

Author Full Name : Beth Taylor**Received Date :** 08/24/2024 01:04 PM**Comments Received :**

- Survey needs to exclude current H2A wages paid on the farm or have them reported in 2 separate columns.
 - This survey is not required and asks for data that the farmers may or may not report accurately. I expect the data is more of a guess than accurate wage reports.
 - Data should be collected at the end of the year from wage reports and include data for the entire farming season and not just a screenshot of one week of one quarter of the farming season.
 - For this data to be accurate, the response rate needs to be much higher. Asking farmers to complete this survey in the middle of the year when they are overworked and over stressed does not support accurate data. I'm sure most put in the file to do later or not to do at all.
 - Requirements for the survey include farms with over \$1000 in farm sales. That is not a realistic number. This number needs to be at least \$100,000 and probably much higher.
 - H2A Labor Rate has increased by 70% since 2011. (\$9.30 to \$15.81)
 - Commodity Prices are significantly less than 2011. Sweet Potatoes are down 8.16%, Corn is down 23.70%, Cotton is down \$20.24, Wheat is down 43.23%, and Peanuts are down 28%. Tobacco is up 22% and Soybeans prices are up 3.60% from 2011 but significantly down from 2023 along with Corn, Cotton and Wheat.
 - 2023 crop was borderline disaster, and the 2024 crop will likely be a record setting disaster for most farmers. The year that will put many farmers out of business.
- I am pleading with the FSL and USDOL to put a freeze on the AEWR for 2025. Farmers in eastern North Carolina need your support. This is a critical time for agriculture, and we need our government to understand and support us. Together we can find a way to get an accurate wage labor survey. The surveys for the past 13 years have not reflected the true wages paid to farm workers.

Beth Taylor - Fisher Farms Partnership - Nash County NC