

August 1, 2019

Mr. Daniel Carroll  
U.S. Department of Labor,  
Employment and Training Administration,  
Office of Policy Development and Research, Room N-5641,  
200 Constitution Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20210;  
[carroll.daniel.j@dol.gov](mailto:carroll.daniel.j@dol.gov)

Dear Mr. Carroll,

I am writing in very positive support of the continuation of the National Agricultural Workers Survey (NAWS). The NAWS is the most comprehensive survey of agricultural workers publicly available in the US and has been conducted annually since 1988. The NAWS survey and public access dataset is an indispensable tool for understanding agricultural workers in the US.

As a researcher focused on Latino agricultural and entrepreneurship issues, I have been able to use the NAWS extensively in three recent research studies (citations below). The first utilized the NAWS for a focused study on migrant farm labor in South Texas. The second utilized the NAWS to consider the dual role of agricultural workers as both laborers and (insipient) entrepreneurs. The third allowed comparison entrepreneurship in agricultural regions by ethnicity.

The NAWS was instrumental in each of these research projects. I plan to continue to use the NAWS in future research endeavors with a particular focus on the topic of entrepreneurship.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts on the continuation of the NAWS.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Pisani, Ph.D.  
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Citations:

Morales, Alfonso, Michael J. Pisani, and Barbara Robles, "Latino Farm Entrepreneurship in Rural America," in Orozco, Marlene, Alfonso Morales, Michael J. Pisani, and Jerry I. Porras (Eds.), (2020), Advancing U.S. Latino Entrepreneurship: A New National Economic Imperative, West Lafayette, IN: Purdue University Press.

Pisani, Michael J. and Joseph M. Guzman (2016), "The Exceptional One Percent: US Farmworker and Business Owner," Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development, 6(2), 225-242.

Richardson, Chad and Michael J. Pisani (2017), Batos, Bolillos, Pochos, and Pelados: Class and Culture on the South Texas Border, revised edition, Austin, TX: University of Texas Press. [Chapter 1, "Migrant Farmworkers"]