

Farmworker Housing Repair Project: Need, Methods and Anticipated Outcomes



Testimony to the
Vermont Senate Agriculture Committee

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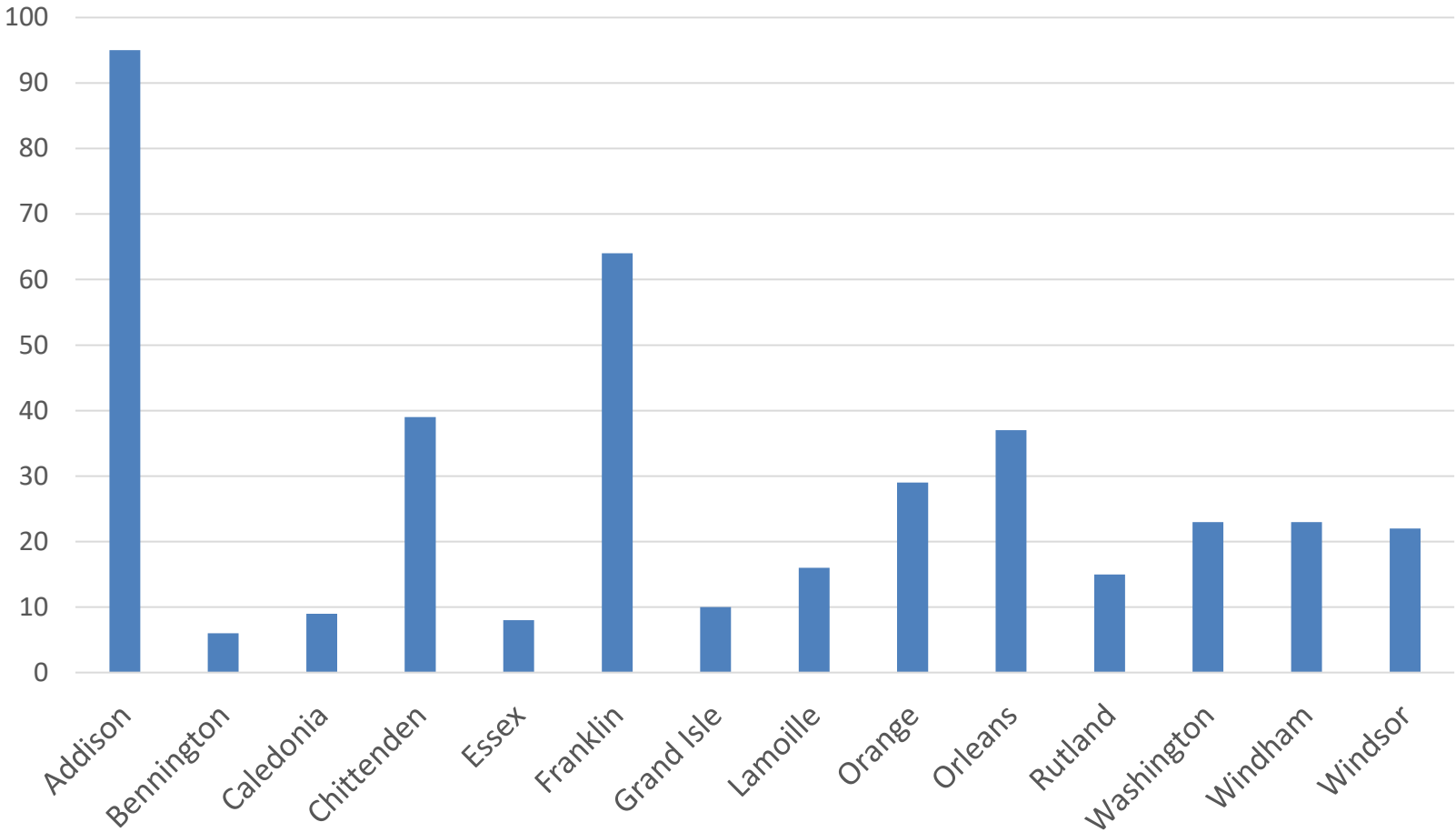
UVM Extension AgBiz Program

February 9th, 2022



The University of Vermont

Vermont Farms Outsourcing Labor, by County



N = 397

Housing is one of the most common non-wage benefits provided to workers on dairy farms

Latinx Migrant Workers

Housing & Utilities provided by 100% of farms

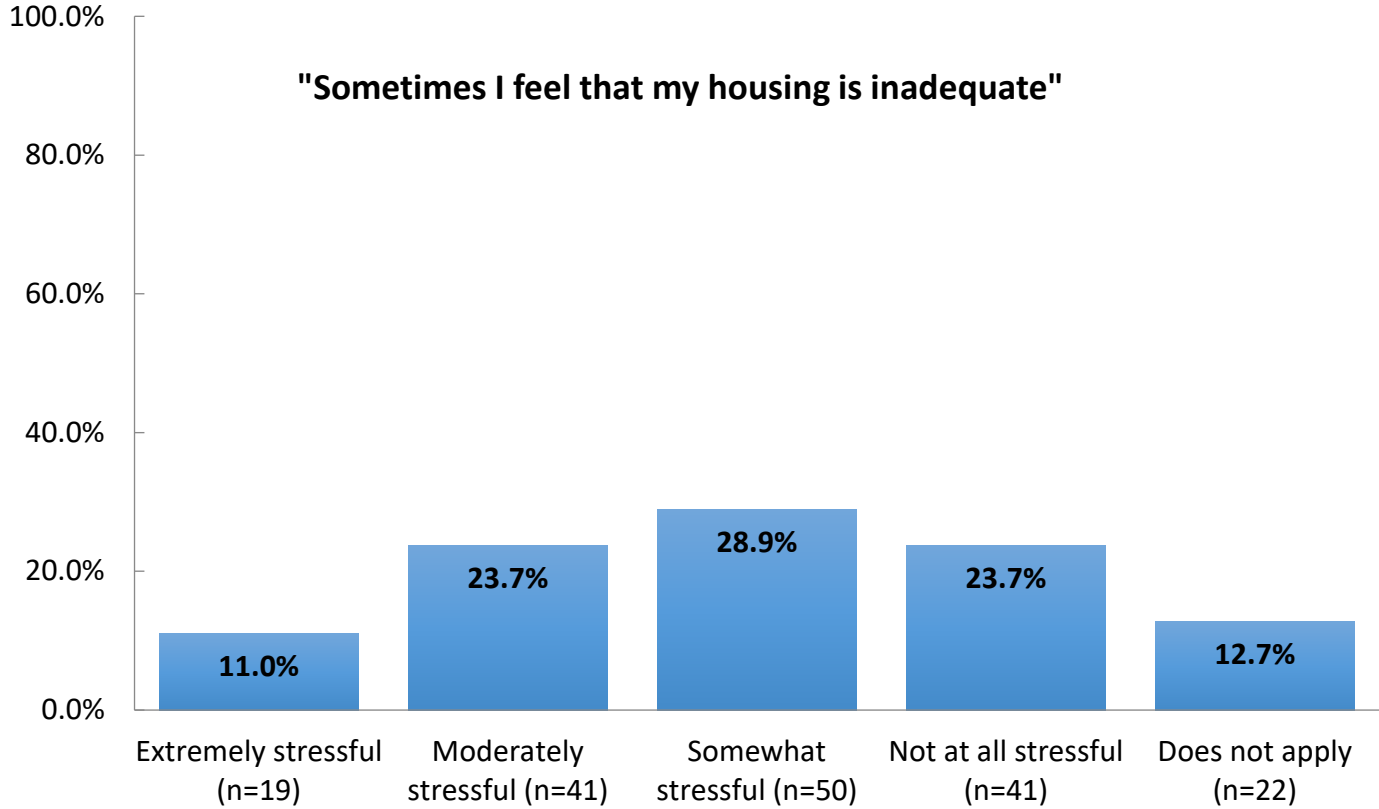
Farmer estimated median annual value per worker \$4,367

U.S. Workers

Housing provided by 62% of farms, Utilities provided by 53% of farms

Farmer estimated median annual value per worker \$14,100

Latinx Migrant Dairy Farmworker Housing Stress (2016)



Source: Baker, Kades, Gerlicz & Melgar, 2016

UVM Extension Project Timeline:

January:
Identify potential farms with housing needs

February:
Initiate farm outreach and statewide stakeholder meeting

March:
Application available, refer to CHT, collect data

April/May:
Encourage farms to complete applications, assist CHT with organizing farm visits.

June on:
Facilitate communication between farmers, farmworkers and CHT. Begin housing repairs.

Anticipated Outcomes

- Improved stability on farms – Attracting and retaining employees
- Improved physical and mental health for farmworkers – Less sick time, less stress
- **Looking forward:** Preliminary assessment of need for whole house replacement

Education and Health in Relation to Housing

- Bed bugs and pests, fire and carbon monoxide alarms, waste disposal, food storage, cleaning and maintenance, preventing illness in congregate housing (ventilation and sanitization).
- Educational programs to enhance language and workplace communication

