

MEDIA ADVISORY

For scheduling purposes only

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UMOS FARMWORKER APPRECIATION DAY PICNIC AND PUBLIC HEARING

When: Sunday, August 5, 2018

**Time: 11:00 a.m.-12 p.m. (Public Hearing)
12:00 p.m. -5 p.m.**

**Place: UMOs Montello Housing Head Start Center
N2898 State Road 22
Montello, WI**

UMOS operates the statewide, federally-funded National Farmworker Jobs Program. “The purpose of the program is to enable farm workers to help themselves improve their economic wellbeing, their education, working skills, their health, and housing so they may better realize their potential,” says Lupe Martinez, President and Chief Executive Officer, UMOs.

UMOS also operates the state-wide Migrant Head Start and Migrant Day Care to allow farmworker parents the piece of mind that their children are provided with quality education, healthy meals, a bi-lingual speaking environment and overall health, vision and hearing screenings and check-ups.

“Farm workers are vital to Wisconsin’s workforce and the state’s agricultural economy,” says Martinez, and this Farmworker Appreciation Day Picnic is our way of showing appreciation for the hard work farmworkers do in helping to put food on our tables.”

Two to three-hundred farmworkers and families are expected to attend. Food, informational resources booths, children’s games, entertainment and music will be provided free of charge. Much of the food is donated by area farmers.

Public Hearing

Each year the **Wisconsin Council on Migrant Labor**, a legislative statutory council, holds its annual public hearing. **The hearing will take place from 11:00 am-noon at the UMOS Montello Center.**

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

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

After the public hearing, the Council members and other guests will take a tour of the UMOS Montello Housing Center and the UMOS Migrant Head Start facility.

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