



# Hiring Youth Labor on Your Farm

*By Peggy Murray, Farm Business Management Educator*

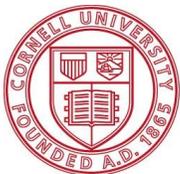
School is almost out and with that, high school students are out looking for a summer job. I always get questions on who can work on a farm, what are they allowed to do, and how much do I have to pay them? Below are some guidelines to help you.

- Twelve and 13-year-olds are only allowed to work on their parents' or grandparents' farm.
- Fourteen and 15-year-olds need working papers (these are available at the student's school) and have limitations on what they are allowed to do. They are **not** allowed to:
  - ◊ Operate a tractor of more than 20 PTO horsepower or connecting an implement or any of its parts to and from such a tractor
  - ◊ Operate or assisting to operate (including starting, stopping adjusting, feeding, or any other activity involving physical contact associated with the operation) any of the following machines: corn picker, grain combine, hay baler, feed grinder, forage blower, auger conveyer, or the unloading mechanism of a nongravity-type self-unloading wagon or trailer, or non-walking rotary tiller.
  - ◊ Work in a yard, pen, or stall occupied by a bull, boar, or stud horse maintained for breeding purposes; a cow with a newborn calf (with umbilical cord still attached)
  - ◊ Work on a ladder or scaffold at higher than 20 feet.
  - ◊ Ride on a tractor as a passenger or helper.
  - ◊ Work inside any grain storage facility (silo) designed to retain an oxygen-deficient or toxic atmosphere; working inside an upright silo within two weeks after silage has been added; inside a silo when a top unloading device is in the operating position; inside a manure pit; or operating a tractor or packing purposes on a bunk silo.
- Sixteen and 17-year-olds are not required to have working papers and do not have any working stipulations.

Minimum wage is \$9.70/hr and must be paid to all employees with few exceptions.

If you have any questions or concerns about hiring a student, please call Peggy Murray at 315-376-5270 or 788-8450.

*Revised from 2012 Ag newsletter.*



**Cornell University**  
Cooperative Extension  
Jefferson County

**THE JEFFERSON—Farm and Food E-News  
May-June 2017**

Contact us for more information at 315-788-8450  
or [jefferson@cornell.edu](mailto:jefferson@cornell.edu).

Visit our website at [www.ccejefferson.org](http://www.ccejefferson.org).

Find us on Facebook at:  
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Jefferson County  
and Jefferson County, NY 4H