



# NCFH

National Center for Farmworker Health, Inc.

# Impact 2024



Photo by Rudy Torres

# Letter from the CEO



Photo by Yvette Salinas

## ***Reaching farmworkers and responding to emerging disease threats defined our 2024.***

2024 was a year of growth, flexibility, and a national focus on farmworker outreach for the National Center for Farmworker Health. Our national partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention deepened and expanded with the onset of the H5N1 avian influenza threat to people working on dairy farms. We worked to deploy over \$4 million in funding to 43 farmworker-serving organizations across the country to rapidly distribute personal protective equipment, support vaccinations, and conduct in-person outreach and education to farmworker families about H5N1, COVID-19, and seasonal influenza.

In addition to addressing these immediate health threats, we remained committed to providing critical training and technical assistance to the network of health centers and others committed to serving farmworkers. This support ensured that healthcare professionals, community health workers, and other key stakeholders were equipped to meet the ongoing and emerging needs of farmworker communities.

Farmworkers need our support now more than ever. We know that national threats require local responses, and we are proud to serve America's farmworkers alongside our partners.

Alicia Gonzales, Chief Executive Officer

# 2024 Highlights

## H5N1 bird flu



In response to the emerging threat of H5N1 bird flu on dairy farms, NCFH deployed \$2 million to 22 organizations to support dairy worker outreach and education across the country.

## Symposium



We launched a new national model of our long lasting regional stream forums with the first National Agricultural Worker Health Symposium in Tampa, Florida. Over 120 attendees joined us envision new ways of supporting the health of farmworkers.

## Relief payments



We partnered with 25 organizations to distribute more than \$26 million in relief payments to over 44,000 farmworkers in 20 states.

## Training & TA



We held nearly 300 training and workshop sessions with more than 18,000 participants, and we supported over 2,200 individuals with training, technical assistance and customized consultations.



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NCFH's core services include training & education, research & data collection, outreach, and network building.



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Asparagus harvest in Michigan

Photo by Bethany Boggess Alcauter

# Trainings, Workshops, and Small Group Sessions

As a national capacity-building organization, we take pride in offering healthcare professionals, community health workers, public health staff, agricultural employers, and farmworkers evidence-based, engaging trainings and educational resources. This year our most popular training topics included H5N1 bird flu, non-medical health related needs, emergency preparedness, and population health management.

This year we:

- Facilitated 38 small group sessions with 1,010 participants.
- Trained 481 farmworkers and agricultural employers in Spanish, English, Tsotsil, and Tseltal on how to prevent heat-related illnesses.
- Conducted 197 virtual training sessions with 16,572 participants.
- Held 62 educational sessions at our regional stream forum and our national symposium with 578 participants.

# Resources & Publications

We are committed to producing resources in a variety of formats, including digital, print, and audio, that promote health education and information within farmworker populations and ultimately increase access to quality healthcare for farmworkers while working in the U.S. Each educational material developed specifically for farmworkers is also reviewed by our Farmworker Health Education Committee, which includes farmworkers from the U.S., Mexico, and Honduras.

The NCFH team published 86 resources in 9 different languages this year!



In partnership with our Farmworker Health Education Committee, we created materials on emerging & persistent health issues, such as STIs, heat stress, and influenza.



We created, piloted, and disseminated a bilingual tailgate talk (charla) for dairy workers about preventing the spread of H5N1, with several other print and audio resources.



We created or updated several resources to support language access work for farmworkers, who speak more than 48 languages according to our national surveys. Resources include a guide on identifying Indigenous language varieties, an updated directory of Indigenous interpretation organizations, among others.



# Farmworker Surveys

***We interviewed over 300 H-2A workers in California and Washington about all-hazard emergency preparedness.***

NCFH staff collaborated with local farmworker leaders to interview 307 H-2A guest workers during the summer of 2024 about their preparedness for natural disasters and public health emergencies.

Nearly 9 in 10 participants were born in Mexico, and 23% spoke an Indigenous language or identified as racially or ethnically Indigenous. Participants spoke Spanish, Kaqchikel, Mixteco, Nahuatl, Purepecha, and Zapoteco. We learned that 79% of participants said their employer had trained them about procedures during an emergency, and 81% had training on what to do during an infectious disease outbreak. Overall training and access to emergency items was high, but could be improved through public-private partnerships, especially for Indigenous workers.



# Migration Mapping

Thousands of farmworkers leave their homes each year to support America's agricultural production. Farmworkers who migrate can be based in the U.S., and they may follow crops or labor contractors with or without their families for work. Others leave their homes in Mexico, Guatemala, South Africa, Jamaica, and other countries to work temporarily in the U.S. with an H-2A temporary work visa.

The movement of farmworkers can cause complexity in public health planning and program delivery. In collaboration with the CDC, NCFH research staff adapted and tested the Population Connectivity Across Borders methods to quickly assess where and when farmworkers move for work through interviews and focus groups.

We collaborated with local farmworker leaders in July 2024 to look at farmworker movements into and out of Marion County, Oregon. [Read more](#) about what we learned in our report.

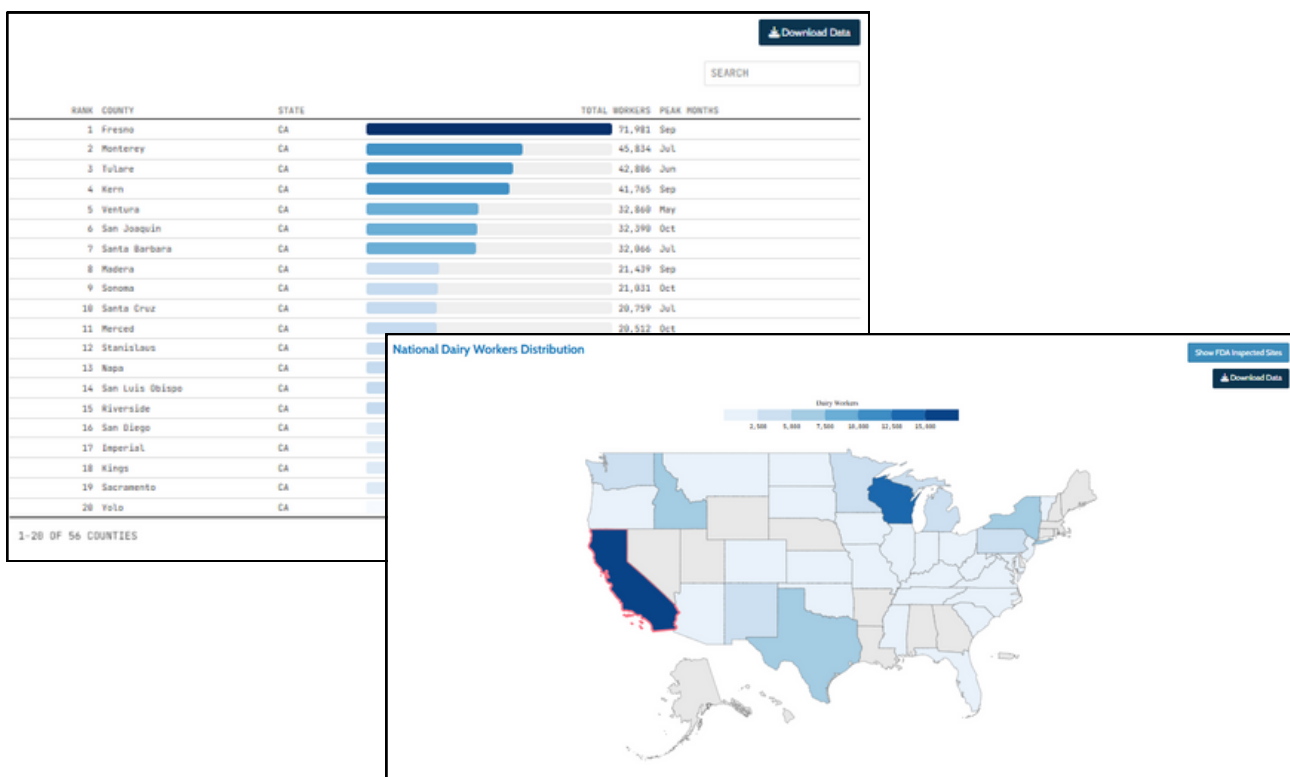


Migration route of “La Corrida” farmworkers from California, to Oregon, Washington, and Idaho.



*A key finding of this work is how adaptive the migration pathways are for farmworkers who move into and out of Marion County. Who migrates to work in agriculture changes over time, and where and when they move for work changes based on weather patterns, social networks, and other factors.*

# National Center for Farmworker Health



## Farm Labor

## Data Dashboard

Our interactive Farm Labor Data Dashboard, developed in partnership with the CDC in 2022, has undergone multiple updates and user interface interface enhancements. In response to H5N1 bird flu outbreaks on dairy farms, we produced county-level estimates of dairy workers, incorporating feedback from farmworker-serving organizations across the country.

This year we:

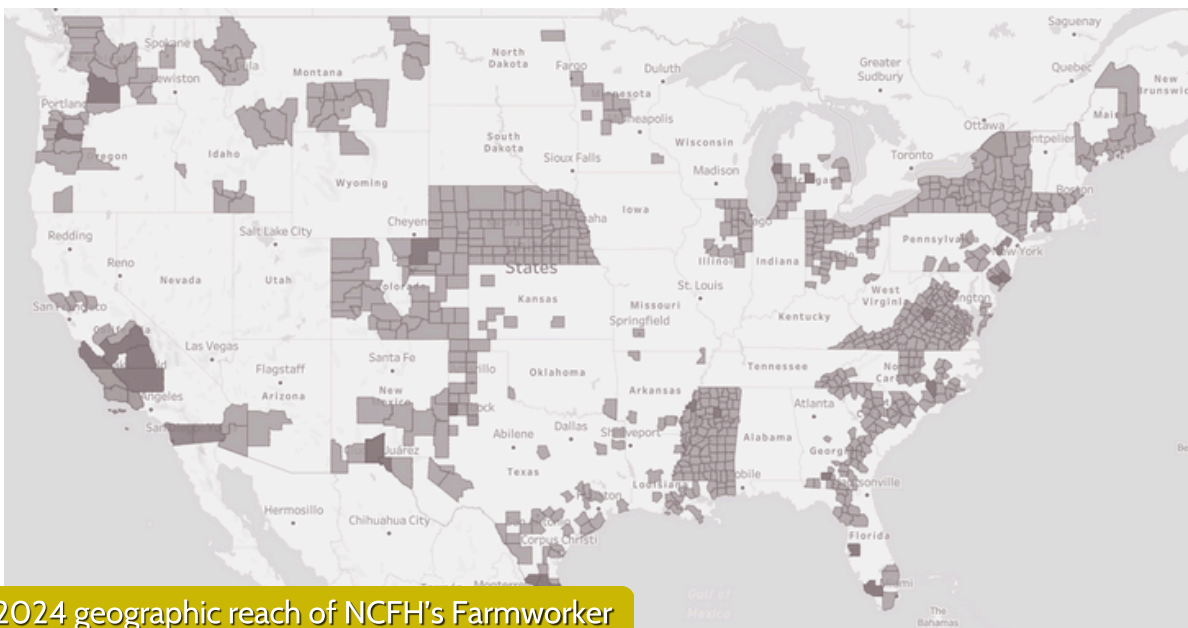
- Completed a series of recorded how-to videos to help new users efficiently navigate the dashboard for their personal goals.
- Created a national rankings table, allowing users to identify priority areas for farmworker health program planning.
- Conducted five live dashboard demonstrations at workshops and conferences.
- Reached a milestone of having over 1,000 registered users.

# Partnerships &

# National Networks

NCFH believes in the power of partnerships and collaborative national networks to improve the health and well-being of farmworker families. In 2024, NCFH supported:

- NCFH's Farmworker Outreach Network: a network of 43 community-based organizations and health centers, providing funding, training, and educational resources to reach farmworkers with information about emerging infectious diseases, vaccines, and primary health care resources.
- NCFH's Increase Access to Care Network: a network of health centers, primary care associations and health-center controlled networks united by the goal of ensuring farmworker families have access to quality healthcare.
- 179 health centers located in agricultural communities, offering with training and hands-on consultations to strengthen comprehensive health care for farmworker families.



2024 geographic reach of NCFH's Farmworker Outreach Network of 43 funded partners



# Farmworker Outreach Highlights

NCFH staff and our network of farmworker-serving organizations:

- Welcomed 212 H-2A workers at the port-of-entry in Laredo, Texas, and shared info about accessing health care in the U.S.
- Provided 44,520 farmworkers who labored during the pandemic with more than \$26 million in relief payments.
- Reached 587,294 farmworkers and their family members with information about infectious disease prevention and vaccines.
- Supported the distribution of 29,000 vaccine doses to farmworker families.

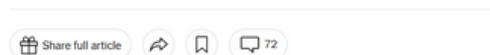


# Media Coverage

NCFH serves as a national expert for the media on current and emerging health issues affecting agricultural communities. We are committed to providing fact-based, ground information that helps shape the national narrative about America's farmworkers. Our programs, research, and subject matter expertise have been featured in major outlets, such as The Guardian, The BBC, NPR, and the New York Times. In addition, we collaborate with our network of local partners to connect community-based organizations with trusted reporters to feature their work in local communities and ensuring farmworkers' voices are represented in the media.

## *Bird Flu Is Spreading. Why Aren't More People Getting Tested?*

Even as the H5N1 virus evolves, gaps remain in the national contingency plans for human testing, scientists say.



New York Times



NCFH staff were quoted in several [New York Times articles](#) related to the H5N1 outbreaks among dairy cattle, and the cases among dairy workers.

## *Migrant farm worker dead of the 'American Dream'*

2 September 2024

Brandon Drenon and Bernd Debusmann Jr  
BBC News



BBC News

NCFH's research work is frequently cited in local, [national](#), and [international](#) news sources. Our fact sheets about farmworkers help shape evidence-based reporting.

## **CDC urges livestock workers get season flu vaccine to cut pandemic risk**

Lisa Schnitzler, July 30, 2024

Topics: [Asian Influenza \(Bird Flu\)](#)



A top official with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) today announced a \$5 million plan to offer seasonal flu vaccine to livestock workers, mostly to protect their health but also to reduce the chance of human flu viruses

KFF Health News

infections in Colorado poultry cullers and sporadic infections in workers exposed to dairy cows infected with H5N1 and comes ahead of the upcoming flu season.

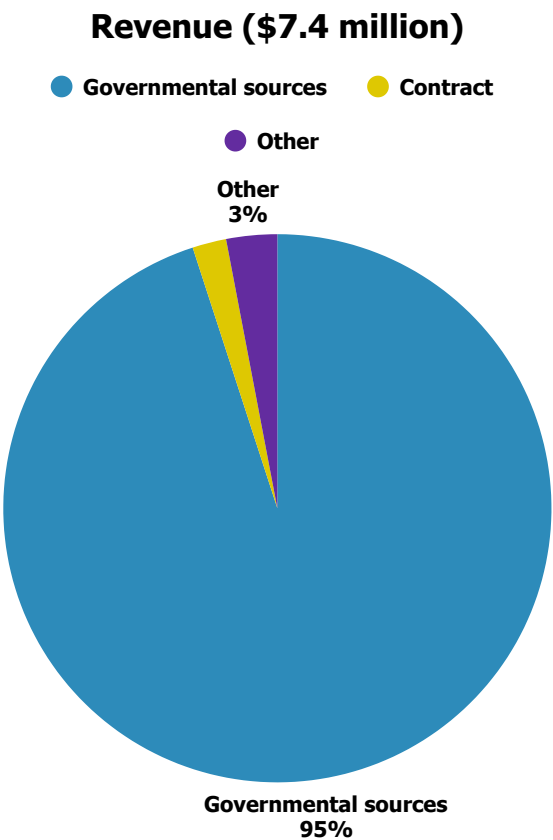
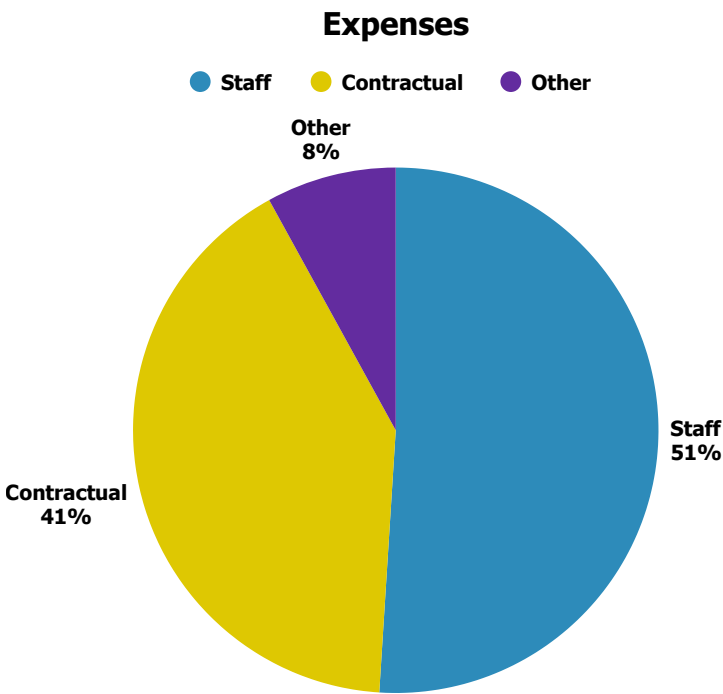


Our expertise about health issues faced by agricultural communities was featured in several major public health-focused media outlets, including [KFF Health News](#) and [CIDRAP](#), and then disseminated by NPR, ABC News, and other national media outlets.

# Funding & Financial Outlook

NCFH is incredibly grateful to the funders who made our innovative and impactful work possible in 2024. We would like to acknowledge these funders for their support and generosity:

- Health Resources and Services Administration, Bureau of Primary Health Care
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration
- Pesticide Education Resource Collaborative, University of California Davis
- North Carolina Department of Health & Human Services
- California Department of Public Health







We always welcome new collaborations and partnerships.  
Please contact us to learn more!



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