

A photograph of farmworkers in a field at sunset. In the foreground, several people are standing, some looking towards the camera. In the background, there are green tractors and a large building. The sky is orange and yellow from the setting sun.

# PPDC Farmworker Workgroup Update

June 17, 2025

Photo courtesy of Emma Torres,  
Campesinos Sin Fronteras

Name	Organization
<b>Alanna Bares</b>	Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, California Environmental Protection Agency
<b>Becca Berkey</b>	Northeastern University
<b>Nathan Donley</b>	Center for Biological Diversity
<b>Alexis Guild</b>	Farmworker Justice
<b>Joseph G. Grzywacz</b>	San José State University
<b>Loren LaPointe, EPA Co-Chair</b>	EPA Office of Pesticide Programs
<b>Michelle Ranville</b>	USDA Office of Pest Management Policy
<b>Alexis Temkin</b>	Environmental Working Group
<b>Emma Torres</b>	Campesinos Sin Fronteras
<b>Mily Treviño- Sauceda, Co-Chair</b>	Alianza Nacional de Campesinas, Inc.
<b>Brian Verhougstraete</b>	Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

# PPDC Farmworker Workgroup Members

# Who are Farmworkers?

- Farmworkers, migrant or seasonal, are individuals involved in agricultural production including planting, cultivating, harvesting, and processing crops for sale, and caring for animals (Arcury & Quandt, 2009)
- National Agricultural Workers Survey (NAWS)\*\*:
  - Average age of farmworker: ~39
  - ~2/3 of farmworkers are foreign born (60.7% of all farmworkers born in Mexico)
  - 42% of all farmworkers are unauthorized to work in the United States
- 2022 Census of Agriculture\*:
  - 2.18 million+ hired farmworkers (on 23% of all farms) → 13.8% migrant/contract laborers
  - 1.5 million+ unpaid laborers on U.S. farms (on 33.3% of all farms)

\*[https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2022/Full\\_Report/Volume\\_1,\\_Chapter\\_2\\_US\\_State\\_Level/st99\\_2\\_007\\_007.pdf](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2022/Full_Report/Volume_1,_Chapter_2_US_State_Level/st99_2_007_007.pdf)

\*\*Limitations: 1) only crop workers, 2) doesn't account for H-2A workers, 3) survey conducted on farm:  
[https://www.doleta.gov/naws/research/docs/NAWS\\_Research\\_Report\\_13.pdf](https://www.doleta.gov/naws/research/docs/NAWS_Research_Report_13.pdf)



Photo courtesy of Joe Grzywacz, San Jose State University





Agricultural workers are at increased risk of acute pesticide poisonings in comparison to non-agricultural workers, particularly through drift, *early reentry into a treated area*, and use in conflict with the label.

The incidence rate was almost twofold higher in female agricultural workers compared to males.

(Source: [Calvert et al.](#) Acute pesticide poisoning among agricultural workers in the United States, 1998-2005. Am J Ind Med. 2008 Dec;51(12):883-98)

# Summary of Workgroup Actions

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- Discussion on charge questions.





# 2025 PPDC Farmworker Workgroup Recommended Charge Questions

Charge question 1: Articulate recommendations for the OPP to enhance its statutorily required activities and programs, particularly as it relates to ensuring the effectiveness and efficiency of the Worker Protection Standard for all community stakeholders, including agricultural operators and workers.

Charge question 2: Re-articulate the centrality of farmworkers in the continued growth of American agricultural production and, in doing so, make clear the compelling 'business case' for ensuring the effectiveness of statutorily required activities and programs and the costs if not implemented effectively.

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# Discussion & Questions



Photos courtesy of: Joe Grzywacz (right) and Emma Torres (top & bottom)