



*Farmworker
Awareness
Week*

2008

Farmworker Awareness Week 2008



From March 30-April 5 2008,
we saw over 350 Farmworker Awareness Week events
in 134 U.S. cities
and more than 30 states
at well over 100 colleges, universities and high schools!

Thanks to the amazing organizing efforts of individuals around the country,
well over 30,000 people took part in Farmworker
Awareness Week events this year!

Thank
you!

On behalf of everyone at Student Action with Farmworkers, thank you for taking action to educate your community about farmworkers! With the help of our 17 co-sponsors and many more people working on a local level, we were able to raise a strong and unified voice for justice in agriculture!

Sponsor Organizations

César E. Chávez Foundation, César E. Chavez National Holiday, Comunidad a Comunidad, Farmworker Association of Florida, Farmworker Justice, Farmworkers Self-Help, Inc., The Farmworkers Support Committee (CATA), Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC), Líderes Campesinas, Labor Education and Research Center- Evergreen College, National Farm Worker Ministry Youth and Young Adult Network, Pesticide Action Network of North America (PANNA), Toxic Free NC, Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (PCUN), Student Farmworker Alliance (SFA), Student Labor Action Project (SLAP), United Farm Workers (UFW)



1. Cesar Chavez Day March in L.A.
2. CIW Rally at Stetson University in Florida.
3. Grapefruit gleaning with students from Rollins College.
4. Pro-Farmworker Rock Concert at Stetson University.
5. Tabling at St. Augustine College. Photos Courtesy of National Farm Worker Ministry

Event Highlights:

Central Florida Youth

Speak out for Farmworkers

Students at Stetson University, University of Central Florida, Rollins College and Flagler College teamed up with the National Farm Worker Ministry Youth and Young Adult Network to hold events in central Florida. Students hosted speakers on Human Trafficking, screened movies, hosted information tables, held a gleaning event, and got signatures for the Coalition of Immokalee Workers Anti-slavery Campaign, the Farm Labor Organizing Committee Reynolds Tobacco Campaign, the Cesar Chavez National Holiday Campaign, and the Farmworker Justice Guestworker Campaigns.

National Farm Worker Ministry

Makes the Week Count

NFWM Board and staff across the nation honored Cesar Chavez's birthday during Farm Worker Awareness Week by holding forty events in New York, Ohio, Florida, Illinois and California and Oregon. They hosted information tables and/or speaking events at 13 high schools and colleges, organized a theater production of On Eagles Wings, held poetry readings and movie nights, filled in for workers at Loyola Marymount so they could have a lunch celebration, gleaned more than 10,000 pounds of fruits & vegetables for local food banks. They even got Governor Kulongoski of Oregon to issue a proclamation on Farm Worker Awareness Week!

South Florida

Joins the Movement

Florida International University and University of Miami students work with 6 local high schools and the National Farm Worker Ministry to educate people about pesticides and to collect signatures for the Coalition of Immokalee Workers Anti-slavery Campaign.

Los Angeles: ¡Presente!

Thanks to the organizing efforts of the National Farm Worker Ministry, Students for Labor and Economic Justice, By Any Means Necessary, MECHA, Hermanos Unidos, the United Farm Workers, the Catholic church, several Jewish temples and other Christian churches, the United Farm Worker Foundation and many more, over 10,000 people took part in Farmworker Awareness Week Events in the LA area. At the Cathedral in Los Angeles, over 75 farm workers gathered with members of the community, Chavez family members and union representatives to honor Cesar Chavez. Over 1,700 students held presentations and rallies at local colleges, high schools, and elementary schools. More than 7,000 gathered at the heart of LA for music, lectures, and a walk of solidarity in honor of Cesar Chavez.

Farmworker Association of Florida *en la Lucha*

FWAF held presentations on farmworker issues to Amnesty International, Unitarian Universalists' women's group, and

National Resources Leadership Institute, hosted a Lake Apopka Toxic Tour, tabled at the University of Florida, and took group of young people & farmworker leaders to Tallahassee for 2 days to talk with legislators about anti-immigrant bills.

From Bellingham to Olympia: Students in Western Washington Raise their Voices

Community to Community worked with the Evergreen State College Labor Education and Research Center to host a panel on their groundbreaking farmworker cooperative farm. Evergreen College MEChA also leafleted and hosted a table at the Olympia Farmer's Market during the week. Students at the Western

Washington Center for Educational Pluralism teamed up with C2C to raise awareness about Cesar Chavez, speak out about injustice in the fields, and highlight the history of labor organizing. These events also raised awareness on pesticides, farmworker exceptionalism, immigration issues, the Cesar Chavez National Holiday Effort, and the Burger King Campaign.

NC Students Call for Change

Duke and UNC students held over 15 events during Farmworker Awareness Week, including a delegation from the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, a BK protest, film screenings, a local produce and pesticide education booth, a book drive, a guest lecture with author Helena Maria Viramontes, a fair-food dinner, and labor camp delegation with the Farm Labor Organizing Committee.

Background:

Farmworker Awareness Week (FAW) is a SAF-called, nation-wide week of action for students and community members to raise awareness about farmworker issues on their campuses and in their communities. Every year FAW takes place during the week of Cesar Chavez's birthday, March 31st, to honor his legacy as a leader of the farmworker movement.

Why celebrate Farmworker Awareness Week every year?

Because farmworkers deserve fair wages. We know that farm work is hard work. It is skilled work, and it's work that feeds our families every day. We must work so their wages allow them to feed their families, too.

Because farmworkers deserve our respect. We know that farm work is necessary work. They cultivate the food we need to live and we need to return the favor. We should recognize and celebrate farmworkers' contribution to our society and economy.

Farmworkers deserve safe, healthy living and working conditions. We know that farm work is dangerous work. Every year, farmworkers are injured and even killed working to put food on our tables. Farmworkers and their families are often exposed to toxic chemicals in the field and at home. As consumers, we should call for better laws to protect farmworkers from harm.



Save the Date for
FAW 2009!

March 29 - April 4, 2009