**Last-Minute Sources for Research Papers**

**Farmworker Issues**

<http://help.senate.gov/hearings/hearing/?id=0d03081e-0186-dc43-8fdf-0d68cfc2fc80>

## Full Committee Hearing - Ending Abuses and Improving Working Conditions for Tomato Workers

#### Committee:Senate Committee on Health Education Labor and Pensions

#### Date:Tuesday, April 15 2008, 10:00 AM

#### Place:SD-430

### Transcripts[return to top](http://help.senate.gov/hearings/hearing/?id=0d03081e-0186-dc43-8fdf-0d68cfc2fc80" \l "top)

* [Click here to view the final hearing transcript as printed »](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110_senate_hearings&docid=41-881)

### Witnesses[return to top](http://help.senate.gov/hearings/hearing/?id=0d03081e-0186-dc43-8fdf-0d68cfc2fc80" \l "top)

* **Lucas Benitez** , Former Tomato Worker and Co-Founder, Coalition of Immokalee Workers, Immokalee, FL [Download File](http://help.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Benitez.pdf)
* **Charlie Frost** , Detective, Collier County Anti-Trafficking Unit, Naples, FL [Download File](http://help.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Frost.pdf)
* **Eric Schlosser** , Investigative Reporter, Monterey, CA [Download File](http://help.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Schlosser.pdf)
* **Mary Bauer** , Director, Immigrant Justice Project, Southern Poverty Law Center, Montgomery, AL [Download File](http://help.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Bauer.pdf)
* **Reggie Brown** , Executive Vice President, Florida Tomato Growers Exchange, Maitland, FL [Download File](http://help.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Brown3.pdf)
* **Roy Reyna** , Farm Manager, Immokalee, FL [Download File](http://help.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Reyna.pdf)

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# Young adults putting employment dreams aside

Alana Semuels, Los Angeles Times Wednesday, November 2, 2011

**Dos Palos, Merced County** -- A Salvadoran flag wrapped around his neck to block out the sun, Geremias Romero hunches low to the ground alongside the other laborers, following the tractor along rows of cantaloupes.

He reaches into the leafy green rows of fruit, touches a melon to gauge its ripeness, and then tosses it into a cart, where another laborer boxes it. Walk, pick, toss. The pattern goes on all morning.

Harvesting cantaloupes for $8.25 an hour isn't the job that Romero, 28, dreamed of as a child. Born in Newark, N.J., to immigrant parents from El Salvador, he graduated from high school and has taken classes at the Art Institute of Philadelphia and Merced Community College. He has experience as a special [education](http://www.sfgate.com/education-guide/) teacher but, unable to find a teaching job, he's started working in the fields. For the rest: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2011/11/02/BAU71LP54N.DTL>

**Fast Food Issues**

# Fewer CA kids overweight, but Bay Area struggles

Erin Allday, Chronicle Staff Writer Wednesday, November 9, 2011

For the first time in 30 years, the number of overweight schoolchildren in California is falling, suggesting that the state may finally be making some headway in the long battle to prevent childhood obesity, according to a report released today. But it's hardly time to start celebrating, public health officials said. Thirty-eight percent of public schoolchildren in fifth, seventh and ninth grades were overweight or obese in 2010 - only 1.1 percent fewer than in 2005.

And in most counties, including several in the Bay Area, rates continued to climb, sometimes sharply. San Francisco held steady, with about 32 percent of children overweight or obese in 2005 and 2010, and the percentage fell in only one of the nine Bay Area counties - San Mateo, which had 5.6 percent fewer overweight kids, putting its rate at 34 percent.

Those are hardly numbers to be proud of, public health officials said. But the report, put together by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research and the California Center for Public Health Advocacy, is at least reassuring that policies encouraging healthy behaviors in children might be starting to work.

"It gives us a little reason for hope, and there hasn't been much reason for a very long time," said Dr. Harold Goldstein, executive director of the California Center for Public Health Advocacy. "At the same time, the rates are still abysmal. A lot more work still needs to be done."

For the rest, go to <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2011/11/09/MNEA1LS82H.DTL>

**Livestock / Animal Welfare**

# Court to hear California animal welfare law

Carolyn Lochhead, Chronicle Washington Bureau

Wednesday, November 9, 2011

**Washington** --

California's law banning the slaughter of animals that can't walk, enacted in 2008 after a gruesome undercover video showed lame cows being waterboarded and jabbed with forklifts at a meat plant in San Bernardino County, will come before the Supreme Court today.

The law bans the sale, receipt or slaughter of any downed livestock and requires them to be immediately euthanized. It also prohibits dragging animals or pushing them with heavy equipment, requiring that they be moved on a sling or a sled. The law has not taken effect because the National Meat Association, based in Oakland, won an injunction in 2009.

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2011/11/09/MN6D1LS2G7.DTL&type=printable>

**Fair Trade**

# Groups at odds over fair-trade certification

Simon Clark, Bloomberg Businessweek

Monday, November 7, 2011

Fairtrade International brings together retailers and other marketers in wealthy countries with small-scale producers of foods in the developing world. The organization's goal is to ensure the ethical treatment of workers. Retailers in the United States, Europe and elsewhere can then sell these products as Fairtrade-labeled. Small farmers find affluent customers, who reap the satisfaction of knowing their purchases are helping a person, not an enormous, faceless agro-corporation. Last year, $6 billion worth of Fairtrade-approved goods were sold globally, up 27 percent from 2009.

There's trouble in this utopia, though. Fair Trade USA, the largest American group, announced on Sept. 15 that it would split off from its international peers and Fairtrade International in Bonn, which coordinates groups worldwide and imposes the standards that make fair trade such a powerful force. Fair Trade USA has started a separate label that retailers can use to boost sales of coffee, chocolate and fruits.

That's sparked an uproar as fair-trade advocates claim Fair Trade USA Chief Executive Officer Paul Rice is putting standards at risk just to boost sales. Maria Louzon, national coordinator of United Students for Fair Trade, vows to boycott goods bearing the Fair Trade USA logo, including popular Green Mountain Coffee: "Lowered standards undermine the fair-trade values producers, activists, and consumers have advocated."

For the rest: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2011/11/07/BUVK1LQAAF.DTL&type=printable>

**Farm Bill**

# Farm bill runs into 11th-hour opposition Stacy Finz, Chronicle Staff Writer

Friday, November 4, 2011

In the 11th hour, a U.S. representative and a bipartisan coalition of 26 groups are trying to keep the House and Senate agriculture committees from pushing the 2012 Farm Bill through Congress, calling their process secretive and undemocratic.

The proposal is one of the nation's most significant pieces of legislation, dealing with everything from farm support programs to food stamps - the last Farm Bill has already exceeded $300 billion. The new bill is expected to be submitted to the congressional supercommittee as early as today.

The supercommittee, six senators and six House members from both parties, was formed this year in response to the nation's debt-ceiling crisis and tasked to cut the deficit by $1.5 trillion in the next 10 years. The group is scheduled to issue a budget recommendation Nov. 23, which will go Dec. 23 to a simple up and down vote by Congress - no amendments, no House blocks and no filibusters. The new farm legislation would be submitted without the opportunity for debate or a public comment period.

For the rest of the story: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2011/11/04/BUEA1LQ9LU.DTL>