

THE **EDIBLE**
SCHOOLYARD
PROJECT

FARM WORKER CONDITIONS

Summary: While Organic labels can tell us useful information about pesticides and other growing practices, they do not tell us much about another essential part of farming—the people who grow and harvest the food. In this lesson, students will learn about the conditions experienced by farm workers in the United States and read about some of the organizations working to protect farm worker rights and improve working conditions.

Teacher Notes:

- This lesson requires students to have access to computers to watch videos and look through websites. Alternatively, you can watch the video as a class, and create reading sheets for students with key information from the websites.
- This lesson was developed for Edible Schoolyard Project's [Understanding Organic](#) curriculum and is part of the extension inquiries.



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WATCH: Watch the Al Jazeera video, [What Everyone Gets Wrong About Farm Work](#).

WRITE: Complete a **3, 2, 1** about the video.

a. Write down **THREE facts, phrases, or ideas** discussed in the video.

b. Write down **TWO things you found interesting** about the video.

c. Write down **ONE question** you have after watching the video.

DO: Choose **ONE** of the following groups that is working to protect farm workers and explore their website.

- [Coalition of Immokalee Workers](#)
- [United Farm Workers](#)



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SHARE: Pair up with someone who researched a different organization from you and share what you learned with one another. Notice the *similarities and differences* between the two groups. Discuss which campaigns or programs feel especially interesting or important to you and why.

REFLECT: Using your [Circles of Connections](#) worksheet, answer the following questions:

- Has what you learned about labor changed your thinking about organic? Explain your answer.
- How do farm worker rights impact you, your community, and beyond your community?
- What are your hopes for farm workers and organic?

Student Notes:

- Read about [Food Justice Certification](#) labels, which guarantee just labor conditions for farm workers.
- Check out our [Strawberries Infographic](#) and [Strawberries and Pesticides](#) lesson to get a deeper understanding of how farm work, pesticides, and food justice overlap in the strawberry industry.