
WORKING IN AGRICULTURE IN NORWAY

(Updated June 2017)



About work in Agriculture in Norway

Many farms in Norway are small by European standards, but are usually quite mechanized. The labour market for workers in the Norwegian agricultural sector varies according to the time of year. However, there are jobs for skilled farm workers on a permanent basis, both fulltime and part-time, that involve work all year round. These jobs include general farm work in milk, animal - and plant production.

During the summer, seasonal agricultural work in Norway is mainly in planting, weeding, trimming and harvesting fruits and berries, vegetables, flowers and plants, trees and other kinds of plants. Norway has a relatively short growing season (roughly May to September).

Important things to consider

The majority of farms are in the countryside, the rural communities can feel small and remote. If you enjoy the great outdoors, then life in Norway is the ultimate experience! The work can sometimes be tough and monotonous. For some periods, you may find yourself doing a lot of overtime and having to turn up for work at unsociable hours. Employers are looking for reliable people and will want you to stay for as long as there is work.

Many employers can provide accommodation, often in communal housing, so you may have to share the living space, kitchen and bathroom with other tenants. Some employers also have rooms available to let or camping facilities. The rent can vary considerably, depending on the standard of accommodation. Basic furniture and kitchen/cooking utensils can also be available. Public transportation in rural areas can be very limited; you may need your own transportation to get around.

Demand for workers

Farm units are becoming larger and many farmers combine farm work with other work outside the farm; increasing the demand for farm workers. Many farmers are members of organizations that hire farm workers that work full time, but share the time between several farms. A high average age among farmers will increase the need for more temporary and permanent farm workers in the coming years. The average length of seasonal employment is now just under 4 months.

Language, education and qualifications requirements

Applicants for permanent work should have relevant experience and education. A driver's certificate for tractor is usually required. Milk producers will expect competency with milk robots. Many employers will require good speaking and writing skills in Norwegian or another Scandinavian language. In some cases good English skills are sufficient.

Relevant experience and education is not required for seasonal work, but is preferred. English language skills are usually required and Scandinavian language skills are an advantage.

Citizens of countries outside the EU and EEA must apply for a work permit, see <http://www.udi.no>.

Norwegian language courses: There are various providers of language courses in Norway, and online courses. You can find most of them at [Skills Norway](#), the National Agency for Lifelong Learning.

How to find work?

Few seasonal jobs are publicly advertised, as the farmers use their own network and contacts to recruit workers from other countries. It is recommended that jobseekers utilize their own network to get in touch with people who have already worked in the sector. It is possible to register your CV with the Agricultural Employers Federation <http://www.landbrukstenester.no/jobb-onskes/>, or at the European Job Mobility Portal [EURES](#).

All the job vacancies published by The Norwegian Labour and Welfare Administration (NAV) are on the European job mobility portal [EURES](#). At the European Job Mobility Portal, choose "Norway" and "with EURES flag" to find the job vacancies where the employer is interested in attracting job seekers from abroad.

Most job vacancies in Norway are written in Norwegian. There are some job vacancies written in English, you can find them [here](#). You may also contact the national contact point, NAV Service Centre EURES, to enquire about job vacancies:

- phone: (+47) 55 55 33 39 - Monday- Friday, 08:00 to 15.30 (CET)
- e-mail: eures@nav.no
- [chat](#): every Friday, 10:00 to 13.00 (CET)

More tips for your job search on [work in Norway](#).

Wages

As of January 16, 2017, the *minimum* hourly wages are as follows:

Seasonal work:

- Employment up to 12 weeks: NOK 113
- Employment between 12 and 24 weeks: NOK 119

Permanent employment:

- Unskilled: NOK 133 – 169 depending on experience
 - Skilled (i.e. with agricultural training): NOK 144 -180 depending on experience
- Minimum 25% extra is paid for work at night and on holidays. Overtime (more than 40 hours/week) is paid at minimum 40% extra.

For strawberry picking and other kinds of harvesting, you may be paid piecework (accord) wages. According to the relevant regulations, piecework wages must in any case be equal to the minimum hourly wage for the hours actually worked.

Trade Unions

In Norway, the trade unions play an important role in working life. Over 50% of the employees in Norway are members of a trade union. You may wish to contact a trade union to get more information about working in this industry.

- The Norwegian Farmers Union ("Norges Bondelag"): <https://www.bondelaget.no>

- The Norwegian Farmers and Smallholders Union ("Norsk Bonde- og Småbrukarlag"): <https://www.smabrukarlaget.no>
- Landbrukstjenester ("Agricultural services") <https://landbrukstjenester.no>

Taxes, working conditions and relocation

Visit [Work in Norway](#) to get step by step information about registering, paying taxes and working conditions.