



Greater Annapolis Farm Labor Provision Project Kick-Off Meeting May 6, 2002

Meeting Notes and Highlights:

- Farm labor Crisis and Fair Farm Labor Wage – Dave Myers, MCE
A presentation was given examining the loss of farm labor nation wide. USDA Farm Labor Charts were downloaded and shared with the group from the following website:
www.usda.gov/nass/aggraphs/laborpix.htm
It was discovered during the discussion that from the period 1991 to 2001 that the average USDA U.S. Average Wage Rate Comparison reflected the largest gain amongst the farm workers. During this ten-year period minimum hourly wage remained relatively flat \$4.25 to \$5.25; the wage for farm work rose dramatically from \$4.75 to \$7.80, and the gain for non-farm work rose comparatively from \$9.75 to \$13.75 for 1991 to 2001, respectively. Examining the USDA Quarterly U. S. Farm Wage Rate, it was revealed that for 2001 the average farm worker earned from \$7.60 to \$9.00 per hour for all on-farm jobs combined.
- The Hispanic Community – Robert Morales, APD, Hispanic Community Liaison
6000 displaced Latin Americans currently living in Annapolis. In three main locations:
 - 1) Allen Apartments
 - 2) Admiral Farragut Apartments
 - 3) Forest VillageThe typical rent is \$650.00/month plus utilities. Several families may share the same apartment. Also, in the nearby Glen Burnie area 15,000 Latin Americans have legal residence.
Mr. Morales stated that these communities are comprised of legal residents with valid Social Security numbers, and are not federal migrant workers or immigration workers. The communities are recent immigrants primarily from San Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, and Honduras displaced from their own country due to natural disasters and political unrest. They possess preferred status, permanent visas.
He described this group as being patriotic to the U.S., possessing excellent work ethic, religious, and hungry for work. Most of the men were farmers in their own countries and would rather farm or work outside than to work in restaurants, hotels, car washes, etc.
Mr. Morales felt that an arranged worker pick-up at the three Latin American Annapolis communities for farm laborer jobs would be mutually beneficial to both the Latino families and the farmers. He felt that members of the Latino community were being exploited by working jobs at \$6.50/hr.
- Farmer Labor Needs Assessment Survey – Tony Evans, MDA
The meeting attendees completed the Farm Labor Needs Survey. The following is a summary of the survey results:

Maryland Cooperative Extension programs are open to all citizens without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, age, sex or disability.

Farmer Labor Needs Survey Results

The following results are based upon 17 completed surveys by the program participants.

1. Are you interested in hiring farm labor from the Annapolis area Latino community to work on your farm? Yes____ No____
15/17 respondents checked Yes – 88.2%
0/17 respondents checked No – 0%
2/17 no response – 11.8%
2. How many hours of labor would you need each week during these farming activity periods?
(Please indicate number of hours/week.)
Planting – 116 hrs/wk Cultivating – 128 hrs/wk Harvesting – 186 hrs/wk
Post Harvest Handling – 150 hrs/wk Pruning – 100 hrs/wk Other – 182 hrs/wk
The above labor hours/week represents the total of 12/17 respondents by category.
3. How many hours per week for each season would you need workers to help you?
(Please indicate number of hours.)
Winter – 98 hrs/wk Spring – 508 hrs/wk Summer – 524 hrs/wk Fall – 318 hrs/wk
The above labor hours/week represents the total of 12/17 respondents by category.
4. Should these workers have their own transportation to get to your farm? Yes____ No____
16/17 respondents checked Yes – 94.1%
0/17 respondents checked No – 0%
1/17 no response – 5.9%
5. Could you transport workers from the Annapolis area? Yes____ No____
4/17 respondents checked Yes – 23.5%
11/17 respondents checked No – 64.7%
1/17 respondents wrote maybe – 5.9%
1/17 no response – 5.9%
6. Have you ever used Spanish-speaking farm labor before? Yes____ No____
5/17 respondents checked Yes – 29.4%
11/17 respondents checked No – 64.7%
1/17 no response – 5.9%
7. Do you have anyone else working on your farm that speaks Spanish? Yes____ No____
2/17 respondents checked Yes – 11.8%
14/17 respondents checked No – 82.3%
1/17 no response – 5.9%
8. Would you need already trained workers? Yes____ No____
3/17 respondents checked Yes – 17.6%
10/17 respondents checked No – 58.8%
4/17 no response – 23.6%

9. Could you train the workers to do the work needed on your farm? Yes_____ No_____
- 16/17 respondents checked Yes – 94.1%
 0/17 respondents checked No – 0%
 1/17 no response – 5.9%
10. How much would you pay good workers per hour? \$_____ to \$_____
- The 17 Respondents indicated that they were willing to pay farm workers a range from \$5.00 to \$12.00 per hour.
- \$5.00 to \$6.00 per hour – 1/17 respondents – 5.9%
 \$6.00 to \$8.00 per hour – 4/17 respondents – 23.5%
 \$8.00 to \$10.00 per hour – 8/17 respondents – 47.0%
 \$10.00 to \$12.00 per hour – 2/17 respondents – 11.8%
 No response – 2/17 respondents – 11.8%
- The above wage breakdown represents the amounts as indicated by the 17 respondents.
11. If you could secure reliable workers, would you be able to expand your farming operation?
 Yes_____ No_____
- 11/17 respondents checked Yes – 64.7%
 2/17 respondents checked No – 11.8%
 3/17 respondents wrote maybe – 17.6%
 1/17 no response – 5.9%
12. What type of farming are you engaged in?
- | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Vegetables <u>47.0%</u> | Fruit <u>47.0%</u> | Nursery <u>29.4%</u> | Green House <u>11.8%</u> |
| Grain Crops <u>23.5%</u> | Hay/Straw <u>29.4%</u> | Livestock <u>35.3%</u> | Tobacco <u>5.9%</u> |
| Turf/Sod <u>5.9%</u> | Landscape <u>11.8%</u> | | |
- The above percentage represents the 17 respondents involvement by farming category.

- Open Forum – Dave Myers, Robert Morales, Tony Evans
- Following the completion of the survey an open discussion was held. A project steering committee was formed, and the early stages of the program strategy were discussed. The steering committee agreed to reconvene to review the results of the survey, and to develop an implementation plan for Greater Annapolis Farm Labor Provision Project.

Greater Annapolis Farm Labor Provision Project

Steering Committee Members

Lolita Harley, Chair	Thomas Harley
Ross Moreland	Martin Zehner
Bobi Crispens	Nancy Carter
Kathy Leyden	