

## How have other employers benefited?

Agricultural vanpool programs have been widely successful in other California counties. In many of the state's principal agricultural hubs like Kings, Fresno and Salinas Counties, employers **now encourage their workers** to ride in transit agency-sponsored agricultural vanpools to work. Employers express having experienced improved employee reliability, as well as peace of mind knowing that their liability for any on-site, employee vehicle-related accidents has drastically reduced.

Here's what **Chuck Herrin** from **Sunrise Farm Labor** of the San Joaquin Valley said about his experience with Kings County's agricultural vanpool program:

***"The AITS program has made everyone's lives so much easier. The workers get to work safely and without worrying about whether they're going to find a ride or not. These vans should be available everywhere!"***



Hundreds of agricultural workers in the Central Valley participate in the successful Agricultural Industries Transportation Services (AITS) program of the Kings County Rural Transit Agency.

## Take advantage of a Federal Tax Incentive

Did you know that by covering a portion of employees' transportation costs, employers can qualify for a Federal **TAX BREAK**? You could provide this contribution to your employees as a benefit and claim these allowances as a business expense\*.



Federal law allows employees to receive up to **\$230 tax-free, per month** in employer-paid transportation benefits.

This incentive is a win-win for both you and your employees— THEY save money on transportation costs and worry less about covering these costs regularly. YOU earn a tax break, gain increased business productivity and become a more attractive employer. And unlike ordinary wage payments, employers don't have to pay their share of federal payroll taxes on their contributions toward employees' public transportation commuting costs.

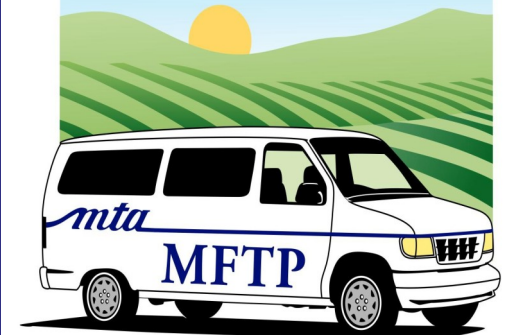
Learn how you can combine a transportation cost allowance with MTA's agricultural vanpool program. It's easy to get started. Ask us how!

Visit our website at [www.4mta.org](http://www.4mta.org)  
or call our office at (707) 234-6458  
for more information.



\* Consult your tax professional.

## Mendocino Farmworkers Transportation Program



***Transporting  
Mendocino's Agricultural  
Workforce Safely,  
Reliably and Affordably***

**MAXIMIZE** your business productivity and **MINIMIZE** your potential liability—  
Inquire about our program today!

**CALL: (707) 234-6458**  
**VISIT: [www.4mta.org](http://www.4mta.org)**



# A new transportation option

## Difficulty getting to work

Everyday, hundreds of agricultural workers in Mendocino's valleys experience difficulty getting to and from work. Some drive in unsafe or uninsured vehicles because they lack resources to cover maintenance or insurance costs. Others simply don't own a vehicle and often depend on unreliable rides.

## Introducing a new program

As a solution to this problem, MTA has launched a vanpool program for workers of the agricultural industry.


MTA offers 15-passenger vans equipped with state-of-the-art vehicle tracking technology and safety items in which agricultural workers can safely transport themselves to work.

Each van is insured by MTA according to legal requirements and is assigned to a qualified driver with a valid Class C Driver's License, a clean driving record, that has at least 3 years of driving experience. Drivers must also possess or be able to obtain a Department of Transportation Medical Certificate and pass an initial drug screen.

The goal of the MFTP is to provide our community's agricultural workers with a safe, reliable and affordable transportation option.

## How MTA's agricultural vanpool program can BENEFIT YOUR BUSINESS

Employers benefit from this new program, too. Here's how:

- **Experience increased employee reliability.**  
Your employees will commute to work in safe and regularly maintained vans. Plus, MTA will cover fuel costs up front, so there will be fewer obstacles for your employees to get to work regularly and on-time.
- **Decrease your potential liability.**  
Have you considered what the occurrence of an on-site accident involving an employee vehicle would cost you? Decrease your liability risks by encouraging your employees to ride MTA-insured vanpool vehicles to work.
- **Help keep our roadways safe.**  
Poorly maintained cars can break down on busy roads and pose a hazard to other drivers. Encouraging your workers to ride MTA's agricultural vanpools can help keep these cars off the road.
- **Convenient and flexible transportation.**  
Agricultural worksites can often change. MTA's agricultural vanpool vehicles can travel to any worksite in Mendocino— and with prior approval, even into neighboring counties.
- **Promote GREEN practices.**   
Vanpooling reduces the number of cars on the road. This results in reduced carbon emissions and improved air quality.

## Encourage your employees to ride with MTA!

It costs you nothing to become a supporter of this program. Encourage your employees to inquire about it.

## Here's how it works:

***MTA covers each vehicle's insurance, maintenance, repair and fuel costs up front.*** Vanpool riders pay the van's volunteer driver an affordable daily fare, which gets submitted to MTA at the end of each work week.

The vanpool riders arrange their own departure locations and times. Vehicles may transport workers to wineries agricultural fields, or to any other agricultural-related enterprise, at any time of day, 7-days a week.

Except for volunteer drivers, there are no contracts to sign or commitments to be made. It's that simple.

***Contact our bi-lingual program coordinator to learn more about this exciting new program TODAY!***

### Maggy Espitia

Telephone: (707) 234-6458

E-mail: [maggy@4mta.org](mailto:maggy@4mta.org)

Office: 241 Plant Rd., Ukiah