

UF/IFAS Farm Labor Supervisor Basic Training Program

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The UF/IFAS Farm Labor Supervisor Basic Training program aims to provide an overview of the local, state, and federal regulations specific to farm labor supervisors and includes field-tested tools, case studies, and best practices recommendations and resources. In 2019, the U.S. Department of Labor certified more than 33,000 H2A positions in Florida, ranking first among states in requests. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health stated that agriculture ranks among the most hazardous industries and reported about 100 farmworkers suffer a lost-work-time injury every day. The 2019 Census of Fatal

Occupational Industries reported that Hispanic or Latino worker fatalities increased by 13%, a series high since 1992, and driver/sales workers and truck drivers incurred 1,005 fatal occupational injuries, the highest number since data collection began in 2003. Gorucu (2020) found that 51 fatal and 199 non-fatal ag-related injuries were suffered by agricultural workers in Florida between 2015-2019. Of these, vehicles (trucks and farm tractors) were the leading cause of fatal and/or severe injury (41%), followed by contact with objects/equipment (20%) and exposure to harmful substances/environments (19%). Facilitated by UF/IFAS

Extension personnel and experts' contributions, we aim to improve awareness and knowledge of the current legal compliance and human resource management expectations of regulatory agencies charged with oversight of farmworker safety and health. Our goal is to provide farm labor supervisors with the administrative skills, knowledge, resources, and tools necessary to cultivate and maintain a culture of safety for farmworkers, who are essential to the profitability of Florida's agricultural industry.

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