



What's up on work in agriculture?

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Has Media Saturation on COVID-19 Changed Labor and Food Supply Chain?

In the new article "Labor Issues in the Food Supply Chain Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic" published in the Applied Economic Perspectives & Policy, Jeffrey Luckstead from Washington State University, Rodolf Nayga and Heather Price from the University of Arkansas, survey low-skilled domestic workers to understand their attitudes, before and during the pandemic, toward food production, guest workers, immigration policy, and the government's response to COVID-19.

Luckstead says that there were a few main findings, "The outbreak resulted in respondents, on average, shifting their view toward food being a national security issue and a higher degree of empathy for H-2A guest workers.

The results also suggest that providing an additional information on the impact of COVID-19 on agricultural field workers did not impact average responses to questions related to empathy toward H-2A guest workers, to food production, to immigration policy, to concern of a food shortage, and to whether the shelter-in-place orders and economic damage are justified. This is likely because of media saturation on COVID-19 and food supply chains amid the pandemic."

Links

: http://business.kanerepublican.com/kanerepublican/news/read/40563152/has_media_saturation_on_covid

Teagasc supports European Healthy Workplaces Campaign 2020-22 "Lighten The Load"

The campaign is being organised by EU-OSHA the European Union Occupational Safety and Health Agency, which promotes occupational safety and health throughout Europe.

The theme of the European campaign is 'Lighten the Load', signifies the key messages: altering workplaces and cutting loads are key approaches to reduce MSDs supported by using safe lifting techniques. These approaches have the potential to reduce work related levels of lifting, pushing, pulling and carrying and cut musculoskeletal injury levels.

Links : <https://www.teagasc.ie/news--events/news/2020/lighten-the-load.php>

Tags : Health and decent work

COVID-19 exposes food retailers as frontline workers

Food retail and grocery store workers have become essential to the economy's survival and to guaranteeing food security and safety for the population. These workers, working in a labour-intensive sector now considered essential, are in many cases low-skilled workers receiving low wages and inadequate social security benefits.

Links : http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/multimedia/video/institutional-videos/WCMS_758036/lang--en/index.htm

Tags : Health and decent work, Value chains

Fundamental rights at work can help to build back better from COVID-19

Fundamental principles and rights at work can play a vital role in building effective, consensus-based responses that support recovery from the COVID-19 crisis and help build back a better, more just, world of work, a new International Labour Organization (ILO) paper says.

However, the paper also warns that the crisis has placed these same freedoms and rights at work at greater risk, as countries face increases in poverty, inequality and vulnerability.

Links : http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_759288/lang--en/index.htm

Tags : Gender, Child labour, Policy

Michigan apple harvest depends on workers staying well in pandemic



Despite the pandemic, with Mexico being a major source of H-2A workers and its economy devastated, Armock suspects he won't have trouble finding workers, another factor that could drive up food costs.

It's a workforce he calls "athletes and real pros."

"You and I couldn't put a picking sack on our shoulders all day long and climb up and down ladders," Armock said. "We'd be exhausted."

Several other farmers and orchard owners the Free Press spoke with said that while some workers have tested positive, there has been no impact on the apple harvest. So far, they said, they have plenty of workers to pick the crop.

Links : <https://www.freep.com/in-depth/news/local/michigan/2020/09/28/michigan-apple-farms-coronavirus/5859339002/>

Tags : Migration, Health and decent work

COVID-19 and Agriculture in Africa: implications for Digitalisation

In Africa, agriculture being the backbone of many countries and contribute to 49 per cent of employment (ILO, 2020), confirms its importance to livelihoods of millions of people. Due to mobility restrictions, agriculture and the food systems in sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries have been seriously hit by the pandemic. Smallholder farmers are encountering numerous challenges including disruptions of food supply chains, unemployment, all increasing the risks of food insecurity now and in the future. In the eastern part of Africa, it has been a "triple menace" as the pandemic's impacts on food security and livelihoods of smallholder farmers, came to add on existing challenges such as flooding disasters and the invasion of pests like desert locusts and fall armyworm, which devastated agricultural production (UN, 2020).

Links : <https://www.cta.int/en/blog/all/article/covid-19-and-agriculture-in-africa-implications-for-digitalisation-sid0f5561dea-4bb6-4e92-a931-a46ea419e161>

Tags : Rural Employment, Innovation