Readings about Health Issues of Migrant Workers
Available in Otterbein’s Library

In 1996, a family that had moved from the Mexican state of Oaxaca to rural North Carolina was tested as part of a 10-year research program to reduce pesticide exposure in farmworkers in North Carolina.... All tested members of Fernando's family were above the 50th percentile for at least five of the six metabolites by comparison with reference values. Recommendations were made for safe housing away from the fields, laundry machines and bathing facilities.

This article looks at farmworkers who are being sickened by pesticides and seem to have no recourse. The article states that "farmers use an estimated 1.2 billion pounds of pesticides annually."

Included are the words of Juan Rios a unionized pesticide handler from central Mexico about his exposure to pesticides and what his doctor said.

Describes the Farm Worker Family Health Program (FWFHP) which is 13-year community partnership model designed to increase delivery of health care services for migrant farm worker families. Students and faculty members worked to provide health education, physical therapy, and dental care for 1,000 migrant farm workers and migrant children.

A report that determined four better approaches to improving medical care for minorities.

The pros of using herbicides.


Levine, Marvin J. Pesticides: A Toxic Time Bomb in our Midst. Westport: Praeger, 2007. RA1270.P4 L48 2007 Levine documents the health effects of pesticides, ranging from the sometimes fatal effects of long term exposure experienced by farm laborers, to the effect on families and children from cosmetic pesticides used on home lawns. Well cited and including a section of recommendations, this book presents convincing evidence for the argument that if pesticides are used at all, they should break down over time, unlike many commonly used persistent, synthetic pesticides.


Pesticides. U. S. Environmental Protection Agency. 26 June 2007 <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/>. Includes links to information about pesticides, health and environmental effects of their use.


High school, college and graduate students in North Carolina participated in a series of environmental health research projects with migrant workers as they learned about community health research. The study revealed optimism for the future involvement of these students in their communities.