

Planting the Roots of Equity through Grassroots Work: Making Covid Safety Accessible to Florida Farmworkers

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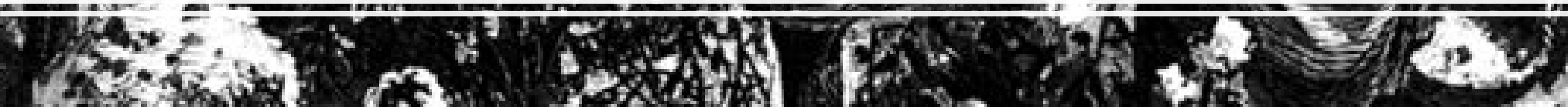


FARMWORKERS

- Not farmers—though know and practice agriculture
- Don't control the land
- Can only use their labor as leverage in bargaining



Imported Workforce System



OBJECTIVES

- 1) Recognize the challenges and systemic barriers farmworkers face in accessing healthcare and services.
- 2) Identify the economic, structural, and political factors that have limited COVID-19 response to helping farmworkers communities, including organizing.
- 3) Learn strategies and collaborative efforts that have been developed by grassroots organizations and stakeholders during the pandemic to make COVID-19 safety more accessible through information sharing, best practices, equipment, testing and vaccines.



Challenges and Systemic Barriers

Photograph by David Bacon

An Extractive Food System

- Land
- Animals
- Workers



— Farm workers harvest zucchini in Florida City on April 1, 2020.

Joe Raedle / Getty Images

Excluded from Labor Laws

*National Labor Relations
Act*

Fair Labor Standards

*Occupational Safety and
Health Admin.- 1971*

*Environmental Protection
Agency - 1970*



Realities of the Living and Working Conditions of Farmworkers

- **Conditions in the field**

- **Harsh weather – extreme heat, cold, storms, flooding, wildfires, natural disasters**
- **Too frequently inadequate or no bathrooms and/or clean drinking water**
- **Pesticide exposure – dermal, inhalation, ingestion, residues**
- **Insects, snakes, contaminated water, dangerous farm equipment**
- **Long workdays with few breaks – some wear diapers to work**
- **Paid by piece rate – incentivized to work without**



Living conditions

- **Often sub-standard, inadequate housing**
- **Housing is often in remote, rural areas**
- **Multiple individuals, families per household**
- **Barracks like conditions for H2A workers**
- **Often in flood prone areas**
- **Poor sanitation**
- **Workers often lack transportation to grocery store**

An aerial photograph of a vast agricultural field, likely a strawberry field, with rows of green plants stretching towards the horizon. Four workers are visible, crouching and tending to the plants. Two workers in the foreground are wearing light-colored long-sleeved shirts and wide-brimmed hats. Two workers in the background are wearing blue protective suits and hoods. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

Economic Structural and Political Factors Limiting COVID response



Vulnerable Workforce

- Mostly Immigrants
 - Displaced
 - Mexico, Central America, Haiti
- H-2A Workers
- Language Barrier



Health

- **Low Wages**
- **No Health Insurance**
- **Few Health Centers**
- **Long Term Health Effects**
 - **Pesticide and Heat Exposure**
 - **Respiratory**



FLORIDA

DeSantis Signs Immigration Enforcement Bill, Announces 'Strike Force'

DeSantis, flanked by law enforcement officers, signed Senate Bill 1808 at a news conference in Escambia County Friday morning

By NBC 6 • Published June 17, 2022 • Updated on June 17, 2022 at 12:24 pm



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CORONAVIRUS NEWS AND RESOURCES

IMMIGRATION

Some Republicans Blame Migrants For COVID-19 Surges. Doctors Say They're Scapegoating

Some Republicans are blaming the latest surge in COVID-19 cases on migrants crossing the southern border. But many doctors disagree, saying the politicians are just looking to divert attention.

JOEL ROSE, NPR | AUGUST 10, 2021, 2:48 PM



Strategies and Collaborative Efforts





Outreach in Community Hubs



Outreach in Rural Areas



Community Events



Popup Clinics





No ku Loteria



Collaborations



THANK YOU