the transcript, there are several tangible action items that can be identified. Here they are, grouped by responsible person:
- Sean (2632 807 0860):
- Update the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the h2a housing program and disseminate it to the relevant parties.
- Modify the document that CM. Macias mentioned to include clarification on the requirements for off-farm operations.
- Schedule inspections for on-farm operations and ensure that the necessary permits and inspections are completed.
- Provide a list of on-farm operations to the fire department to aid in emergency response.

### Travis:

- Communicate with the members and operations to ensure they understand the importance of obtaining permits and not occupying buildings without them.
- Collect and provide a list of the members and their operations to aid in emergency response.

### Ben:

- Distribute the updated SOP and any other relevant documents to the appropriate parties.
- It is important for Sean, Travis, and Ben to collaborate and ensure that the necessary information is disseminated effectively to the relevant individuals and organizations involved in the h2a housing program.
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