

JOIN FAIR FOOD

and many other organizations in speaking up for the rights of migrant workers.

Visit us at
www.localfreshfair.com.

Like us on Facebook under Fair Food to get the latest updates.

If you want to learn more about other groups working on migrant and food justice both here in Michigan and around the country, check out these great organizations:

- Coalition of Immokalee Workers
- Domestic Fair Trade Association
- Food Justice Certified
- Fair Food Matters
- Just Harvest USA
- Migrant Legal Aid
- Student Action With Farm Workers



FAIR FOOD STANDARDS

- Farmworkers should get paid a livable wage for their work and receive at least the federal minimum wage. Currently farmworkers are excluded from the federal minimum wage laws, which includes over-time pay requirements.
- Farmworkers should not be subjected to forced labor or debt bondage.
- Farmworkers should have access to educational information about their rights as workers under the law in both English and Spanish. When necessary, translation should also be provided for those whose first language is indigenous.
- Farmworkers should have access to clean water for drinking, bathroom facilities, and regularly scheduled breaks that follow federal standards.
- Farmworkers should not be exposed to pesticide application while working in the fields, should be provided proper protection gear when coming in contact with pesticides and should be provided full disclosure (in English and Spanish) when they are working with produce that has been sprayed with pesticides.
- Farmworkers should be provided just and adequate housing conditions when that is part of the worker contract. Farmworker housing should always be voluntary for workers and not required by employers.
- Farmworkers should not be intimidated or harassed when attempting to organize fellow farmworkers. The right to form a union should apply to farmworkers. All agricultural employers must provide a mechanism for workers to file any grievances related to the work or working conditions.
- Federal Child Labor Law should be observed unless the children working on the farm are family members of the farm owner.
- Farmworkers should not be harassed, intimidated or discriminated against based on their gender, ethnicity or immigration status.



FAIR FOOD

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FAIR FOOD: WHAT CAN YOU DO?

At your favorite restaurant, you ask the waiter, “Do you happen to know if the vegetables in this dish are grown **locally**?” While perusing fruit at the grocery store, you find yourself wondering, “Just how **fresh** are these apples?” Here at Fair Food, we think these questions are important.

We believe that buying **local, fresh** food is a critical part of living a healthy, sustainable life. However, we see something missing in the discussion.

Have you ever thought about the **people who provide** the produce you buy and eat? The ones who plant it, care for it, and harvest it? Unfortunately, far too many people have never asked if the **fresh, local** fruits and vegetables they eat are produced **fairly**.

The Michigan Civil Rights Commission released a report in 2010 on the conditions of seasonal and migrant workers in Michigan showing that workers face unfair pay and recruitment practices, inadequate housing, unsafe work environments, discrimination, and limited access to healthcare, education, and childcare. The conditions that the MCRC found were appalling, and at Fair Food, **we refuse to accept them**.

Migrant work is a complicated issue. It is influenced by factors including politics, globalization, the migration of people,

agricultural labor practices and standards, and capitalism. However, at Fair Food, we believe that everyone deserves just working conditions, no questions asked. We know that **nothing can be truly sustainable if it is based on the exploitation of others’ labor**.

We call on you as consumers, as business owners, as people, to **examine the way you think about your locally grown food**. Can you feel right about enjoying a head of lettuce or pint of blueberries if you know that the people who picked them may not have had access to safe drinking water or toilets while they worked? Or that they were too afraid to make a complaint because they did not want to lose their jobs, and they did not even know their rights as workers?

We ask those questions not to scare you or to make you feel guilty, but to **challenge you**. We believe that here in Michigan, we are better than that. We know that migrant workers deserve to be treated with dignity and respect, and we know that **you have the power to make a change**.

It is up to you to hold growers and the businesses who buy their products responsible for the food you bring into your home. The next time you’re craving some fruits or vegetables, don’t forget to check off not only **fresh** and **local**, but also **fair**.



EDUCATE YOURSELF- Visit the Fair Food website to read the full MCRC report of migrant conditions, as well as other information and resources.

ASK QUESTIONS- Ask the managers of your grocery store what they know about how the fruits and vegetables they sell are produced. If a restaurant advertises its food as being local, ask about the conditions under which the food is grown. Let them know that fair food is a priority.

SEE FOR YOURSELF- If you can’t get the answers you want, find out where the local food you eat is grown, and call the farm. Ask if you can see the working conditions of their laborers. Growers committed to transparency and ethical business practices should have nothing to hide. Even if they will not let you come, you are letting them know that fair food matters to you.

VOTE WITH YOUR DOLLAR- If you cannot find vendors and growers who are as concerned as you are about this issue, let them know you will not support them. See our website for alternate sources of local produce, including community supported agricultural projects, farmer’s markets, and even how to start your own garden.

SPREAD THE WORD- Have conversations with your friends and families. Tell them why fair food matters, and challenge them to join you in demanding fresh, local, FAIR produce.

SIGN OUR PETITION- Visit our website (www.localfreshfair.com) to sign a pledge to eat Fair Food. Link it or download it and circulate it among your friends.