

Rural Healthcare Access for Agricultural Workers

John Diaz, PhD

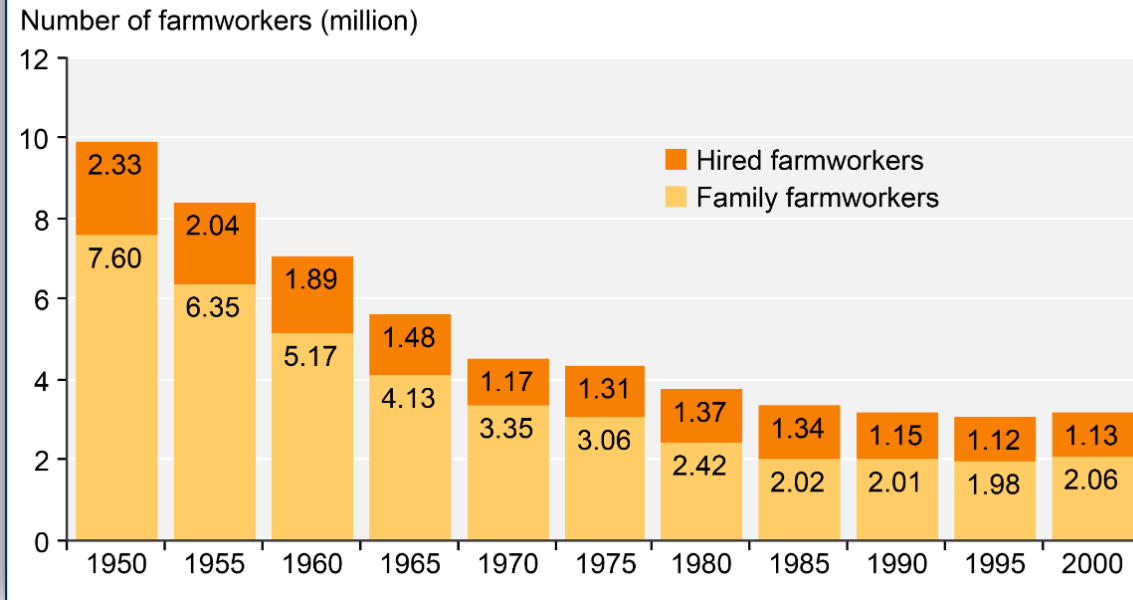
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U.S. AGRICULTURAL WORKFORCE

Family and hired farmworkers on U.S. farms, 1950-2000



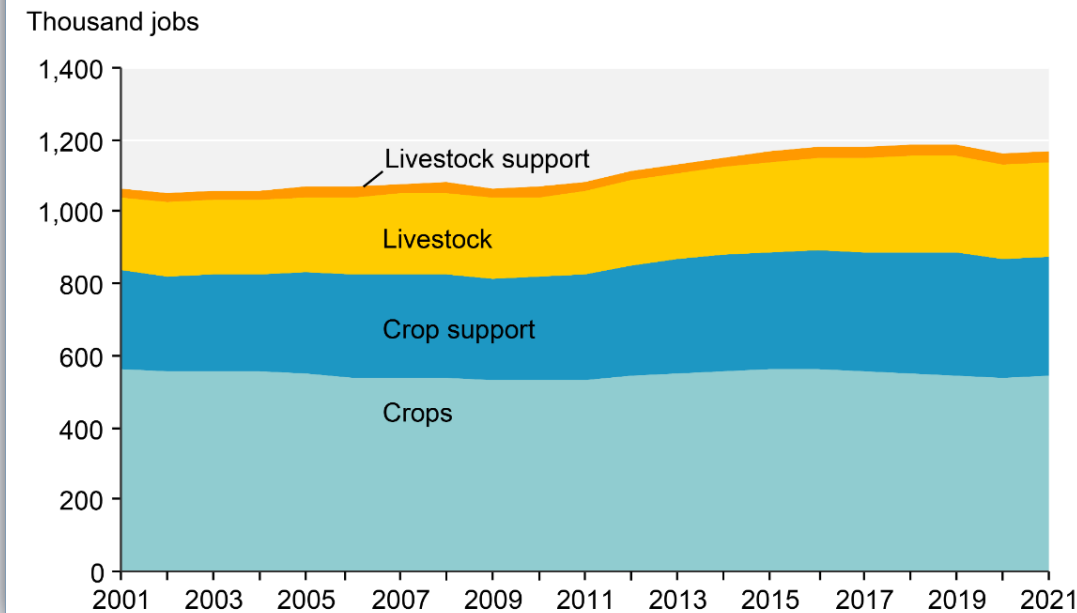
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Two groups of workers:

- **Self-employed farm operators and family members** – consisted mainly of family operation
 - **Hired Workers** – hired to support large family farms or cooperate operations
1. Both types of employment have declined since the 1950s
 2. Family farm operations have declined
 3. **Hired workforce proportion has increased over time**

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Employment in agriculture and support industries, 2001–21



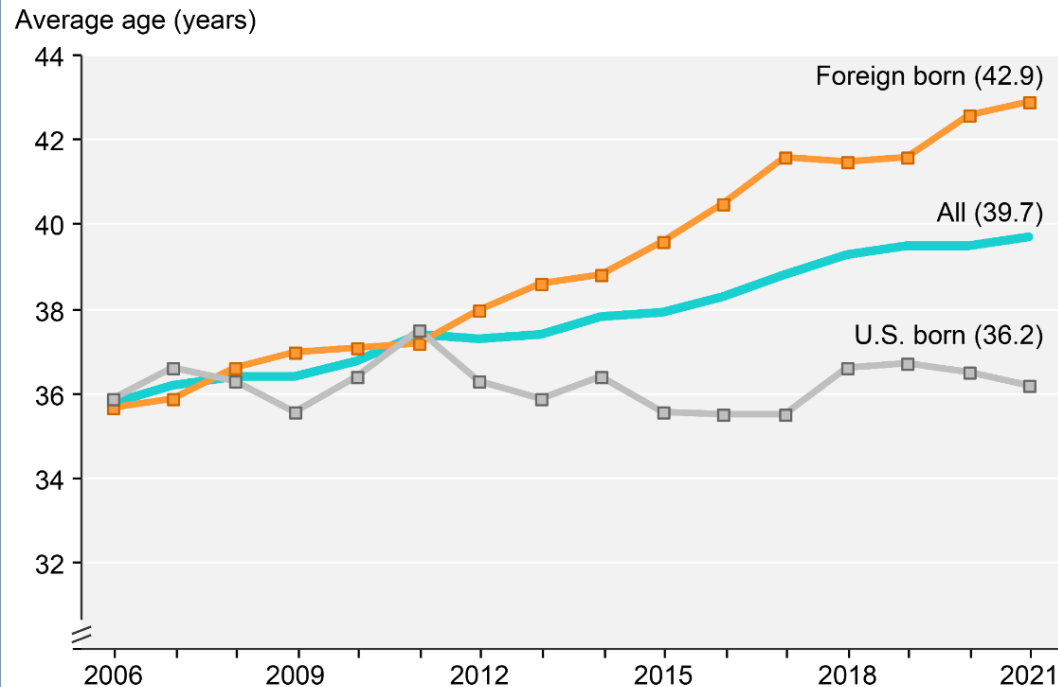
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Hired farm workers:

- Make up <1% of all U.S. wage and salary
- Field crop workers, nursery workers, livestock workers, graders and sorters, inspectors, supervisors, and farm managers.
- Majority are hired **directly** by farmers, some are hired by management service providers.

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Average age of U.S. farm laborers/graders/sorters by place of birth, 2006–21



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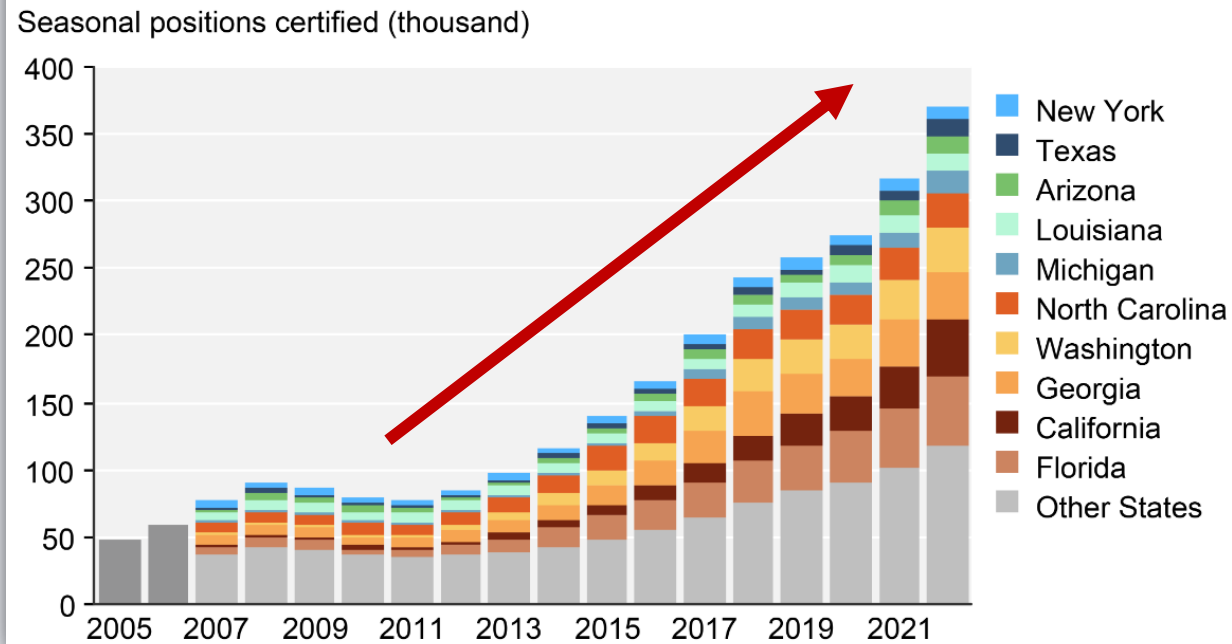
Demographics Hired Farm Workers:

- Differences between farm laborer, livestock laborer and other roles in agriculture
- **Crop laborers** – 54% Mexican origin; 9% other Latin American
- 44% are not a U.S. citizen
- 45% lack high school diploma; 34% have high school diploma

Workforce is aging

U.S. AGRICULTURAL WORKFORCE

U.S. H-2A (temporary agricultural employment of foreign workers) positions certified by State, fiscal years 2005–22

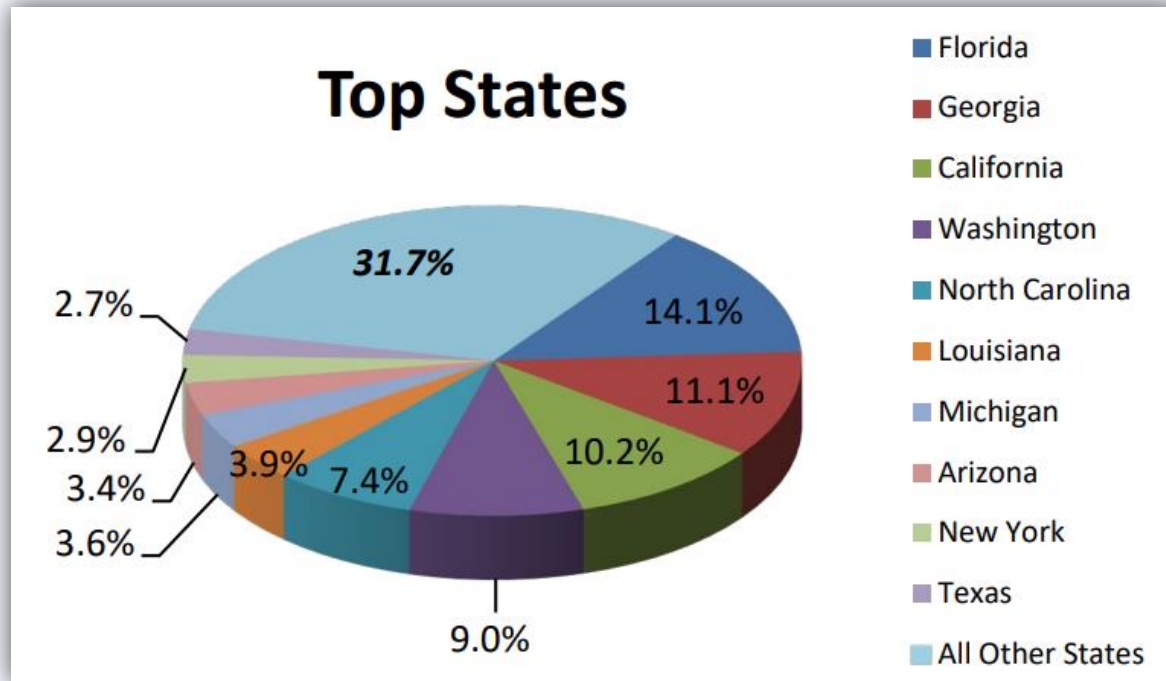


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H-2A Temporary Agriculture Program:

- Legal means to bring foreign-born workers to the U.S.
- Typically around 10 months
- Crop farmers can use this program for their seasonal labor needs
- Livestock ranchers, dairies, hog/poultry operations, are typically not allowed to use this program

U.S. AGRICULTURAL WORKFORCE



H-2A Temporary Agriculture Program:

- FY22 – 372,000 certified H-2A
- Up 17% since 2021
- **FY22 - Florida certified 50,973 positions**
 - California - 43,760
 - Georgia - 34,974
 - Washington 33,049
 - North Carolina 25,624

ers.usda.gov/topics/farm-economy/farm-labor/
dol.gov (FY2021)
UC Davis Rural Migration News; 12/19/22

FARMWORKER COMMUNITY IN FLORIDA

- Primarily Latin American with H-2A permit, permanent resident or without documentation
- Diverse backgrounds and countries of origin
- **Mexican-descent is predominant (60-70%)** but other populations are notable, including those from Guatemala, Honduras, Venezuela and Colombia.
- 2/3 are settled in one region (County) and have extended family living with them
- Another 1/3 travel locally or within the state to work on contracted farms
- **Less 25% have an active driver license**



CHALLENGES / BARRIERS

Access to health care:

- Not required by H-2A program
- **H-2A workers enter the medical insurance “marketplace”**
- Some travel with the crops and only live in one region for several weeks to months
- **Typically work 6-7 days a weeks, long hours and complete work after normal business hours**
- Lack access to transportation
- Limited capacity to speak/understand English
- Spanish or other native dialects (K’iche’; Mayan language) are most common
- Depending on State (expanded Medicaid) they may qualify if non-citizen



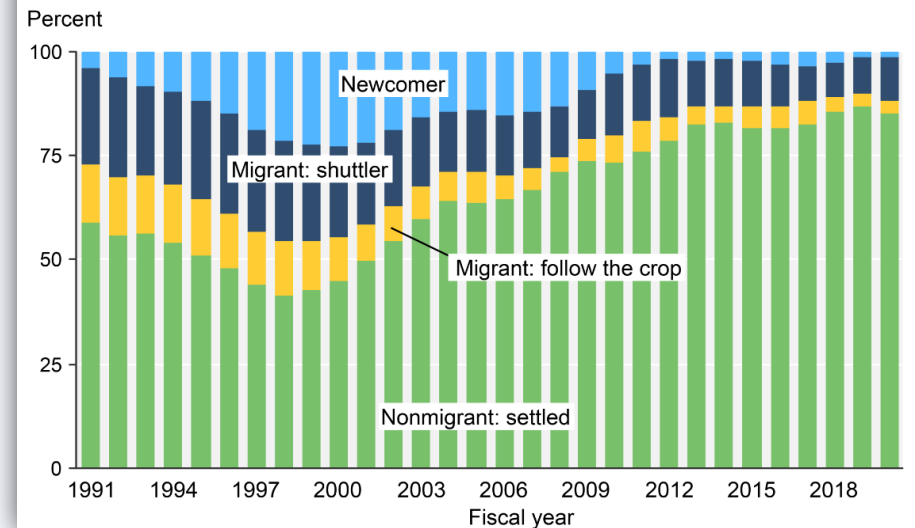
Vaccine and health screening clinic at local church, Gainesville, Florida

CHALLENGES / BARRIERS

Access to health care:

- Most hired crop farm workers (85%) are **“Settled”** – work at a single location within 75 miles
- Settled farm workers have increased 41% since 1998
- **“Shuttlers”** work at a single location more than 75 miles from home and may cross an international border (Yuma, Arizona)
- **“Follow the crop”** move from State to State with the different seasonal crop (3%)
- Challenges and barriers exist with each group and may unique depending on the area
- **For example, some areas in Florida are remote and lack any physical access to a clinic/hospital >50 miles away**

Migration patterns of hired crop farmworkers, fiscal 1991–2020



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FARM WORKER ROUTINE

- Depends on farm, manager, and crops
- Typically 6 days a week
- Sunrise (6-6:30am) to midafternoon or dusk (depending on the late summer)
- If the farm worker is being paid with incentive to gather or collect a certain quantity of crop, typically will work from sun-up to sun-down
- Sunday is a typical day off but some will work 7 days a week depending on crop
- How are they being paid?
- What location(s) do they buy food, do laundry and socialize?



186 rural hospitals closed in 2023

PBS is an American public broadcast service.



Watch on YouTube

By –
Kerry Klein

Leave your
feedback.

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After a rural California hospital closes, farmworkers pay the price

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2022 was nasty, deadly, costly and hot, UN's weather agency says

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Associated Press

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By Matthew Brown,
Associated Press

Go Deeper

agriculture

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rural health



AWARENESS TO BARRIERS

- What day of the week would work well?
- How can we arrange transportation?
- How can we build trust in the community?
- What resources are needed for farmer and their families?
- What health care needs are present?
- Is there are community health care provider or local county health department we can collaborate with?
- Are local farms willing to allow workers to come to events or bring mobile unit to the farm?

MOBILE CLINICS & EVENTS

Locations:

- Farms themselves (pop up tents and the bus)
- Local churches within farmworker network
- Local schools (elementary school)
- Extension office of County
- Local health care provider or public health departments

Services:

- Health screenings
- Health education
- Clinic visit with provider
- Women's health (pap smear)
- Vaccinations
- Mental health services



CONNECTION WITH EXTENSION

Gainesville in the north central part of Florida with many farmworkers.

The largest farmworker populations are in Central and South Florida

How would UF reach these communities?



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CAFÉ LATINO

SUPPORTING FLORIDA'S
LATINO COMMUNITY



Strategic planning began in 2017
Formalized CAFÉ Latino in January 2018
Includes the board of directors (decision-making body) and members
Statewide Member in Various Areas of Expertise
Current members: 72



SERVICE-BASED ORGANIZATION

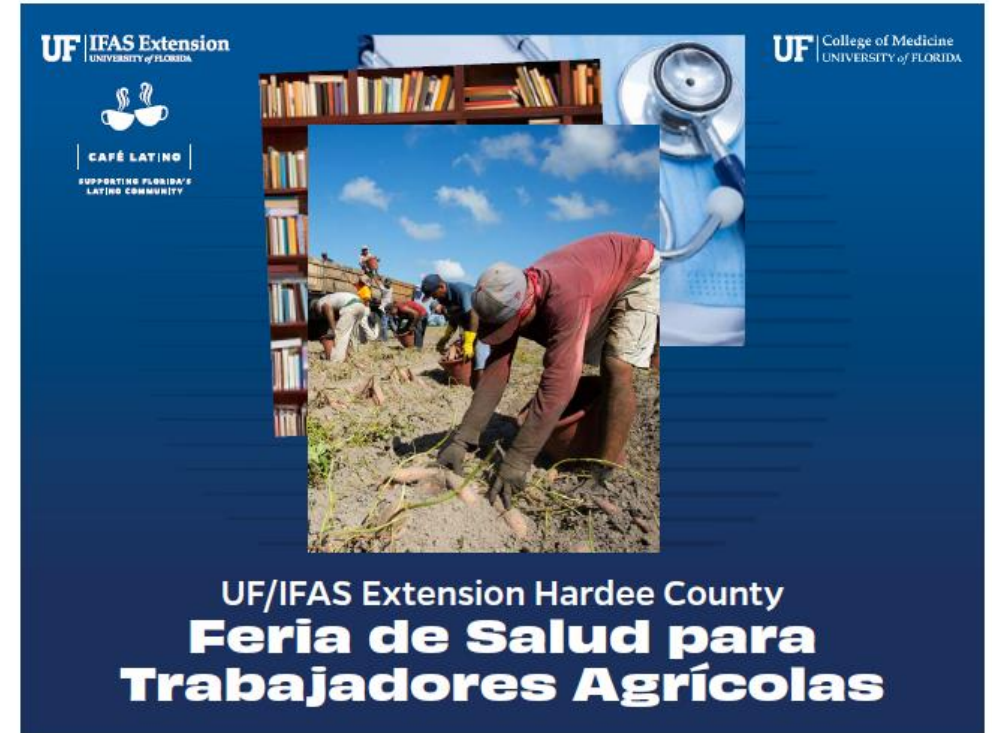
Translations

Education materials development

Training and mentorship

Community service (e.g., health fairs)

General help in connecting with Latino audiences



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UF/IFAS Extension Hardee County
**Feria de Salud para
Trabajadores Agrícolas**

26 de marzo de 2022
1-6 p.m.

515 Civic Center Drive, Wauchula

¡No te pierdas este evento! • ¡Dedica este día
en uno para tu bienestar!

Les invitamos a que nos acompañen en
este evento en el cual habrá exámenes
de salud **GRATUITOS** y educación
para trabajadores agrícolas y sus familias
residentes del Condado de Hardee.

**No es necesario reservar su espacio
ni registrarse**

Se ofrecerán los siguientes servicios:

- Exámenes de salud gratuitos
- Vacunas gratuitas
- Exámenes dentales y selladores para niños
- Actividades para toda la familia
- Comida gratis
- Recursos educativos y consejos
- Oportunidades para conocer organizaciones de salud locales
- Organizaciones locales listas para ayudar

Para consultas, comuníquese con el Dr. John
Díaz al (813) 757 2297 o al john.diaz@ufl.edu



FAITH-BASED MOBILE CLINICS & EVENTS

University Volunteers & Community
Members

Undergraduate, Graduate, Medical
Students, PA Students, Pharmacy Students

Faculty Volunteering to Care for Patients

Engage local media to promote events
and community bonding

Diagnostics and linkage to care





EPA WORKER PROTECTION STANDARDS

Aims to reduce pesticide poisoning and injuries among agricultural workers

Requirement of annual training

Farmers must allow farmworkers to participate.

Opportunity: meet them where they are at!

SAFETY MORNING 2023 & FARMWORKER HEALTH FAIR

March 23, 2023
8am-2pm

Turner Agri-Civic Center
2250 NE Roan St.
Arcadia, FL 34266

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The Safety Morning program will provide the necessary training for pesticide handlers to be in compliance with the Worker Protection Standard (WPS). Participants will also be given safety information on other important topics when working in citrus groves. English and Spanish sessions will be provided.



Program Topics

- WPS Handler Training
- Equipment Safety
- Personal Protective Equipment
- First Aid and Heat Stress
- Decontamination

Cost: \$5/per person

Check-in starts at 7:30am,
program runs 8am-12pm.

RUP and CCA CEUs
have been requested.

This year we are excited to offer a Farmworker Health Fair during and after the Safety Morning program! This is a great opportunity for program participants to focus on their health while receiving the following benefits:

- Free health screenings and vaccines
- Free food - Lunch is being provided by Mosaic
- Educational resources
- Local organizations ready to help.
- Health Fair open until 2pm



For inquires regarding the Farmworker Health Fair, contact
Dr. John Diaz at (813)757-2297
john.diaz@ufl.edu
or
Dr. Norman Beatty at (352)294-5481
norman.beatty@medicine.ufl.edu

Pre-registration is required by mailing the attached registration form or online through Eventbrite:

https://2023safetymorning_healthfair.eventbrite.com

for more information contact: Aja Paolillo, UF/IFAS Extension DeSoto County
ajiacunningham@ufl.edu (863)251-4763

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IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT AND SECTION 296.26, F.S. PERSONS NEEDING ACCOMMODATIONS OR AN INTERPRETER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROCEEDING SHOULD NOTIFY UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA /IFAS DESOTO COUNTY NO LATER THAN 5 DAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING AT 863-251-4763.

Connecting Health Care to Safety Training

Arcadia Farmworker Event (March 23, 2023)

DeSoto County, Florida Department of Health, DeSoto County UF IFAS Extension

Coordinated with several local farms to bring farmworkers to the one-day event

Annual Worker Protection Standard training requirement

Connect access to screenings and care





Highlands County
**Ag Safety Morning
& Health Fair 2024**

Date: March 27th, 2024 @ 8:00AM

Location: Bert J. Harris Jr. Agricultural Center
4509 George Blvd, Sebring, FL, 33875

Price: \$15 per person.
Pre-registration required!

Registration Link: <https://agsafetyday2024.eventbrite.com>



Contact: Lourdes Pérez Cordero
Phone: (863) 402-6540
E-mail: lperezcordero@ufl.edu

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Next Health Fair



March 27th



Multi-county, citrus farmworkers



Integrated to WPS training



Health Services, vaccines and
connections to care

GO TO THE FARM (OR CLOSE)!





PARTNERSHIP WITH SUNCOAST COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

Connect farmworkers with care

Health data sharing agreement in place

- Primary purpose: track unknown kidney disease

Informs: Health services, curriculum, interventions, and future programs.

DNDi

Drugs for Neglected Diseases *initiative*



Mundo Sano

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Farmworker Association of Florida

 Equal Access
Clinic Network
A Family of Patient-Centered Free Clinics

RWHP Rural Women's
Health Project
www.rwhp.org *El Proyecto de Salud en Pro de la Mujer Rural*

 **CHILDREN**
BEYOND OUR BORDERS

RCMA
OPENING DOORS TO OPPORTUNITIES

Beth-El
Farmworker Ministry, Inc.

Thank you!

Contact:

johndiaz@ufl.edu