

2025 April Ag Labor Survey – Overview

- **Project Code:** 956 - Labor Survey
- **Reference Periods:**
 - April 6 – 12
 - January 12 – 18
- **Questionnaires:** Mailed March 27th
- **Release:** *Farm Labor Report*, May 21st, 2025
- **Purpose:** To determine the types and number of farm workers employed, and wages paid.

Farm employment and wage statistics are used by federal, state, and local government agencies, farm organizations, and employers for many purposes, including planning, recruitment and placement of workers, and policy-making. The agricultural wage rate is a component of the Parity Index and is used in the establishment of minimum wage rates for domestic and foreign agricultural workers.

What IS Agricultural Work: (what should be included)?

Agricultural work includes any activity performed on a farm or ranch in connection with the production and delivery of agricultural products, up to the point of first sale. Agricultural work also includes the maintenance of buildings and machinery, bookkeeping, and supervision of employees if these activities are directly related to the production of agricultural products. However, exclude any workers if their job isn't directly related to farming, such as "value-added" workers (ex: cashiers working retail sales in a store on the farm).

Watch for:

- Extreme hours per week or wages per hour. Low hours could be indicative of misreported contract labor. Leave notes verifying any unusually high values.
- Misreporting of data. Be sure the operator understands we are asking for TOTALS
- Livestock operations should have livestock workers reported.
- Workers reported as "Jack of All Trades": In these cases, try to get as much detail as possible about the exact work performed, in order for office staff to code the workers accurately
- 'Other' workers reported. HQ looks at these closely, should be very few legitimate Other workers reported.

-It might be necessary to explain the type of data we're asking for on this survey to the respondent. On larger operations the first person to answer the phone might not have the hours and wages information we need for this survey.

Terms & Definitions: See Chapter 2 of the Agricultural Labor Survey Interviewer's Manual for specific terms and definitions as they relate to the survey.