

## ***Farmworker Jeopardy***

For the following game, you can create a "Farmworker Jeopardy" Game board out of poster board, write the categories and monetary amounts below, and play just like jeopardy with teams.

Farmworker Jeopardy was created by Student Action with Farmworkers in Durham, NC. Any further reproduction of Farmworker Jeopardy should give credit to SAF. 1317 W. Pettigrew St. Durham, NC 27705. (919) 660-3652.

### **Column 1: FARMWORKER DEMOGRAPHICS**

**\$200** There are how many farmworkers in the US?

- a. 500,000-1,000,000
- b. 2-3 million
- c. 5-8 million

81% of these workers are foreign-born, and that's up from 10% in 1989. 77% of farmworkers were born in Mexico, 2% other Latin American born, 9% US Born Hispanic, 7% white, 1% African American and 4% other. 22% are US citizens, 24% are LPRs and 52% are undocumented immigrants (up from 7% in 1989).

**\$400** Most farmworkers earn about how much annually?

- a. \$11,000
- b. \$5,000
- c. \$25,000

Over 3/5 of farmworkers live below the poverty level and this is increasing. The purchasing power has dropped more than 10% from 1989 to 1998. The average wage earned by farmworkers in 1997-98 was \$5.94 an hour. Data from 2005 suggests that the average farmworker across the US earns around \$11,000 while an average farmworker family earns around \$16,000. In the East Coast, farmworkers earn much less.

**\$800** What percentage of migrant farmworker parents are accompanied by their children?

- a. 50%
- b. 10%
- c. 70%

3/5 of foreign-born farmworkers are married and have children, but most live separately from their spouses and children. 90% of these families live in Mexico.

### **Column 2: AGRICULTURE**

**\$200** North Carolina has the \_\_\_\_ largest population of migrant farmworkers in the US?

- a. 6th
- b. 1st
- c. 12th

Other states in the top 6 are: California, Florida, Texas, Washington, Oregon. NC's main crops are: tobacco, cucumbers, sweet potatoes, Xmas trees, food animals.

**\$400** What percentage of fruits and vegetables are hand-harvested?

- a. 10%,

- b. 35%
- c. 85%

Migrant farmworkers work mostly in crop harvest, while seasonal farmworkers do more of the preparation (planting etc.) Crops like cucumbers must be picked when they are a certain length and before they get any bigger, so those mean very long days during those times.

- \$800** Agribusiness corporations get \_\_\_\_ % of every food income dollar?
- a. 71%
  - b. 55%
  - c. 20%

Increasing farmworker wages by 50% would cost consumers less than \$5 a year if the extra was passed down directly to workers. Or, if food prices went up 10%, farmworker wages would be doubled. Americans spend 11.4% of their annual income on food, while other industrialized nations spend significantly more, 20-50%.

### Column 3: LABOR ISSUES

- \$200** In 2004, the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC) won a boycott on what product?
- a. Campbell's Soup
  - b. Taco Bell
  - c. Mt. Olive Pickles

In September, 2004, FLOC won the largest union contract ever in North Carolina and ended the boycott of Mt. Olive. The contract covers not only Mt. Olive pickle pickers but also the vast majority of the legal temporary "guestworkers" here on an "H2A" visa. FLOC boycotted Mt. Olive because of the company's refusal to negotiate with workers for higher wages and better conditions. FLOC's strategy targets the processing company as well as the growers to enter into 3 way negotiations.

- \$400** True or False: It is illegal to pay any US worker less than the federal minimum wage.
- a. True
  - b. False
  - c. Depends

The Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 requires employers to pay at least a minimum wage, but farmworkers were excluded until 1978. Farmers owning small farms are still not required to pay the minimum wage. Farmworkers are also excluded from receiving overtime pay.

- \$800** Cesar Chavez and \_\_\_\_ founded the United Farm Workers?
- a. Baldemar Velasquez
  - b. Dolores Huerta
  - c. Ricky Martin

The UFW was founded in 1962 in California and is the source of the largest boycott campaign ever-table grapes. Chavez based many of his strategies on Martin Luther King Jr. and Gandhi's philosophies of non-violent direct action. Cesar Chavez died in 1993 after a fast, but Huerta continues to organize to achieve justice for farmworkers.