



What food issues are important to San Diego County farmworkers?



In the summer of 2020, as part of [San Diego County Food Vision 2030](#), San Diego County residents answered a few survey questions to express their unique needs and aspirations related to food in their communities. We're excited to share what we heard from farmworkers in our region.

OVERVIEW

What do you value in your relationship with your employer?

TOP SELECTIONS

Job security
Honesty, trust, clear communication & a safe environment

What do you want San Diegans to know about your experiences growing, producing, harvesting, and delivering food to markets?

SELECT RESPONSES

- "El aguacate lo venden muy caro, pero no se refleja en a paga." (The avocado sold is very expensive, but it is not reflected in pay)
- "All food crops require human minds and hands to produce."
- "Nosotros los inmigrantes somos esenciales para la produccion de alimentos y merecemos una paga digna para proveer para nuestras familias." (We immigrants are essential to food production and we deserve a decent pay to provide for our families)

CHALLENGES

What are your top workplace challenges?

TOP CHALLENGES

Low wages
Access to quality health insurance, medical expenses, paid sick leave
Unstable or temporary work schedule

What resources or tools would be helpful to you?

TOP RESOURCES

Livable wage campaign
A public office (city or county) focused on uplifting policies and regulations to support farmworkers
Financial assistance (especially for individuals/families with different immigration status)

How has the COVID-19 pandemic impacted your work and how do you anticipate it will affect your experience in the coming months?

SELECT RESPONSES

- "El trabajo disminuyo asi como tambien nuestro ingreso y me ha costado ponerme al corriente con mis gastos." (Work decreased, as well as our income, and it has cost me to catch up with my expenses)
- "Working longer days with less staff. Very hot working conditions outdoors in a mask. High stress work environment."
- "Escases de trabajo que afectan la calidad de vida de mi familia a un largo plazo." (Job shortages that affect my family's quality of life in the long run)

ASPIRATIONS FOR FARMWORKERS

What is your vision for farmworkers in San Diego County?

SELECT RESPONSES

- "More respect from others not in agriculture."
- "Mejore paga y que el almuerzo y descanso sean respetados. Que tengas asistencia y flexibilidad para poder ir al doctor sin temor a perder trabajo." (Better pay and that lunch and rest are respected. That you have assistance and flexibility to be able to go to the doctor without fear of losing your job)
- "Un centro medico dentro del rancho." (a medical center inside the ranch)
- "Que tuvieramos mas beneficios economicos tangibles porque es un trabajo muy pesado y esencial." (That we have the opportunity to fix our immigration status in order to continue working and providing for our families)
- "Mejore paga y que el almuerzo y descanso sean respetados. Que tengas asistencia y flexibilidad para poder ir al doctor sin temor a perder trabajo." (Better pay and that lunch and rest are respected. That you have assistance and flexibility to be able to go to the doctor without fear of losing your job)
- "Que los trabajadores agricolas no sean despreciados. Hay trabajadores inmigrantes e indigenas y merecemos dignidad y respeto con acceso a recursos tangibles y educacion laboral." (Let agricultural workers not be despised. There are immigrant and indigenous workers and we deserve dignity and respect with access to tangible resources and job education)
- "Places should treat their agricultural workers with more dignity. Right now they treat me right but in other sites they would hurry us, and if we don't work fast, we are fired. Treat farmworkers with more dignity."

What would you like to see happen as a result of San Diego County Food Vision 2030?

SELECT RESPONSES

- "Documentation/citizenship granted for farmworkers. Or at least work permits. We don't have many job options and we have to bear the conditions we work so we can get an income. A dignified life and to uplift the farmworker community in a dignified way."
- "That more local farms exist and flourish. That Food Vision 2030 will not be another bureaucratic entity."
- "Improve the state of labor shortages in San Diego and high cost of water."
- "Que existiera un centro de salud dentro del area laboral para que personas que se lastiman o enfermen tenga atencion de medica de inmediato." (That there will be a health center within the work area so that people who are injured or ill have immediate medical attention)
- "Que tengamos oportunidad de arreglar nuestro status migratorio para poder seguir trabajando y proveyendo para nuestras familias." (That we have the opportunity to fix our immigration status in order to continue working and providing for our families)
- "Mejores acceso medico." (Better medical access)