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Utica Dairy Company Must Pay Farmworker \$30,000 for Labor, Housing Abuses

UTICA, N.Y.— Dari Del Inc. must pay a farmworker \$30,000 to settle a lawsuit that said the dairy violated minimum wage, overtime pay and housing standards.

The victory is the result of legal action against the Utica-based dairy production and processing company by former employee George Hatfield II. The Worker Justice Center of New York represented him in the litigation.

“We’re thrilled that Dari Del will have to pay Mr. Hatfield what he is owed for his hard work,” said John Marsella, senior staff attorney with the Worker Justice Center of New York. “It’s outrageous that any company would withhold lawful pay from an employee.”

According to the lawsuit filed in the Northern District of New York, Mr. Hatfield worked an average of 85 hours per week for six to seven days a week. He was paid less than \$3 per hour, a violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act and New York Labor Law.

The lawsuit also said that Dari Del provided Mr. Hatfield, his wife and young child housing that was dangerous and detrimental to their life, health and safety, violating New York Real Property Law.

“Laborers and organizations like ours which support them will continue fighting to change a rigged system that fails to provide individuals with dignity and fair treatment at work,” Marsella added.

The Worker Justice Center of New York pursues justice for those denied human rights with a focus on agricultural and other low-wage workers through legal representation, community empowerment and advocacy for institutional change.



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