



APPLE PICKERS RETURN TO WORK!

Apple pickers have ended their strike after five weeks. Having negotiated a wage increase, striking apple pickers returned to their jobs on September 19, 2000.

Workers negotiated an agreement that includes

- a reinstatement of the piece rate system they sought;
- written disclosure on the wages they would receive;
- a clause prohibiting gender and age discrimination.

This marks the first time in Washington State history that farm workers were able to return to work after being out on strike for a prolonged time without being fired from their jobs.

Thanks to all who have supported the apple pickers in their struggle!

Please celebrate the apple pickers' victory and continue to show your solidarity in the following ways:

❖ **Attend a press conference to announce the workers' success.**

Thursday, September 21st

Noon

Pike Place Market (First Avenue and Pike Street), Seattle

❖ **Attend a breakfast concert featuring music by Francisco Herrera**

Friday, September 22nd

8:00 am

Labor Temple (2800 First Avenue between Clay and Broad Streets), Seattle

Donation: \$10 or more. RSVP to Michael Ramos at 206-625-9790. Proceeds to benefit striker relief fund.

❖ **Make a donation to the strikers' relief fund.**

Apple pickers still need financial assistance to cover bills that they accumulated while on strike. Make checks payable to United Farm Workers and mail to the Sunnyside office. Please note that donations are not tax-deductible.

For more information, please contact the

United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO

P.O. Box 1056

Sunnyside, WA 98944

509-839-4903

206-956-0494 ext. 12

UFW Seattle Solidarity Committee

206-789-1223

farmworker_solidarity@yahoo.com



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afl-cio

FLAT TOP RANCH, LLC WORKER INFORMATION NOTICE HARVEST 2000

1. **Place of Employment:** Employees may be assigned to any of the five orchards operated by Flat Top Ranch, LLC. Assignments are made in the sole discretion of the employer. The five orchards operated by Flat Top are the following:
 - A. Fishhook (FT), 2521 Fishhook Park Road, Prescott, WA 99348
 - B. Burbank (BB), 706 Ivarson Road, Burbank, WA 99348
 - C. Burbank Heights (BBH), 440 Flat Top Road, Burbank, WA 99323
 - D. Dogwood (DW), 3490 Dogwood Road, Pasco, WA 99301
 - E. Westbank (WB), 6760 Pasco-Kahlotus Road, Pasco, WA 99301
2. **Period of Employment:** The harvest period generally begins in about July and lasts approximately through November of each year. The first and last days of harvest are always subject to change in light of market, weather and crop conditions. No worker is guaranteed employment through the entire harvest, and continued employment is dependent upon the crop, weather, market, and the skill, effort and dependability of the employee.
3. **Wage Rates to be Paid for 2000 harvest :**
 - A. For crew leaders there is a \$9.00 per hour rate;
 - B. For tractor drivers there is an \$8.00 per hour rate;
 - C. For irrigators there is an \$8.00 hourly rate;
 - D. For pruners, bin-rollers, and other general laborers there is a rate of \$6.50 per hour.
 - E. For all pickers the rate varies depending upon the classification of product.
 - 1) For Early Golds, the rate for pickers is \$6.50 per hour.
 - 2) For Golden Delicious, the rate for pickers is \$13.00 per bin at (BBH), and \$14.00 per bin at (FT).
 - 3) Firm Golds, the rate for pickers is \$14.00 per bin.
 - 4) Ginger Golds, the rate for pickers is \$6.50 per hour.
 - 5) Gala, the rate for pickers is \$6.50 per hour.
 - 6) Reds, the rate for pickers is \$10.00 per bin at (BB and BBH), and \$11.00 per bin at (FT).
 - 7) Braeburns, the rate for pickers is \$16.00 per bin.
 - 8) Fujis, the rate for pickers is \$18.00 per bin.
 - 9) Grammys, pickers are compensated at \$16.00 per bin (FT), and \$6.50 per hour at (WB).
 - 10) Checkers and toppers are paid at \$6.75 per hour.
4. **Crops and kinds of activities:** An employee will be assigned work suited to his or her abilities, and according to the needs of the employer. Employment may include: picking, loading and hauling, cutting, hoeing, pruning, and maintaining apples for the farm. Employees may occasionally be assigned by the company to perform other work involved in the maintenance of the farming property.

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5. **Transportation:** No transportation is provided by, or on behalf of, the employer, and all workers are responsible for obtaining their own transportation.
6. **Workers compensation Insurance Provided:** There is workers' compensation provided through the Washington State Industrial Insurance Fund.
7. **Unemployment Compensation Insurance Provided:** The unemployment compensation is provided under Washington State law.
8. **Other Benefits:** There are no other benefits.
9. **Housing** will not be provided for workers.
10. **Work Termination:** Your employment may be terminated upon the expiration of harvest, or earlier if market conditions, weather, crop quality/size, or work performance so require.
11. **Strikes, Work Stoppage, Slowdowns or Interruptions of Operation by Employees at the Place Where the Workers will be Employed:** There is currently a strike and protest being conducted by employees at the orchard. The strike, or work stoppage, began on August 15, 2000, as is based upon the payment of hourly wages at the start of harvest.
12. We have no arrangements with other establishments, or their agents, for the payment of a commission or other benefit resulting from any sales made by such establishments to our workers.
13. Flat Top Ranch, LLC, does not discriminate on the basis of age or gender. The only criteria we use in hiring or assigning workers is experience, ability, and work performance of the employee.
14. This notice does not constitute an offer or guarantee of employment. To confirm whether a position will be available to you, you must make a personal appearance and contact the corporate office on Fishhook Park Road.
16. The undersigned applicant acknowledges reading the foregoing or having someone read it to him or her and agrees to the provisions listed herein.

Applicant