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GOVERNOR

# Arizona Department of Corrections Rehabilitation and Reentry

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DAVID SHINN  
DIRECTOR

March 24, 2020

RE: Temporary Housing of Female Inmates at Hickman's Family Farms During Public Health Emergency

Dear Neighbor:

The Arizona Department of Corrections, Rehabilitation and Reentry (ADCRR) has been a proud partner with Hickman's Family Farms (Hickman's), as inmates have worked in Hickman's farm production for nearly 25 years. In 2018, ADCRR and Hickman's took the partnership further by creating an innovative housing program for former inmates, in which Hickman's provided recently released inmates with a place to live onsite in addition to a job.

On March 11, 2020, Governor Doug Ducey issued a declaration of Public Health Emergency due to the necessity to prepare for, prevent, respond to, and mitigate the spread of the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19). Likewise, on March 13, 2020, the President issued a declaration of National Emergency due to the threat COVID-19 poses to the healthcare system.

Since those declarations, numerous actions have been taken across the country to limit the spread of COVID-19, which include closing schools and governmental leaders imploring people to stay home for an unknown period of time. These actions have caused a strain on our nation's food supply as people prepare to be confined to their homes. Thus, on March 19, 2020, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security identified workers who conduct a range of operations and services that are essential to continued critical infrastructure viability during the COVID-19 response. This list includes food and agriculture workers, like Hickman's.

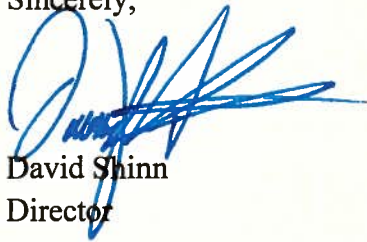
To ensure the safety of the population within ADCRR during this public health emergency, it has taken a number of precautions to ensure that COVID-19 stays out of the prisons, which includes limiting work crews that work outside the prison compounds. However, Hickman's has requested that due to its need to keep its critical operations running, it still needs the labor provided by ADCRR inmates.

Thus, in order to protect the health and safety of ADCRR's inmate population, and ensure the health and welfare of the state, ADCRR and Hickman's have determined that it is necessary to


temporarily house approximately 140 female inmates who presently work at Hickman's under ADCRR and Hickman's supervision onsite at Hickman's for the duration of the COVID-19 public health emergency. These inmates from Perryville Women's Prison are classified as Minimum Custody, which means they represent a low risk to the public and staff. This is the same classification of inmates that have been working at this location for years. These inmates will be closely monitored and supervised by correctional officers and Hickman's at all times. Once the declared emergency has passed, these inmates will return to their housing at Perryville Women's Prison.

We assure you that ADCRR and Hickman's do not make this decision lightly, and the decision to temporarily house inmates at Hickman's is necessary to ensure a stable food supply while protecting public health. As we understand that you may have questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to ADCRR's Public Information Office at 602-542-3133 or [media@azcorrections.gov](mailto:media@azcorrections.gov). Thank you for your understanding during this unprecedented situation.

Sincerely,



David Shinn  
Director



Glenn Hickman  
CEO, Hickman's Family Farms