

Thoroughbred Farmworker Demographics & Benefits: what are we learning from farms?

This is part of a series of research briefs reporting the findings from the Thoroughbred Worker Health and Safety Study. **The goal of this brief is to describe the farmworkers on Thoroughbred farms as described by participating farms, including demographics and benefits offered to them.** We collected demographic data on both year-round and seasonal workers from 32 small, medium, and large farms (as defined by number of year-round workers). Counting all workers, farms hired an average of 30 workers [Range, 1-230] in the past year and an average of 23 farmworkers [Range, 1-180]. This brief focuses on farmworkers, or those working out on the farm and not in office or managerial positions.

Average # of Farmworkers on All Farms

Year-Round Farmworkers



Full-Time Farmworkers



Part-Time Farmworkers

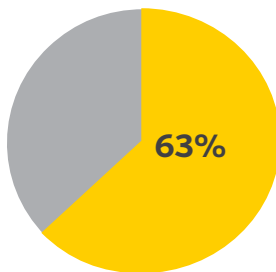


Seasonal Workers

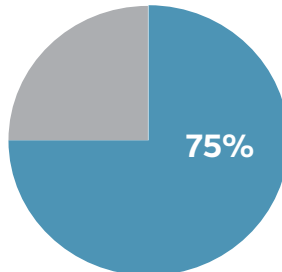


Farms Hiring Contingent Workers

Hires Seasonal Workers



Hires Contract Workers



Full-Time Status

- Small Farms:** 22.5-54 hrs/wk
- Medium Farms:** 44-55 hrs/wk
- Large Farms:** 30-51 hrs/wk
- Overall Average:** 48 hrs/wk

Part-Time Status

- Small Farms:** 15-24 hrs/wk
- Medium Farms:** 16-21 hrs/wk
- Large Farms:** 25-45 hrs/wk
- Overall Average:** 25 hrs/wk

Definitions

Farmworkers	Workers who work out on the farm (excludes office workers and managers, but includes both full-time and part-time positions).
Year-round workers	Employed throughout the year
Seasonal workers	Only employed for part of the year
Small Farms	1-10 workers
Medium Farms	11-25 workers
Large Farms	>25 workers

Thoroughbred Worker Health & Safety Study

WHO? Researchers at the University of Kentucky and University of Maryland, guided by Industry and Community Advisory Councils, funded by CDC/NIOSH

WHAT? Research study to identify farm safety and health challenges, work organization, and farms' best practices

WHEN? 2011-2016

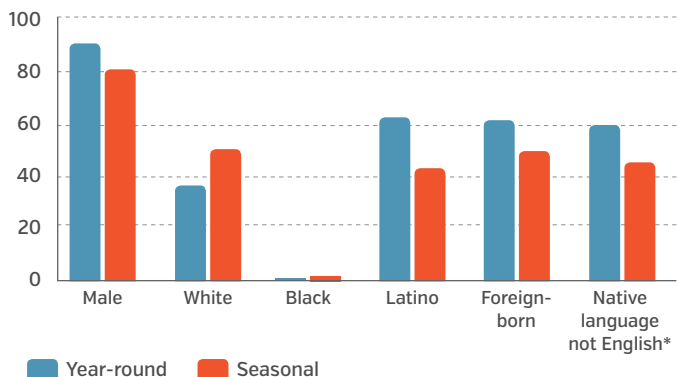
WHERE? Thoroughbred Farms

HOW? Interviews with farm representatives and workers

WHY? To improve worker health and safety and reduce costs for farms



Demographic Traits of Year-Round & Seasonal Workers



*91% of farms had Spanish-speaking year-round workers. All farms with seasonal workers had Spanish-speaking seasonal workers.

Countries Represented* (in order of prevalence)

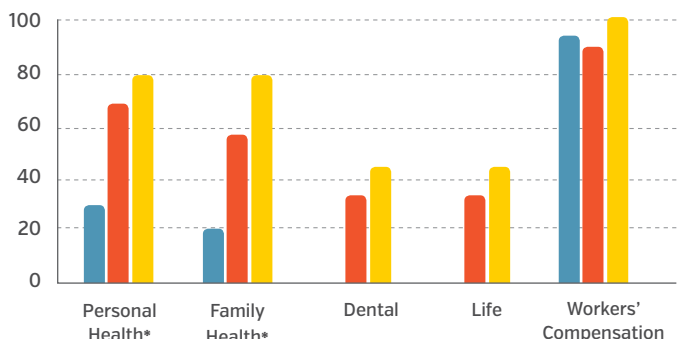


*Almost 2/3 of year-round workers on each farm were Latino; 2/3 were also foreign-born.

Benefits Offered to Full-Time Farmworkers

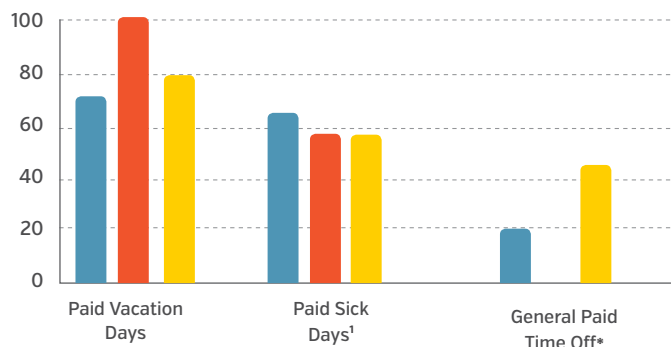
■ Small Farm ■ Medium Farm ■ Large Farm

Insurance



*1 medium farm offered health insurance to seasonal workers and their families.

Paid Leave



*1 large farm offered sick leave and general paid time off to seasonal workers.

Average Hourly Wage

	Full-time	Part-time	Seasonal
Small Farm	\$9.80	\$8.50	\$8.70
Medium Farm	\$9.50	\$11.40	\$8.70
Large Farm	\$9.20	\$9.60	\$9.10

 University of
Kentucky
College of Public Health



Resources

Bluegrass Community Health Center
[859] 259-2635
bchc.uky.edu

Blue Grass Farms Charities
English: [859] 219-0910
Español: [859] 351-4426
www.bgfcky.org

Lexington Rescue Mission Clinic
[859] 381-9600
www.lexingtonrescue.org

Acknowledgements

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For more information, please contact Dr. Jennifer Swanberg at jswanberg@ssw.umaryland.edu, or Jess Miller Clouser at jess.clouser@uky.edu, or visit www.workersafetyandhealth.com.