

Farmworkers Awareness Week March 24-31

Please support National farmworker Awareness week in Vermont

Vermont population is about 650,000..

<https://governor.vermont.gov/document/farmworker-awareness-week-proclamation-24-035>

In Vermont...

61,506 people are employed in the food system by 11,535 farm and food establishments. Employment in the food system increased by nearly 1,700 jobs (2.8%) in 2023, though total employment is still below pre-pandemic peak employment by about 3,600 jobs.

Vermont's food system also has a positive employment impact on other sectors of the Vermont economy. Known as the "employment multiplier," for every job created in the food system an additional 0.8 jobs are created elsewhere in the Vermont economy. When this is taken into account, in total Vermont's food system employment impact is 110,711 jobs.

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Farmworkers feed the world- 85% of our fresh fruits and vegetables are handpicked. There are an estimated 2.5-3 million men, women, and children who work in the fields in the United States. Farms are in every state, including yours, yet farmworkers remain largely invisible and continue to live and work in horrific conditions. We demand dignity for farmworkers!

Farm work is one of the most dangerous jobs in the United States. The people who plant and harvest our fruits and vegetables suffer from the highest rate of toxic chemical injuries of any other workers in the nation and have higher incidences of heat stress, dermatitis, urinary tract infections, parasitic infections, and tuberculosis than other wage-earners. We demand safe working conditions for farmworkers!

Farmworkers are treated differently under the law. Overtime, unemployment insurance, and even protection when joining a union are not guaranteed under federal law.

Farmworkers were excluded from almost all major federal laws passed in the 1930s. The Fair Labor Standards Act was amended in 1978 to mandate minimum wage for farmworkers on large farms only and it still has not made provisions for overtime. We demand just living and working conditions for farmworkers and an end to unfair treatment under the law.

Farmworkers are essential to getting fresh and healthy food on supermarket shelves. We don't see them, but they grow, harvest, process and pack our fresh food.

During the pandemic, farmworkers were recognized as essential, but they have always played a vital role in the food supply chain.

Farmworkers are the root of our supply chain and ensure the availability, quality and safety of our food and help American farms produce \$164.7 billion to the U.S. gross domestic product.¹

2.6 million farmworkers are on farms and ranches in the U.S.¹, performing hard and skilled labor.

Farmworkers deserve our appreciation and thanks along with safe and respectful workplaces.

In every state, there are farmworkers on farms, ranches, greenhouses and processing facilities caring for the crops and livestock that provide healthy and nutritious food.

Farm and ranch operations often run 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, through heat and cold, and farmworkers are the backbone that keep the operations running daily.

<https://www.vtfarmtoplate.com/resources/2023-farm-plate-annual-report>

Governor proclamation

National farmworker awareness week

<https://governor.vermont.gov/document/farmworker-awareness-week-proclamation-24-035>

Learn more about the National Farmworkers Jobs Program by visiting this website

<https://afop.org/nfaw/#toggle-id-1-closed>

Consumers can learn more about supporting farmworkers at equitablefood.org/nfaw.

Report by a National Housing organization on farmworker housing , Housing Assistance Council.

Old report

<https://ruralhome.org/reports/no-refuge-from-the-fields-findings-from-a-survey-of-farmworker-housing-conditions-in-the-united-states/>

Updated version

<https://ir.library.illinoisstate.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1044&context=cppg>

Please support our farmers and farmworkers...

#vermont

#Farmworkers

#agriculture

Our farmers and farmworkers along with our low income people senior citizens homeless and our workforce deserve a place to call home.

From the agricultural secretary

<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/agency-agriculture-food-markets-news/tebbetts-op-ed-farmer-housing-jobs-and-economy>

Please help support and create a committee or task force that will work on creating the ability to provide data and information to demonstrate why we need to build homes off the farm for our farmworkers in agricultural rural Vermont

No Refuge From The Fields Vol. 2: Revitalization of Farmworker

Housing Research Housing

HAC study 1

<https://ruralhome.org/reports/no-refuge-from-the-fields-findings-from-a-survey-of-farmworker-housing-conditions-in-the-united-states/>

HAC updated including H2A

<https://ruralhome.org/hac-advises-housing-protections-and-education-for-h-2a-farmworkers/>

Part 2

<https://ir.library.illinoisstate.edu/cppg/43/>

PDF

<https://ir.library.illinoisstate.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1044&context=cppg>

Examples of farmworker housing developments

<https://tdshc.org/apartment-rentals/>

<https://yakimahousing.org/services/farmworker-housing/>

<https://www.manomaine.org/housing>

<https://www.harvestcouraptos.org/>

https://www.harvestparkapts.org/?rcstdid=MzI%3d-GJOvflXLv8M%3d&_yTrackUser=MjU5NDIwMTU4MyM3MTc4MjIwNjI%253d-s7MB1DEFyKU%253d&_yTrackVisit=NDM0MTQxNjY4MyM3ODc3NjU3Nw%253d%253d-2FRoYMFYFns%253d&_yTrackReqDT=12121520240101

<https://newyorkwines.org/available-assistance-for-farmworker-housing/>

Michigan agricultural workforce housing task force report

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MIDARD/bulletins/2bd8a85>

<https://www.michigan.gov/mdard/about/boards/migrant-labor-housing-advisory-board>

Vermont needs an agricultural workforce housing committee or task force

<https://www.oregon.gov/ohcs/development/Pages/agriculture-workforce-housing.aspx>

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=t2hhBQPJjWY>

https://issuu.com/housinginfo/docs/ohcs_agricultural_worker_housing_study_2023_fnl-3

Vermont information

<https://vhcb.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/pubs/Vermont-Farmworker-Housing-Needs-Assessment-Study-4-2021.pdf>

<https://vtdigger.org/2021/04/21/report-shows-migrant-farmworkers-live-in-insufficient-housing/>