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Sliced and Diced: The Labor We Eat

(taken from Christopher Cook's book, "Diet for a Dead Planet")





AEA24C Alamy Images

Outline

- Definitions
- Demographics
- History of Migrant Farmworkers in WA
- Contributions
- Recommendations

Data taken from various sources including: “The New Rural Poverty” by Philip Martin et al; “The Endless Cycle: Migrant Life in the Yakima Valley” by Karen M. James, et.al, PEW Hispanic Center, National Agricultural Workers Survey (NAWS), AFL-CIO, National Center for Farmworker Health (NCFW), and others.

Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers

Definitions



Definitions

A **migrant farmworker** is a seasonal farmworker who had to travel to do the farm work so that he/she was unable to return to his/her permanent residence within the same date (DOL).

A **migrant farmworker** is someone who works primarily in agriculture or an agriculture-related industry, like food processing. Migrant farmworkers move from 'home base' communities in patterns known as "migrant streams" (HUD).

Definitions (cont.)

A **seasonal agricultural worker** is a person employed in agricultural work of a seasonal or other temporary nature who is not required to be absent overnight from his or her permanent place of residence. (MSAWPA)

Seasonal workers for the purpose of the WA survey are those working less than 150 days per year (WA State Employment Security Agency)

KANSAS/NEBRASKA



WASHINGTON



Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers

Demographics and Employment



North America, 1820



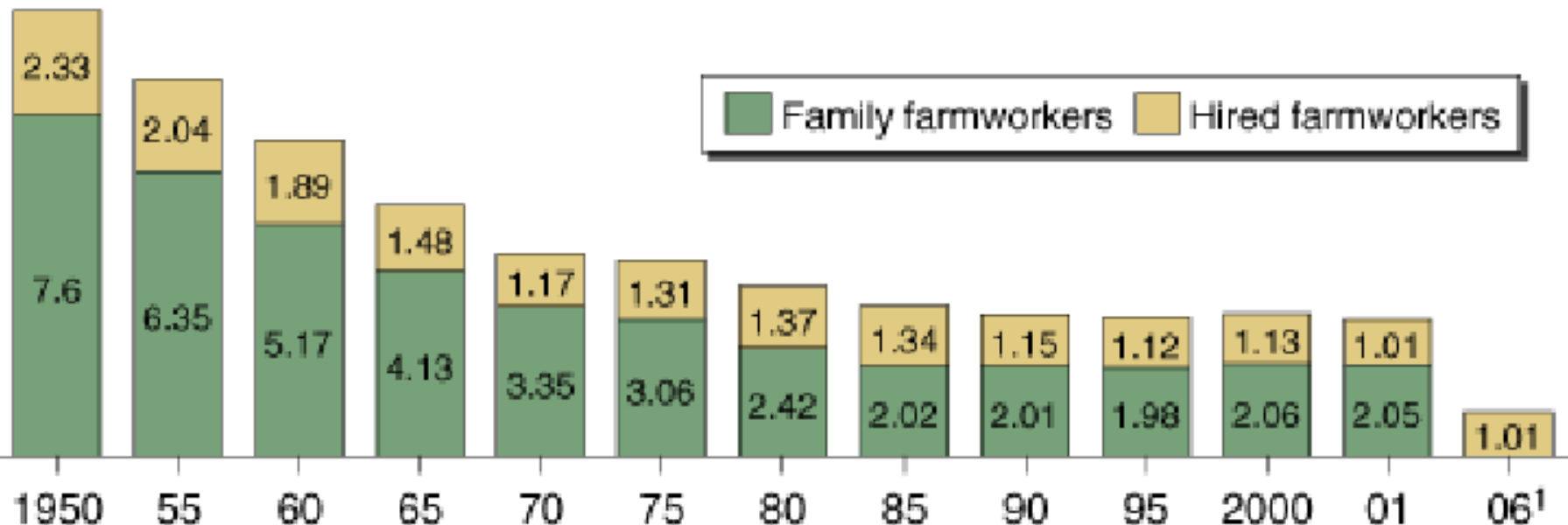
Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers Streams



Farmworker trends 1950-2006

While the total number of farmworkers has declined, the share of hired farmworkers has grown

Farmworkers (millions)



¹Data collection on the number of family farmworkers was discontinued in 2001.

Note: Family farmworkers include self-employed farmers and unpaid family members. Hired farmworkers include direct hires as well as agricultural service workers who are often hired through labor contractors. For more information, see box on this page.

Source: Computed by USDA, Economic Research Service using Farm Labor Survey data, USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service.

Farmworkers and their disadvantage in the labor market

	Hired farmworkers		Other wage and salary workers	
	Noncitizen	Citizen	Noncitizen	Citizen
	<i>Percent</i>			
Demographic characteristics				
Male	82.7	79.9	63.6	50.7
Hispanic ethnicity	94.6	12.0	61.8	9.1
Less than ninth grade education	63.4	9.9	22.2	1.4
Mexican-born	90.3	5.3	41.2	1.2
Pre-1986 U.S. entry (foreign-born)	17.5	72.5	15.7	60.4
Only Spanish spoken in household	64.0	4.1	30.7	1.3
Married	62.5	46.9	60.3	55.3
Children under 18 in household	46.7	29.2	42.4	34.5
Median age (years)	34	34	34	40
Employment characteristics				
Median weekly earnings (<i>dollars</i>)	340	470	480	700
Median hourly wage (<i>dollars</i>)	7.50	10.00	10.00	13.00
Employed part-time (<i>percent</i>)	6.3	25.0	11.9	17.0
Unemployed (<i>percent</i>)	9.9	7.7	4.3	4.5
Median unempl. duration (<i>months</i>)	8	4	7	8
Union membership (<i>percent</i>)	1.7	2.2	6.3	1412.6
Number of workers	284,315	472,470	12,082,393	116,455,584

Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers in Washington



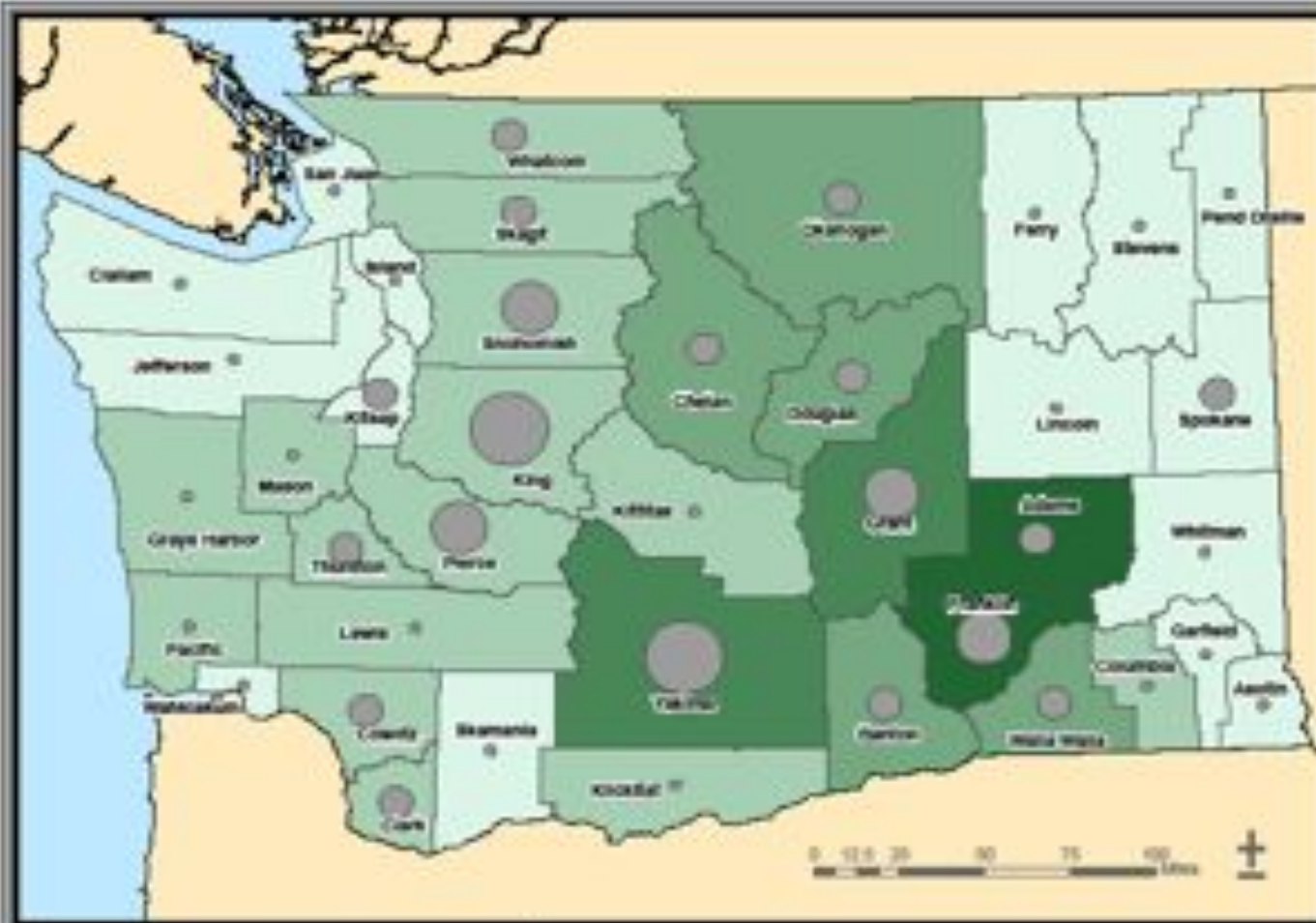
Historical view

- First report of migrant workers: 1929
- In 1936, the State conducted the first survey on farm labor in the Yakima Valley
- In 1942, Yakima County was described as the worst area in the nation in treatment and housing of migrant farm workers
- The Bracero Program (1942-1964) sent more than 5 thousand Mexican farm laborers to Washington by 1945.

Historical view (cont.)

- Additionally, many migrant workers came from Texas in 1949 due to droughts and lack of employment opportunities
- Other migrant workers came after irrigation dramatically expanded tree fruit and vegetables agriculture in the 50' s and 60' s

Latinos/as in Washington

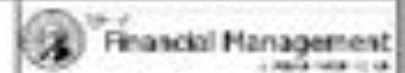


County Name	Total Population	Hisp./Lat. Population	Percent Share
Adams	17,300	9,040	52.3
Asotin	21,100	470	2.2
Benton	160,600	24,700	15.4
Chelan	70,100	14,000	20.0
Columbia	47,800	2,940	6.2
Cowlitz	403,000	22,640	5.6
Crowley	4,100	300	7.3
Cummins	96,800	3,440	3.6
Douglas	26,700	3,340	12.4
Ferry	7,300	220	3.0
Frankie	64,200	24,000	37.4
Garfield	2,400	60	2.5
Grant	60,600	28,220	46.6
Grays Harbor	70,400	4,670	6.7
Island	71,200	3,060	4.3
Jefferson	28,200	700	2.5
King	1,028,200	117,800	11.4
Klickitat	243,400	11,070	4.5
Kittitas	37,400	2,300	6.1
Knapalla	19,000	1,000	5.3
Leavenworth	72,900	4,900	6.7
Lincoln	10,200	220	2.2
Mason	82,100	3,100	3.8
Okanogan	28,800	6,770	23.5
Pacific	21,800	1,200	5.5
Pend Oreille	12,300	260	2.1
Pierce	773,500	80,000	10.3
San Juan	15,700	370	2.4
Snohomish	113,100	18,900	16.7
Spokane	10,600	600	5.6
Snohomish	671,800	27,000	4.0
Spokey	643,800	14,700	2.3
Stevens	42,100	600	1.4
Thurston	231,100	11,800	5.1
Wahkiakum	3,900	70	1.8
Walla Walla	37,900	10,070	26.6
Whatcom	184,200	11,200	6.1
Whitman	42,800	1,470	3.4
Yakima	221,800	90,300	40.7
Washington	6,076,000	646,000	10.6



Hispanic/Latino Population Washington State, 2006

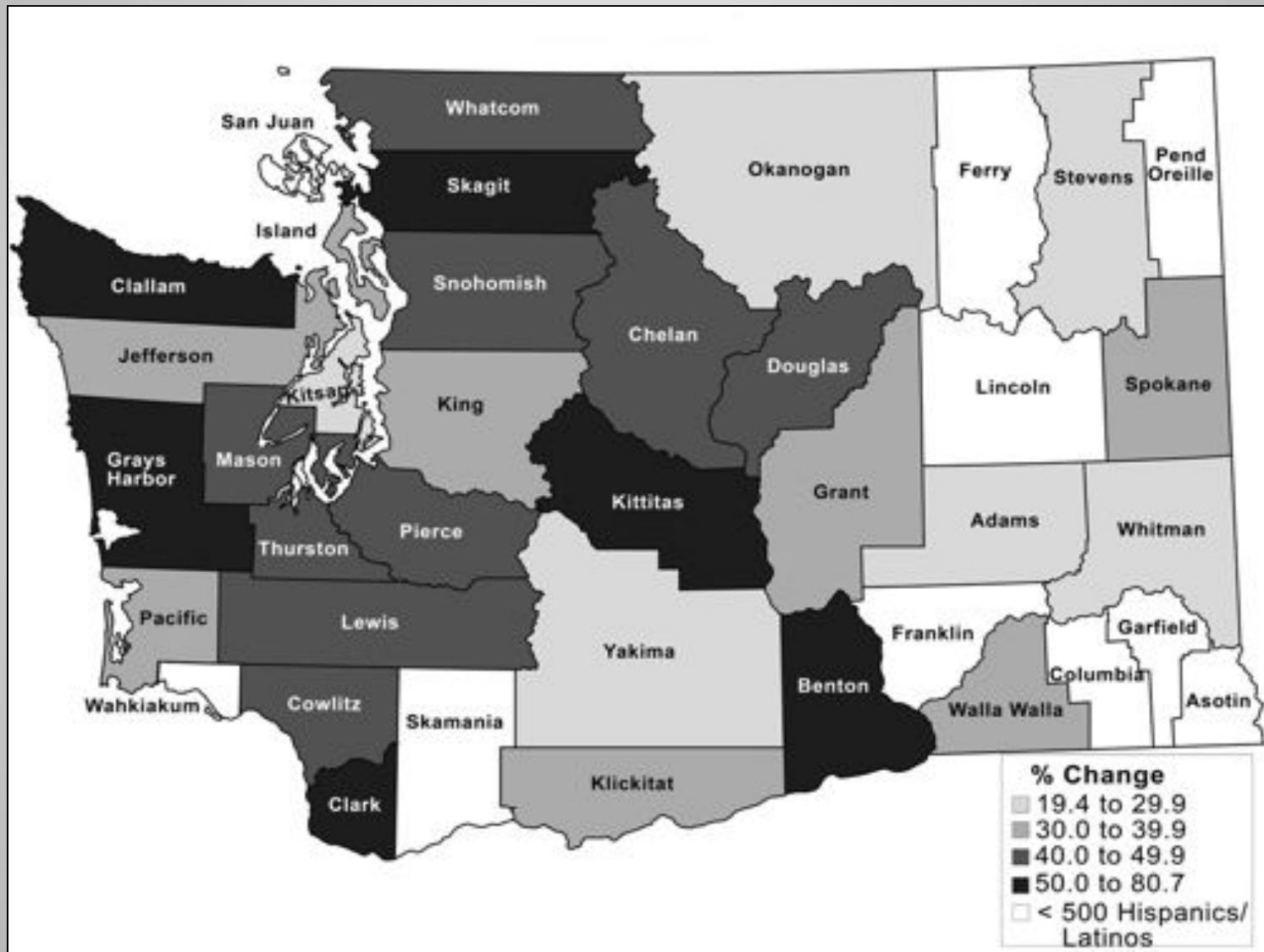
Note: Hispanic is an ethnic category. Hispanics may be of any race.



2006 County Estimates produced by
Washington State Office of Financial
Management - Forecasting Division

Map by Kyle Reese Casati 3-06-07

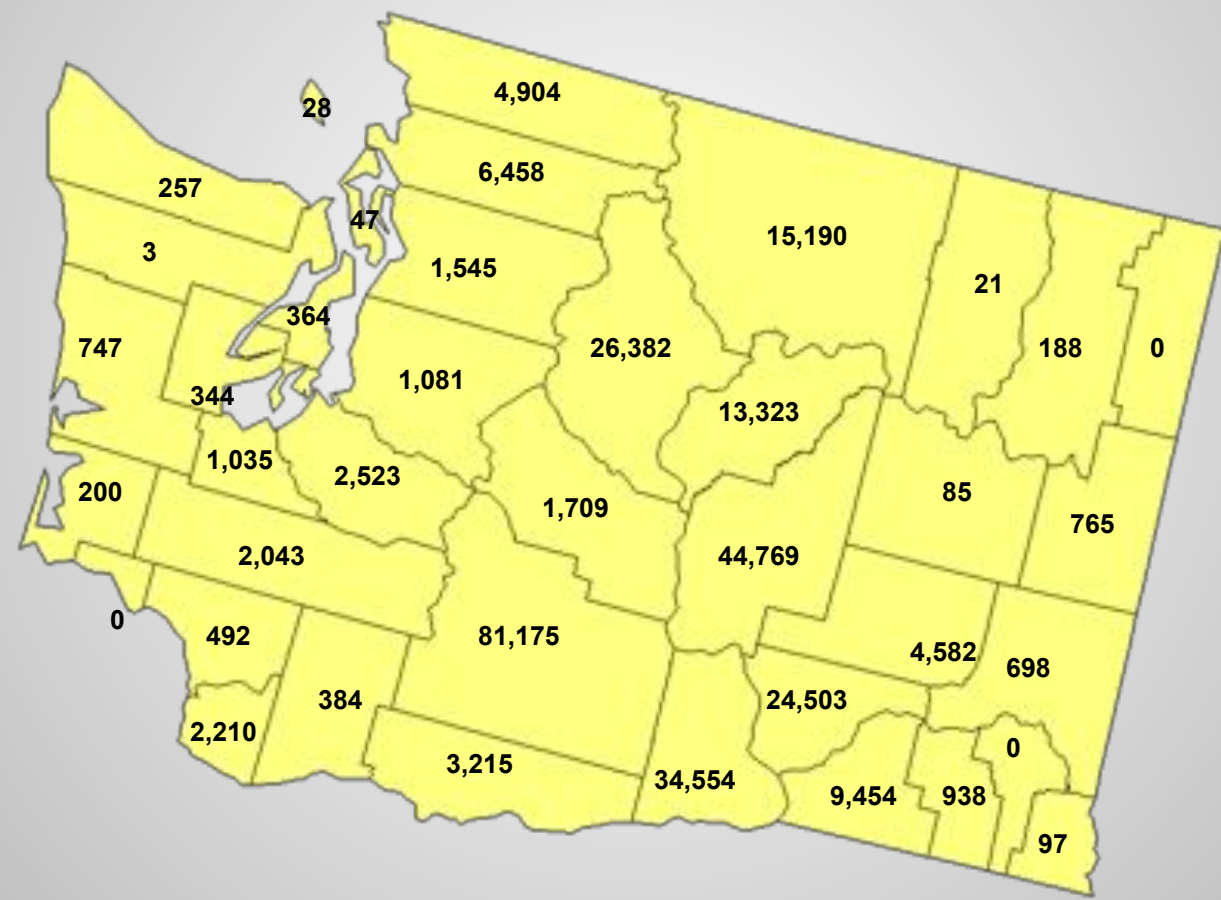
Percent change Latinos/as 2000-2008



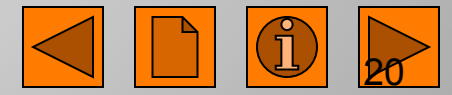
Source: Increasing Diversity in Washington State, Annabel Kirschner, 2009

Washington Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers and Non-workers

Total - 289,235

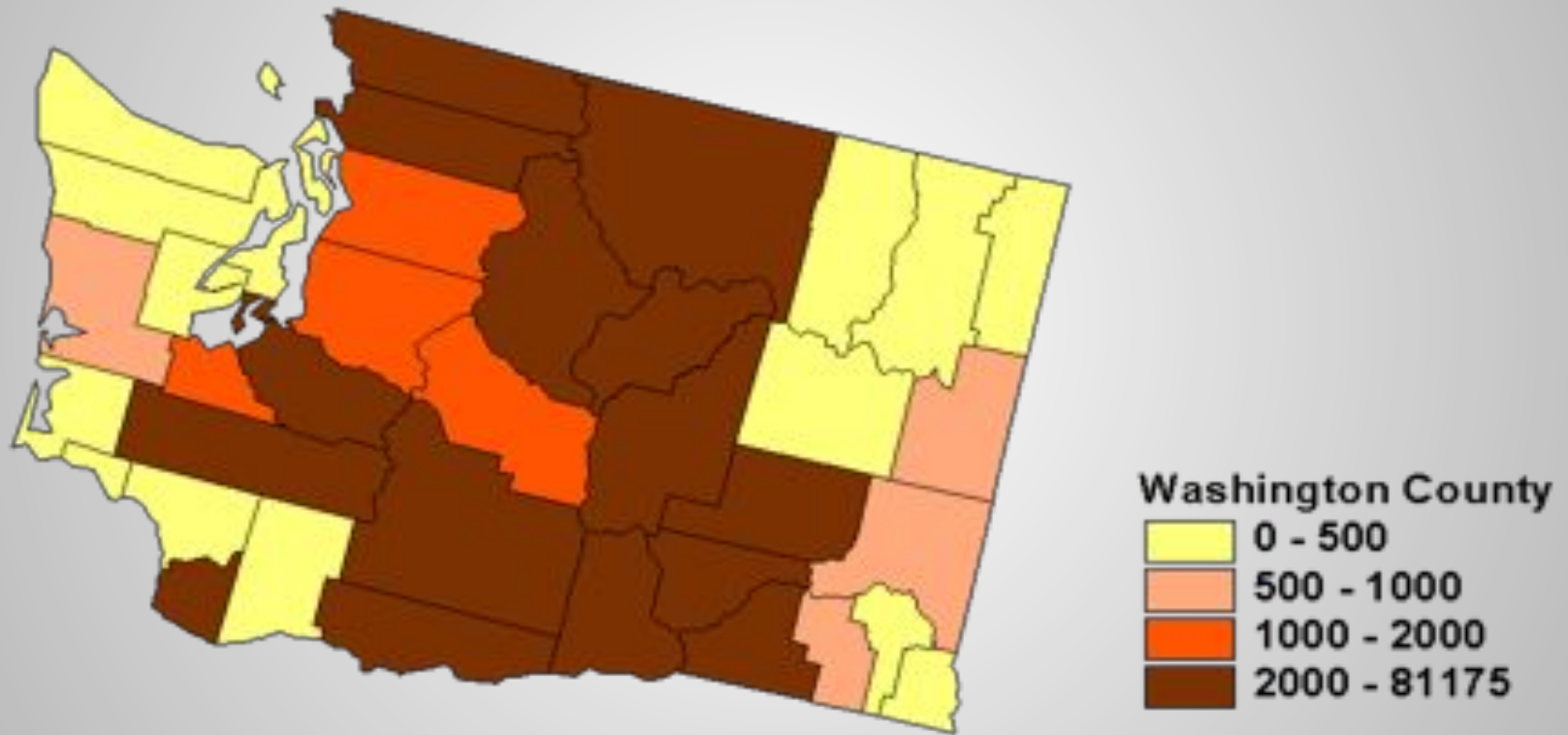


Data source: MSFW Enumeration Profiles Study – WA, Larson, 9/2000



Washington Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers

Total workers: 93,582 (w/o families) in 2006



Data source: Enumeration Profiles Study – WA, Larson,
9/2000

MSFW in Washington

(Source WA State Farmworker Housing Trust)

- Besides CA, WA and OR employ the largest numbers of farmworkers.
- Seasonal agricultural employment grew by 15.7 percent from March 2008 to March 2009.
- 187,000 farmworkers labor in Washington's fields and orchards in an average year and 102,000 are dependent family members.
- 70 percent of the farmworkers are year-round residents of Washington.
- The average income for a farmworker family is \$17,596/year. This is only 35 percent of the state median income.

Cesar Chavez, Migrant Farmworker Leader



YouTube - A History of Hispanic Achievement in America-Cesar Chavez.URL

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VcZKjlva2Js>

Latino
workers in
agriculture

Contributions



Social and Economic

- Provide key labor in the food and agriculture industry
- Help slow down or stop population decline
- Revitalize rural communities
- Increase state and federal funding for schools, clinics, hospitals, and other social services
- Increase the local tax base and use local services
- Introduce cultural and social diversity

Latino workers in agriculture



What Can You Do?

Opportunities

- On campus: Get informed and get involved (Join Student Clubs concerned with Latino issues, attend events, talk to faculty and ask for info or classes on similar topics)
- At home: Educate family members on MSFW' s role and issues in WA (talk about this presentation, your related readings, ask for their thoughts)
- In your community/church: Participate and/or organize events that address MSFW, visit a farm with migrant farmworkers and a farmworker camp

Resources

- “Diet for a Dead Planet” by Christopher Cook
- “The Human Cost of Food” Ed. by Charles Thompson Jr and Melinda Wiggins.
- “With These Hands” by Daniel Rothenberg
- “Mexican Labor and World War II: Braceros in the Pacific Northwest, 1942-1947” by Erasmo Gamboa
- “The New Rural Poverty” by Philip Martin, et al

Resources (cont.)

- National Center for Farmworker Health (www.ncfh.org)
- National Agricultural Workers Survey (<http://www.doleta.gov/agworker/naws.cfm>)
- Washington State Migrant Council (<http://www.wsmconline.org/>)
- Latinos in Northwest Project (<http://www.josealamillo.com/latinos%20northwest.htm>)
- Yakima Valley Farm Worker Clinics (<http://www.yvfwc.com/>)
- Washington Human Rights Commission (<http://www.hum.wa.gov/Farmworkers/index.html>)

“We are sons and daughters of the farm workers' revolution, a revolution of the poor seeking bread and justice.”

Cesar Chavez, Farmworker leader



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY



EXTENSION

World Class. Face to Face.

Thank you!

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MEXICANS

They are getting smarter