



Human Resources Legal Fact Sheet: Vermont

Updated June 2021

Disclaimer: This factsheet summarizes state laws and regulations on a variety of human resource issues for dairy farms, including wages, paystubs, deductions, child labor, and more. It is not intended to provide legal advice. The factsheet is simply an overview of select issues with a high-level explanation of key requirements for each one, with links to more information and resources throughout the document. This factsheet does not include all legal requirements for dairies. It was created in June 2021, and while it will be periodically updated, it may not reflect the current state of the law on every topic covered. Dairies should also review the federal factsheet because employers—depending on size—may be required to comply with some or all of the applicable federal laws and regulations as well. Additionally, employers should review the provisions of their collective bargaining agreement(s). By using this factsheet you understand that there is no attorney-client relationship between you and the attorneys who were involved in developing the factsheet. This factsheet should not be used as a substitute for competent legal advice from a licensed attorney.

Are there Vermont state laws for dairy farms about the following?

Hiring

Topic	Answer	Summary
Pay Notice	NO	Vermont law does not address any notice of payday or pay rate for new hires.
Reporting ¹	YES	New hires and rehires must be reported to the Department of Labor within 10 days.

Wages

Topic	Answer	Summary
Paydays ²	YES	Employees must be paid weekly. However, with a written notice to its employees, an employer can issue paychecks on a bi-weekly or semi-monthly basis. The payday can be no more than six days after the last day of the pay period.
Final Pay ³	YES	An employee who quits or resigns must be paid on the last regular payday, or if there is no regular payday, on the following Friday. An employee who is discharged (fired, or otherwise terminated) from employment must be paid within 72 hours of the discharge.
Overtime ⁴	NO	Vermont overtime requirements do not apply to agricultural workers; federal rules may apply. Employers are encouraged to review the federal factsheet.
Minimum Wage ⁵	NO	Vermont minimum wage law does not apply to agricultural workers; federal rules may apply. Employers are encouraged to review the federal factsheet.
Hours Worked	NO	Vermont law does not explicitly address the definition of ‘hours worked’ for the purpose of calculating compensable time. Employers should follow federal laws summarized in the federal factsheet.
Reporting Time Pay	NO	Vermont law does not require reporting time pay, i.e. an employee is only required to be paid for actual hours worked.
Pay Stub ⁶	NO	Agricultural workers are exempt from Vermont pay stub/statement requirements, which fall under the minimum wage rules.
Taxes and Withholding ⁷	YES	Employers are required to withhold Vermont income tax if they are also required to withhold federal income tax. You must give your employees a statement of taxes withheld, like a federal Form W-2, 1099-MISC or 1099-R. Employers must pay Vermont Unemployment Insurance taxes if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You paid cash wages to farm workers of \$20,000 or more in a quarter in the current or prior calendar year; OR,



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You employed ten or more farm workers for some part of a day in 20 or more weeks of the current or prior calendar year. <p>Certain family employment is excluded from coverage requirements (a person employed by their son, daughter, or spouse, or, a minor employed by a parent). Unemployment taxes are paid by the employer; they are not taken out of employee pay. You can credit the amount you pay to Vermont in calculating how much you owe for federal unemployment taxes.</p>
Deductions ⁸	YES / NO	Deductions required by law or courts (for ex. tax withholdings) generally do not require written authorization from the employee. Vermont laws on deductions are found in the minimum wage law, from which agriculture workers are exempt. So employers should look to federal rules instead; refer to the federal factsheet.
Bonuses ⁹	YES	<p>Under Vermont wage law, the definition of wages includes incentive pay. Generally, discretionary bonuses are not to be considered wages, while nondiscretionary bonuses may be considered wages and protected under wage law.</p> <p>A nondiscretionary bonus is one where the amount and criteria for getting the bonus are announced in advance. For example, performance goals (like meeting somatic cell count goals) that workers know about in advance. Discretionary bonuses are ones that are not announced in advance, not expected by the employee, and not an incentive for the employee. For example, when the farm reaches a certain financial goal and decides to give all employees a bonus.</p> <p>Employers should follow any written policy they have about paying bonuses as a best practice. Please see the Summary of Vermont Wage and Hour Laws for information regarding bonuses.</p>

Recordkeeping

Topic	Answer	Summary
Payroll ¹⁰	YES / NO	Vermont wage law only addresses explicit payroll recordkeeping requirements for employees covered under Vermont minimum wage law, from which agricultural workers are exempt. However, payroll records are required as part of other laws (for example, Unemployment Insurance below).
Personnel File Access	NO	Vermont law does not require private employers to let employees view their personnel file. That said, there are rules regarding the production of employee personnel records in civil litigation.
Unemployment Insurance ¹¹	YES	<p>Employers subject to contributions must submit quarterly wage reports.</p> <p>Whether or not subject to paying Unemployment Insurance taxes, every employer in Vermont must maintain accurate employment records for at least four years that include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> For each pay period: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The date and total amount of compensation paid for subject employment; The date and total amount of compensation paid for non-subject employment;



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- c. The beginning and ending dates of each pay period;
 - d. The beginning and ending dates of such subject employment and such non-subject employment.
2. For each worker:
- a. Name, address, and social security account number;
 - b. Place of employment;
 - c. Hourly rate of pay or salary amount and the frequency of payment;
 - d. Date on which worker was hired, or returned to work after a temporary layoff, and date separated from work and reason for separation;
 - e. The actual days worker performed services in employment each week and the actual number of hours worker performed services in employment each day;
 - f. Total compensation paid in each quarter;
 - g. Worker's compensation paid for each pay period showing separately:
 - i. Money payments (excluding special pay.)
 - ii. Special compensation of all kinds showing separately:
 1. Money payments;
 2. Reasonable cash value of payments in any medium other than money;
 3. The nature of such special pay; and
 4. The period or periods during which the services were performed for which the employee received special pay.
 - iii. The reasonable cash value of remuneration paid by the employing unit in any medium other than cash, i.e. lodging, room and board, etc.).
 - iv. The amount of gratuities received from persons other than his or her employing unit and reported by the worker to his or her employing unit.
 - v. Amount paid worker as allowances or reimbursements for traveling or other business expenses, dates of payment, and the amounts of such payments actually incurred and accounted for by worker.

The records must also make it possible to determine wages earned for any week of employment, whether that week was less than full time, and time lost (if any) by each worker and the reason for it.

The records must be open to inspection and subject to being copied by the Vermont Department of Labor at any reasonable time and as often as may be necessary.

Employers must also make available upon request the following records and documents:



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		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Check stubs and cancelled checks for all payments; 2. Cash receipts and disbursement records; 3. Payroll journal and time cards; 4. General journal and general ledger; 5. Copies of tax reports filed with all federal and state agencies; 6. Copies of IRS forms W-2, W-3, and 1099. <p>More information about employer obligations are found in the Employer Handbook.</p>
Workers' Compensation ¹²	YES	Every employer subject to workers compensation coverage must keep a record of all injuries, fatal or otherwise, sustained by his or her employees in the course of their employment.
OSHA	YES	Employers must comply with the federal OSHA recordkeeping standard adopted by VOSHA. See the federal factsheet for details.
Federal	YES	There are numerous federal rules about recordkeeping. Employers should review the federal factsheet.

Working Conditions

Topic	Answer	Summary
Bathrooms ¹³	YES	Vermont has incorporated the federal Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (PMO). The PMO specifies that dairy farms have one or more toilets that are conveniently located, properly constructed, properly operated, and maintained in a sanitary manner.
Working Hours	NO	No max hour or day requirements for adults. See Child Labor (below) for maximum hours for minors.
Rest and Meal Breaks ¹⁴	YES	Must provide an employee with reasonable opportunities during work periods to eat and to use toilet facilities. Employers that provide rest and meal breaks must follow the applicable federal rules. Refer to federal fact sheet.
Labor Relations	NO	Vermont law does not address the rights of farm workers to organize/collective bargaining.
Whistleblower Protection ¹⁵	YES / NO	Vermont law does not provide a general protection for private sector employees outside of health care setting in whistleblower cases. However, topic-specific laws (like wage discrimination, wage laws, etc.) may protect employees that report unlawful practices. And specific employee disclosures (for example, OSHA-related violations) are protected from retaliation.
Paid Vacation or Sick Leave ¹⁶	YES	Vermont law requires all employers to provide paid sick leave, with various rules for accrual and use. Certain employees are exempt from the sick time law, such as seasonal employees employed by an employer for 20 weeks or fewer in a 12-month period, minors under the age of 18, and employees who work for an average of less than 18 hours per week. Employees accrue one hour of earned sick time for every 52 hours worked, subject to certain caps. See detailed information from the Vermont Department of Labor . Employers who choose to provide other fringe benefits must follow their written policy/contract.
Breaks for Nursing Mothers ¹⁷	YES	For three years after the birth of a child, an employer must provide reasonable time (paid or unpaid) throughout the day for the employee to express milk. Employers must make reasonable accommodations to provide a private space that is not a



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		<p>bathroom stall. Employers can apply for an exemption if it would substantially disrupt operations.</p> <p>It is illegal to retaliate or discriminate against an employee who exercises their rights as above.</p>
<p>Pregnancy Accommodations¹⁸</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>An employee with a pregnancy-related condition (whether or not considered to have a disability) has a right to reasonable accommodations in the workplace to perform her job. A pregnancy-related condition is one caused by pregnancy, childbirth, or a medical condition related to pregnancy or childbirth. The law applies to all Vermont workplaces and all pregnant employees.</p> <p>Employees must request accommodations. Employers can decline a request for accommodation if it would constitute an undue hardship (significantly difficult, unduly expensive, or unworkable to put into place), but cannot ignore a request, retaliate against an employee, or fire the employee for making the request.</p> <p>For leave, see 'Family and Medical Leave' below.</p>
<p>Family, Parental, and Pregnancy Leave¹⁹</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>Employers with 10 or more employees who work on average at least 30 hours per week each year must provide parental leave.</p> <p>Employers with 15 or more employees who work on average at least 30 hours per week each year must provide family leave.</p> <p>To be eligible for parental leave or family leave, the employee must have worked for the employer for at least one year and work at least 30 hours per week on average.</p> <p>An employee must provide reasonable written notice of intent to take leave. Leave can be for a period of up to 12 weeks during any 12-month period. Family leave can be taken for the serious illness of the employee; the employee's child, stepchild, or ward who lives with the employee, or foster child; the employee's parent; the employee's spouse; or the employee's spouse's parent. Parental leave can be taken for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The birth of the employee's child. • The initial placement of a child who is 16 years old or younger with the employee for adoption. <p>When returning from leave under this law, the employee must be offered the same or comparable job at the same level of compensation, benefits, seniority, or other terms and conditions existing on the day leave began (though there are some exceptions).</p> <p>Short-term family leave can also be taken under this law, to a maximum of 4 hours in any 30-day period, and up to 24 hours in any 12-month period. Short-term family leave can be to:</p>



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend to/accompany a child, stepchild, foster child, ward, parent, spouse, or parent-in-law to routine medical or dental appointments Accompany a parent, spouse, or parent-in-law to other appointments for care and well-being Respond to a medical emergency involving a child, stepchild, foster child, parent, spouse, or parent-in-law To participate in preschool or school activities directly related to the academic educational advancement of the employee's child, stepchild, foster child, or ward, like a parent-teacher conference. <p>Vermont has a guide online to help answer common questions. Leave may run concurrent with leave under the federal Family Medical Leave Act.</p>
Jury Duty and Witness Leave ²⁰	YES	Employers cannot terminate an employee for jury service, or otherwise discriminate against them compared to an employee not serving as a juror. Employees are considered in the service of their employer while serving as jurors for the purposes of determining seniority, fringe benefits, credit toward vacations, and other rights, privileges, and benefits of employment. An employer is not required to pay an employee for time spent responding to a jury summons or serving on a jury.
Crime Victim Leave ²¹	YES	Employers cannot terminate or discipline an employee who is a crime victim, victim's family member, or victim's representative for honoring a subpoena to testify. Additionally, employers cannot discharge or discriminate against an employee for an absence from work to serve as a witness pursuant to a summons that has been issued and served, or to attend a deposition or court proceeding related to a criminal proceeding or certain hearings where the employee is the plaintiff.
Military and Military Spouse Leave ²²	YES	Employees have leave and reinstatement rights when serving in the Reserve Components of the U.S. Armed Forces, of the Ready Reserve, or in a unit of the Vermont National Guard, or the National Guard of another state. Upon request, they are entitled to leaves of absence for a total of 15 days in a calendar year to attend drills, training, or other temporary duty. Any absence for military training or State active duty shall not affect the employee's right to receive normal vacation, sick leave, bonus, advancement, and other advantages of employment normally to be anticipated in the employee's particular position. There are additional federal laws that apply; refer to the federal factsheet.
Voting Leave ²³	NO	Vermont does not have a law requiring voting leave, but it is good practice to ensure employees have at least two hours on voting day to go to the polls. However, Vermont does require employers to permit an employee unpaid leave to attend an annual town meeting and to perform official duties in the Vermont General Assembly (the employee must be a member of the Vermont General Assembly and the law only applies to employers with 6 or more employees).
School Activity Leave	YES	See 'Family and Medical' leave above.



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Employment Discrimination ²⁴	YES	<p>Vermont law prohibits employment discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, ancestry, place of birth, age, credit history, crime victim status, HIV status, physical or mental condition, and pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical condition.</p> <p>Employment discrimination means bias in hiring (including during interviews), promotion, job assignments, firing, pay, and other terms of employment.</p> <p>Employers cannot pay men and women different wages for comparable work on jobs that have virtually the same requirements in terms of skills, effort, and responsibility. Wage differences based on seniority, merit, quantity or quality of production or other factors other than sex are permitted. An employer cannot ask for or seek information regarding prospective worker’s current or past compensation, but can inquire as to salary expectations or requirements.</p> <p>It is illegal to retaliate against employees for filing or otherwise aiding with a complaint.</p>
Harassment / Sexual Harassment ²⁵	YES	<p>All employers, employment agencies, and labor organizations have an obligation to ensure a workplace free of sexual harassment. Sexual harassment is a type of discrimination based on sex that is illegal in Vermont. Employers must also have a workplace policy against sexual harassment, post the policy in the workplace, and provide a written copy of the policy to all employees.</p> <p>Sexual harassment is unwelcome conduct. It becomes illegal when (1) employees have no choice but to tolerate the harassment if they want to keep their job; (2) it is so severe that a regular person would see it as intimidating, hostile, or abusive.</p> <p>Sexual harassment includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaging in such conduct is made an implicit or explicit term or condition of employment. Example: A newly hired milker is told that sexual jokes, touching and nude posters are just part of farm life and she should try to ignore it. • Acceptance or rejection of such conduct is used as the basis for an employment decision affecting an employee. Example: A manager tells a worker applying for a promotion that the job would be his if he just “treated her right.” • The conduct interferes with an employee's work or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment. Example: One worker experiences repeated advances from another asking her for dates or “just to go out for drinks after work.” The worker says she isn’t interested, but the co-worker won’t take ‘no’ for an answer.



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		It is illegal to retaliate against employees for filing or otherwise aiding with a complaint.
Forced Labor ²⁶	YES	Human trafficking is illegal in Vermont. Trafficking for labor means: the recruitment, enticing, harboring, transportation, provisioning, compelling or obtaining by any means of a person for labor for subjection to forced labor servitude or forced services. More details. Employers should ensure they are carefully following all visa requirements or work agreements to avoid any inadvertent violations.

Child Labor

Topic	Answer	Summary
Child Labor ²⁷	YES	Work permits required if under 16 AND employed during school hours in other than a duly approved educational or vocational course of study. Minimum age: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During school hours: 16 • Outside school hours: 14, 12 with written parental consent • Minors employed in agriculture by a parent or guardian do not have to adhere to the minimum age requirements There are restricted and prohibited occupations for youth workers in agriculture. Additionally, must follow federal restrictions/prohibited occupations for agricultural work and other federal rules found in the federal factsheet.

Health and Safety

Topic	Answer	Summary
OSHA ²⁹	YES	Vermont has an approved OSHA 'state-plan' , which means it is at least as effective as federal OSHA. Similar to federal OSHA, VOSHA has a general duty clause that requires employers to provide employees a workplace free from recognized hazards that can cause death or serious physical harm. VOSHA has adopted the federal OSHA Standards for Agriculture, the General Industry Standards that apply to agriculture, and the reporting/recordkeeping requirements. See the federal factsheet for details on requirements
Workers Compensation ²⁸	YES	Agriculture employers must have workers compensation coverage if they have an aggregate payroll greater than \$10,000 in a calendar year. Coverage is optional for family members that live with you.



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		<p>Employers must report a work injury that results in either medical attention or one lost day of work or more within 72 hours of notice or knowledge of an injury. This is done by filing an Employer's First Report of Injury form. In addition to the FROI form, employers must notify the Division within 24 hours of any fatality or an accident in which three or more employees are injured.</p> <p>Vermont Workers' Compensation law requires a covered employer to reinstate an injured/disabled employees if they recover from the injury within two years of being disabled to the first available suitable position.</p>
Housing	YES	<p>Housing provided as a benefit of farm employment must adhere to the Vermont Rental Housing Health Code. Employers may be entitled to an expedited eviction process when employment is terminated.</p> <p>Employers should follow best practices when providing housing – which includes, at minimum, a written housing agreement and properly maintaining the facilities. The FARM HR Manual has guidance around best practices for agricultural worker housing.</p>

¹ Vt. Stat. Ann. Tit. 33, §4110

² Vt. Stat. Ann. Tit. 21, §342

³ Vt. Stat. Ann. Tit. 21, §342

⁴ Vt. Stat. Ann. Tit. 21, §383

⁵ Vt. Stat. Ann. Tit. 21, §383

⁶ CVR 24-090-003

⁷ Vt. Stat. Ann. Tit. 32, §5841; Vt. Stat. Ann. Tit. 21, §1301

⁸ Vt. Stat. Ann. Tit 21, § 383 and 384(c); CVR 24-090-003

⁹ Vt. Stat. Ann. Tit. 21, §341

¹⁰ Vt. Stat. Ann. Tit. 21, §393

¹¹ Vt. Stat. Ann. Tit. 21, §1314; CVR 24-005-001. Rule 4, Rule 6

¹² Vt. Stat. Ann. Tit. 21, §701

¹³ Vt. Stat. Ann. Tit. 6, §2701

¹⁴ Vt. Stat. Ann. Tit. 21, §304

¹⁵ Vt. Stat. Ann. Tit. 21, §507

¹⁶ Vt. Stat. Ann. Tit. 21, §481 *et seq.*; CVR 13-005-003

¹⁷ Vt. Stat. Ann. Tit. 21, §305

¹⁸ Vt. Stat. Ann. Tit. 21 §495k

¹⁹ Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 21, § 471 *et seq.*

²⁰ Vt. Stat. Ann. Tit. 21, §499

²¹ Vt. Stat. Ann. Tit. 13, §5313, Vt. Stat. Ann. Tit. 21, §499, Vt. Stat. Ann. Tit. 21, §472c.

²² Vt. Stat. Ann. Tit. 21, §491, §492, §493

²³ Vt. Stat. Ann. Tit. 21, §472b, §496

²⁴ Vt. Stat. Ann. Tit. 21, §495 *et seq.* (incl. §495m); Vt. Stat. Ann. Tit 18, §9333

²⁵ See above; and Vt. Stat. Ann. Tit. 21, §495d; §495h

²⁶ Vt. Stat. Ann. Tit. 13, §2652 *et seq.*

²⁷ Vt. Stat. Ann. Tit. 21, §431; CVR 24-010-009 Part A 570.2(b), Part C 570.35, Part E 570.50, Part E-1.

²⁸ CVR 24-010-003, Rule 3; Vt. Stat. Ann. Tit. 21, §643(b)

²⁹ Vt. Stat. Ann. Tit. 21, §223; CVR 24-050-039

³⁰ CVR 13-140-031; Vt. Stat. Ann. Tit. 9, § 4469a