

In the U.S., close to 20 million people work in the food system, joining millions more around the world. A majority of them are paid poverty wages, and many can barely afford to buy enough healthy food to feed themselves and their family. The Food Chain Workers Alliance (FCWA) is launching the international Food Workers Week this year to bring more awareness to the issues facing food workers and their organizing efforts for sustainable jobs in a sustainable food system. Take part in activities and events on this first International Food Workers Week!

# INTERNATIONAL FOOD WORKERS WEEK

MEMBERS NOVEMBER 18-24, 2012

Brandworkers International  
Center for New Community  
Coalition of Immokalee Workers  
Comité de Apoyo a los Trabajadores Agrícolas  
Farmworker Association of Florida  
International Labor Rights Forum  
Just Harvest USA  
Northwest Arkansas Workers' Justice Center  
Restaurant Opportunities Center of New York  
Restaurant Opportunities Centers United  
Rural & Migrant Ministry  
UE Research and Education Fund:  
Warehouse Workers for Justice & Vermont Fair Food  
UNITE HERE Food Services Division  
United Food & Commercial Workers Locals 770 & 1500  
Warehouse Workers United



**FOOD CHAIN  
WORKERS ALLIANCE**



[FOODCHAINWORKERS.ORG](http://FOODCHAINWORKERS.ORG)  
[TWITTER.COM/FOODCHAINWORVKER](https://twitter.com/FOODCHAINWORVKER)  
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# APPETIZERS

**Appetizer:** An Introduction to food workers and the struggles they face. Learn about food workers and educate your friends and families about the hands that feed us. Select a video, or more than one, from this list.

## Hands That Feed Us (bilingual)

The **Food Chain Workers Alliance** (FCWA) has created a series of videos featuring workers speaking about their experiences in the workplace and the impact of low wages, long hours, lack of health benefit and paid sick days, and dangerous working conditions. <http://bit.ly/Pk8Nuh>

## Behind the Kitchen Door

This video trailer for the upcoming book *Behind the Kitchen Door* by Saru Jayaraman, the Co-Executive Director of the **Restaurant Opportunities Centers United**, is a groundbreaking exploration of the political, economic, and moral implications of eating out at restaurants – for consumers and the 10 million people who work in this industry. <http://bit.ly/Tvhdud>

**Voices/Voces from the Warehouse (bilingual)**  
**Warehouse Workers United** created this video series, featuring stories of workers in Walmart warehouses in Southern California. <http://bit.ly/Tdn3q6>

## Harvesting Change - TEDxFruitvale

At TEDxFruitvale in October 2011, **FCWA** Executive Director Joann Lo spoke about “Organizing the Workers in the Food Chain” (<http://bit.ly/PaQCYo>), a short introduction to the

issues facing food workers and to the **FCWA**. **Farmworker and Coalition of Immokalee Workers** leader Gerardo Reyes-Chavez spoke about “Making Corporations Pay” (<http://bit.ly/RckIFw>), about the Campaign for Fair Food’s successes and the challenge to get supermarket chains to sign on to the Fair Food Agreement.

**Fair Food: Field to Table**  
**CATA** – the Farmworker Support Committee – and the **Coalition of Immokalee Workers** are featured in this short 3-video series about farmworkers, farmers who are doing right by their employees, and non-profits and certification programs working towards fair food. <http://bit.ly/PCQS27>

**One Penny More**  
This short video educates consumers about the struggles of tomato pickers organizing with the **Coalition of Immokalee Workers** in Florida, and the responsibility for major supermarket chains to ensure good working conditions for farmworkers. <http://bit.ly/U67hx9>

## Midwest Immigrant Health Project

The **Center for New Community** created this short video about the history of meatpacking and the exploitation of workers in this industry. <http://bit.ly/R5d0Rn>



# DESSERTS:

Actions that can help make a difference

Now that you have learned more about food workers and reflected on what you learned, take action to support workers who are organizing for a better life for themselves, their families, and their communities.

**A Dime A Day**  
Sign the **SignOn.org** petition asking members of Congress to increase the minimum wage and pledging to pay a dime a day extra for food so 29 million workers will benefit from raising the minimum wage. <http://bit.ly/dimepledge>

**Real Food Real Jobs**  
Sign **UNITE HERE’s** Real Food Real Jobs pledge to support principles that unite the sustainable food movement with the food worker justice movement. <http://bit.ly/T23wmT>

**Making Change At Wal-Mart**  
Support Walmart workers who will be taking action on Black Friday – go to <http://bit.ly/Sly5kS> to find out more.

**Campaign for Fair Food**  
Show your support for the **Coalition of Immokalee Workers’** Campaign for Fair Food (<http://bit.ly/OLDbTI>) and deliver a letter (<http://bit.ly/PTNKcM>) in person to the managers of your local Publix, Stop & Shop, Giant, Kroger, or Martin’s supermarkets asking them to do the right thing for the farmworkers who pick their tomatoes.

**Support Latin-American Farmworkers**  
The International Labor Rights Forum is working

with **COLSIBA** (the Coordinating Body of Latin-American Banana and Agro-industrial Workers’ Unions) to promote better working conditions and decent wages in the production of bananas, melons, and other products grown in Central America and South America for the US market. Learn more and take action online! <http://bit.ly/Pk8Nuh>

**Paid Sick Days for All – Healthy Families Act**  
Send a letter to your representative to support paid sick days, a necessity for workers, especially for those who work in the food industry. You can also send customized tweets to your state representatives using this useful map. <http://bit.ly/U67hx9>

**Dignity at Darden**  
Support Restaurant Opportunities Centers United’s Dignity at Darden Campaign (<http://bit.ly/TvtyiH>). Workers at Darden restaurants – such as Capital Grille, Red Lobster, and Olive Garden – have endured discrimination, wage theft, no paid sick days and low wages.

Sign the petition (<http://bit.ly/SMBK3a>) asking Darden Restaurants to sit down with their workers to resolve these issues.

Check out the **Food Chain Workers Alliance** website for more actions you can take to support food chain workers around the globe! Links to everything listed here are on the **FCWA** website

[www.foodchainworkers.org](http://www.foodchainworkers.org)



# MAIN COURSE

Digging in to the issues facing food workers and all of us as consumers.

**Reflect and talk with friends and colleagues about what you learned. Suggested discussion questions include:**

1. How do you define sustainable food and a sustainable food system?
2. What is food justice and food sovereignty?
3. Why is food important to you?
4. Prior to watching this video(s), did you ever think about the people who feed us?
5. How did you feel after watching the video(s)?
6. What impacted you most about the video(s) and why?