

MEDIA ADVISORY

For scheduling purposes only

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PUBLIC HEARING

Each year the Wisconsin Council on Migrant Labor, a legislative statutory council, holds its annual public hearing. **The hearing will take place:**

When: Sunday, August 7, 2016

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Place: Lakeview Park

**West Burnett Street and Mary Street
Beaver Dam, WI**

The Council is comprised of both republican and democratic legislators, The Department of Workforce Development, Job Service and other state government agencies, state migrant farmworker advocacy organizations, agricultural employers and private citizens.

The purpose of the public hearing is to take testimony from the migrant farmworkers that travel from other states to work in Wisconsin, agricultural industry employers, advocacy agencies, the general public, health organizations, and others with an interest in the state's agricultural workforce.

Every year 3,000 to 4,000 individuals and families migrate to Wisconsin to supplement the agricultural workforce, food processing, meat packing, tobacco, lawn care, and other industries. "Migrant workers are vital to Wisconsin's workforce and the economy," says Lupe Martinez, President and CEO, UMOs, and interim chairman of the Council.

The public hearing will take place on the same day and location as the UMOs Annual Farmworker Appreciation Day Picnic. Three to four-hundred farmworkers and families are expected to attend from noon until 5:00 p.m. Food, informational booths, children's games, entertainment and music will be provided free of charge. Much of the food is donated from area farmers that employ the migrants.

Crops harvested by migrants include apples, cabbage, carrots, cherries, corn, cucumbers, onions, peppers, and potatoes.

UMOS operates the statewide, federally funded National Farmworker Jobs Program. “The purpose of the program is to enable migrant farmworkers to help themselves improve their economic wellbeing, their education, their health, and housing so they may better realize their potential,” says Martinez.

For more information on the UMOS Farmworker Appreciation Day, call 414-389-6203 or 920-966-1105.

UMOS is a non-profit, advocacy organization that provides programs and services which improves the employment, educational, health, and housing opportunities for under-served populations.