



Farmworker Housing Realities

City of Raleigh Fair Housing
Conference

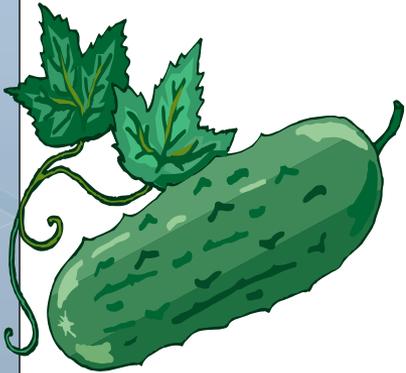
Meghan Melo, Esq.

Legal Aid of North Carolina

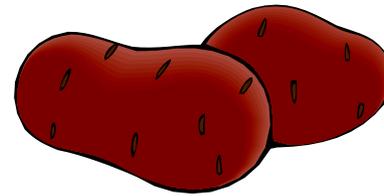


Farmworkers in North Carolina

- NC Ranks fifth in the United States in Number of migrant Farmworkers
- Main crops they work in:



May - June



September-
November



July -
September



April-
December

What work do migrant workers primarily do?

- Plant, cultivate and harvest:
 - Tobacco
 - Sweet potatoes
 - Christmas Trees
 - Cucumbers
 - Blueberries
 - Other fruits and vegetables
- Raise and process poultry and hogs
- Process seafood



Who are migrant agricultural workers in North Carolina?

- Nationally,
 - 70-80% of farmworkers are male.
 - 68% born in Mexico.
 - A little more than half are without legal status according to NAWS.
- North Carolina
 - Largest number of guestworkers in US (22% of national number) (mostly from Mexico).
 - Food processing workers are very diverse and include a higher percentage of women.

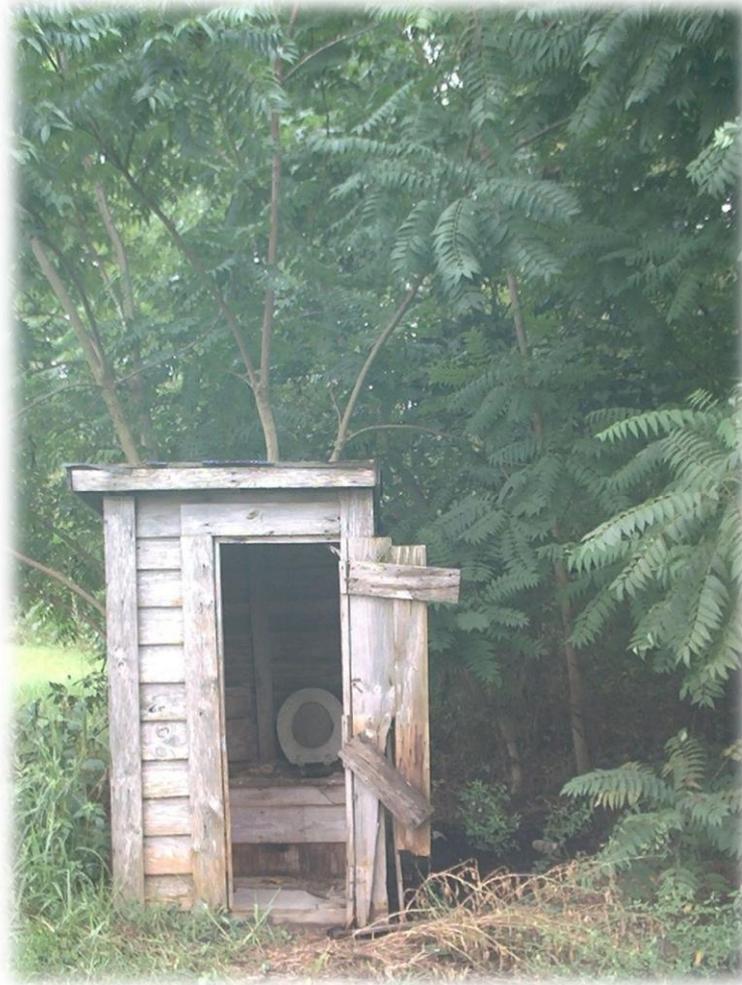
What are some of the most pressing problems?

- Low wages
- Exclusions from protections other workers have (“agricultural exceptionalism”)
- Poor housing
- Dangerous working conditions
- Language Barriers
- Exposure to pesticides
- Immigration status
- Access to services for themselves and their children
- Employer control
- Human trafficking

Current Housing Standards

- ✓ No holes in floors, walls, roof
- ✓ Windows with screens
- ✓ 50 square ft./ person in bedroom
- ✓ Adequate lights and electric outlets
- ✓ Smoke detectors
- ✓ Fire extinguisher
- ✓ First aid kit
- ✓ 1 stove burner/ 5 people
- ✓ .75 cubic ft. refrigerator space/ person
- ✓ 1 bathroom with toilet paper/ 15 people
- ✓ 1 sink/ 6 people
- ✓ 1 washer or wash tub/ 30 people
- ✓ 1 clothes line or dryer
- ✓ 1 shower/ 10 people
- ✓ Sufficient hot and cold running water
- ✓ 1 bed / person w/mattress & cover
- ✓ Heat (Sept. 1 – May 15)
- ✓ No rodents or insects

Does this comply?



Does this comply?



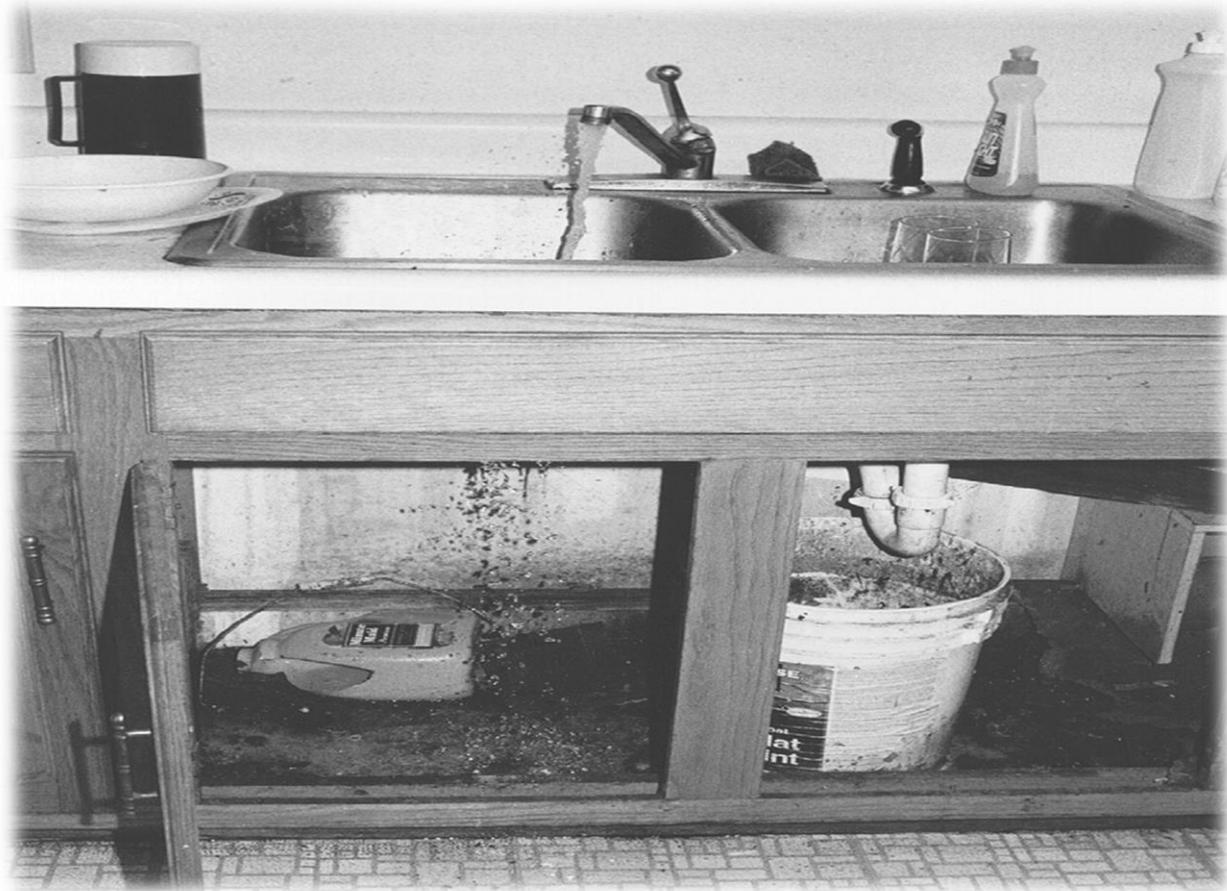
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Questions

- Volunteer with Legal Aid's Farmworker Unit – Witness for Justice Program
- Meghan Melo:
meghanm@legalaidnc.org
- 919.856.2180