



National Farmworker Awareness Week

Celebrating 12 years of Awareness and Action

2011 Report

www.saf-unite.org



Summary: The 12th Annual National Farmworker Awareness Week took place March 27-April 2, 2011, in partnership with 24 national and international partner organizations. We are proud to say this year's NFAW boasted over 90 events and participation from almost 30,000 farmworkers & allies across the USA with one action in Canada!

In 13 states and 67 cities, we urged our campuses, communities, and decision-makers to think about where our food comes from with the slogan "Got Food? Thank a Farmworker." We demanded dignity & better working and living conditions, and celebrated the men, women, and children who provide the products we consume daily.

How we took action and raised awareness: Every year our organizers get more creative and innovative! This year students, workers, and community members came together at marches & rallies, health & education conferences, film screenings & speaker panels, neighborhood clean-ups & days of service, cultural celebrations & performances, soccer tournaments & run/walk-a-thons, memorials & altars, and many more activities, benefits & fundraisers to take action & raise awareness in honor of farmworkers!



www.farmworkerawareness.org

Top Photo-Chavez Celebration Parlier, CA Central Valley Health Network

Bottom Photo-University of Minnesota, Chicano Studies

Why do we have Farmworker Awareness Week?

Farmworkers feed the world- 85% of our fruits and vegetables are handpicked. There are an estimated 2-3 million men, women, and children 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 the third most dangerous job 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.**



Thank you NFAW Partners:

Assoc. of Farmworker Opportunity Programs,
CATA- The Farmworkers Support Committee,
Centro Campesino, Inc.,
Duke Students for Humane Borders,
Farmworker Association of Florida,
Farm Labor Organizing Committee,
Farmworker Justice,
Farmworker Legal Services of NY, Inc.,
Farm Worker Pesticide Project,
Justicia for Migrant Workers, Canada,
Mi Gente,
MigrantStudents.org,
NC Farmworker Ministry,
NC FIELD,
National Farm Worker Ministry and
Youth & Young Adult Network,
Pesticide Action Network North America,
Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste,
Student Action with Farmworkers,
Student/Farmworker Alliance,
Student Labor Action Project,
Syntiro-HEP Maine,
Toxic Free NC,
United Farm Workers,
University of FL-The Samuel Proctor Oral
History Program,
University of Minnesota- Chicano Studies,
Witness for Peace-Southeast



NFAW in the National News...Radio...Blogs...

<http://news.ufl.edu/2011/03/28/haiti-labor/>

<http://www.wcjb.com/news/9043/national-farm-worker-awareness-week>

<http://twincities.indymedia.org/alltags/national-farmworkers-awareness-week>

<http://olympiayaya.wordpress.com/2011/03/22/2011-farmworker-awareness-week/>

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20110329/ARTICLES/110329388/1109/sports?Title=Gainesville-marks-National-Farm-Workers-Awareness-Week>

<http://www.examiner.com/organic-food-in-denver/farmworker-protests-at-quiznos-headquarters>

<http://causaoregon.blogspot.com/2011/04/events-celebrating-of-farmworker.html>

http://www.harvestingjustice.org/?catid=40:immigration-labor-rights&id=623:fj-celebrates-national-farmworker-awareness-week&Itemid=68&option=com_content&view=article

<http://panna.org/blog/honoring-farmworkers>

<http://www.stainershow.org/>

<http://leeksoup.wordpress.com/2011/02/15/the-folks-who-grow-your-food/>

<http://www.nccouncilofchurches.org/2011/03/building-hope-one-chicken-coop-at-a-time/>

<http://www.sonomanews.com/Web-2011/-ldquoLa-Copa-Chavez-rdquo-celebration-at-La-Luz-Center/>

<http://fountainvalley.patch.com/articles/los-amigos-students-celebrate-cesar-chavez-day>

<http://m.thetimesnews.com/news/peace-43257-call-graham.html>

[Opinion: Why Farmworkers deserve same rights as any other workers, Mercury News](http://www.redding.com/news/2011/mar/24/chavez-emphasis-on-service-lives-on/)

<http://www.redding.com/news/2011/mar/24/chavez-emphasis-on-service-lives-on/>

<http://anewscafe.com/2011/04/04/opinion-shooting-illegal-immigrants-like-pigs-no-laughing-matter-part-1/>

<http://www.redding.com/news/2011/mar/27/marchers-carry-message-of-labor-champ/>

**Thanks everyone for your amazing work! Over 90 events occurred!
See the amazing 2011 NFAW events highlighted below!**

Organizations & Total Participant #'s		Activities
Farmworker Association of Florida Apopka, FL	310+	Woman to Woman Conference, Health Colloquium, Lake Apopka Toxic Tour, Public Community Meeting.
University of Minnesota-Chicano Studies Minneapolis, MN	50+	Film screening & panel discussion where attendees learned about farmworker issues and signed postcards.
National Cesar E. Chavez Blood Drive Challenge	15,000	Health education and blood drives at over 165 universities to honor Chavez's legacy.
Western Piedmont Community College Morganton, NC	100+	Had several events to raise awareness around farmworker issues in Western NC and to promote education access.
Central Valley Health Network Sacramento, CA	150	Educational health fair and health screenings for uninsured farmworkers.
NC Farmworker Health Program Raleigh, NC	6	Film screening and Discussion to create greater awareness about farmworker issues.
Grand Valley State University Sacramento, CA	150	Silent march around campus followed by a keynote speaker to educate and empower students
Pesticide Action Network of North America San Francisco, CA	30	Discussion about pesticide policy and farmworker justice in the context of the recent registration of methyl iodide
Hartnell College-HEP Salinas, CA	60	Awareness on campus about NFAW and film screening and panel discussion in student union.
Los Diferentes del Ritmo Sonoma, CA	200	Provided traditional Mexican music at La Copa Cesar Chavez tournament reception.
Appalachian State University Boone, NC	30	Tabling to promote NFAW. Film screening and panel discussion to raise awareness among students .
Arizona AFL-CIO/MALF Phoenix, AZ	425	Collected petitions for a National Cesar Chavez Holiday
Northern Hispanic Latino Coalition Redding, CA	150	Cesar Chavez March and Latino Graduation Scholarship Awards and several articles to promote Chavez's legacy
Glen L Downs Middle School Phoenix, AZ	200+	Guest speaker to talk to 5-8 th graders about Cesar Chavez, his work, and what he stood for.
University of North Carolina Chapel Hill,	40	Speaker panel featuring three experts who spoke about farmworker issues: education and RJ Reynolds campaign
Duke University Durham, NC	34	Dinner and screening of <i>Harvest of Dignity</i> at a restaurant on campus with a panel discussion.
City of Phoenix Neighborhood Services Phoenix, AZ	N/A	Neighborhood clean-up
Farmworker Justice Washington, DC	N/A	Web promotion of NFAW with Blog
YAYA (NFWM) Orlando, FL	130	Immigration Rally, Farm worker Informational table, Lecture on farmworker justice, and film screening
Groundwork Denver Denver, CO	45+	Promotion of options to improve the environment such as free bulbs, free recycling services & alternative transportation, & free home energy audits.
Farm Worker Pesticide Project Seattle, WA	32	Presentation on what to do if exposed to pesticides such as reporting, symptoms, and where to get help, etc.
Roseville City School District Roseville, CA	900	Cesar Chavez Youth Leadership Conference with participation from different agencies that serve families.
Los Amigos High School Santa Ana, CA	300+	Awareness raising activities led by students and a video screening in efforts to empower students.
United Farm Workers CA	10,627	Chavez/Worker Rights Marches. 8,000+ people donated their Facebook statuses in honor of Chavez.
Samuel Proctor Oral History Program/ Interfaith Alliance for Immigrant Justice Gainesville, FL	305+	Haitian Farmworker Slavery Panel, Chavez/Huerta Lunch & gathering, film screening, fundraiser, and CIW support!

More from NFAW Organizers...Hopes, Visions, Goals and Why NFAW!

“My hope for the agricultural system is that the culture that currently exists that makes and influences agricultural policy and regulation be completely transformed into one that recognizes the innate dignity and equality of all people and that treats all beings-human and otherwise-with justice and respect.”—Jeannie Economos, Farmworker Assoc. of Florida

“Our goal is to bring more respect for farmworking families and access to higher education for their children as they so valiantly contribute to our national well-being.” —Glen Galindo, Migrantstudents.org

“We realize that the plight of farmworkers and their health is in dire straights and it has not improved much in the last 30 years. The only way to change the way we take care of our agricultural workers is to offer services to and for them to encourage better health and improved quality of life.” —Katrina Wyatt, Central Valley Health Network

“We are one.”—Beverly Fox-Miller, Arizona AFL-CIO/MALF

“We honor Cesar Chavez with an event to educate our university on all his accomplishments but to also empower others to continue in his leadership.”—Danny Ha, Gran Valley State University

“We understand that farmworkers are the backbone of our agricultural economy and the heart of our food system. And yet, performing some of the most demanding manual labor in any economic sector, farmworkers are also one of the groups least protected from the harms they can experience on the job”. — Devika Ghai, Pesticide Action Network North America

“I believe in the cause that Cesar lived for. Si se puede!” —Theresa McLaughlin, Glen L Downs School

“We coordinated an NFAW event because farm work is essential to this valley AND our college and program serves over 200 migrant families every year. We hope that the future of agriculture includes safe and fair labor practices for farmworkers as well as deserved recognition regarding the importance of their work.” — Carla Calderon Johnson, Hartnell College-HEP

“The vision of Cesar, Dolores, Arturo and all who fight for farmworkers remains clear and sustained in spite of the rampant, conservative political mischaracterizations.”—Alan Phillips, Northern Hispanic Latino Coalition

“We wanted to honor the life of Cesar Chavez by hosting a volunteer event that would help people and the planet at the same time.” —Wendy Hawthorne, Groundwork Denver

“That farmworkers receive equal pay for the hard work they do!”—Rene Aguilera, Roseville City School District

“We believed it was important that students should feel empowered of their heritage and culture. By doing this event, we have shared Cesar Chavez’s impact on both the Latino and Asian community alike.”—Kathy Tran, Los Amigos High School

Mark your Calendar:

National Farmworker Awareness Week

Celebrating 13 years of Awareness and Action

March 25-31, 2012

www.farmworkerawareness.org

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