Cornell Farmworker Program:

Addressing the Needs of Farmworkers and their Families through Research, Extension and Education
Ask yourself......

Did your ancestors immigrate here?

When?

Why?

Who are the immigrants in your community?
Interviews with Immigrant Farmworkers
How did they arrive and why?
How long do they plan to stay?
Do they have family/friends in the area?
Priority topics:

- Immigration information
- Learn English
- Learn to navigate in their new communities (schools, childcare, health services, public transportation?)
- Explore opportunities for advancement in the workplace
Farmworkers experience geographic, linguistic and social isolation.
Public Opinion Poll

What do New Yorkers think about how Latino/a and immigrant farmworkers impact our communities?
Figure 1. Based on your own opinion and experience, how do you believe undocumented farmworkers impact local communities?

Figure 3. Based on your own opinion and experience, how do you believe undocumented farmworkers impact local communities?

**Top reasons given in positive responses**

- **40%** Fill jobs unwanted by local residents/U.S. citizens
- **37%** Provide needed farm help, keep food prices low
- **10%** General statements about "doing good work"
- **4%** Spend money in community, help local economy
- **2%** Add to community with diversity/culture

Figure 2. Based on your own opinion and experience, how do you believe undocumented farmworkers impact local communities?

Top reasons given in negative responses

- 46% Take jobs from legal residents/citizens, drive down wages
- 33% Create a drain on taxes and services
- 8% Decrease value of communities due to increased crime, poverty, cultural barriers
- 5% Send earnings home rather than spending in the community

Supporting Local Economies

Work others won’t do?
Challenges for Collaboration

What works, what doesn’t and why?

Did anybody ask us what we want ?

Building trust takes time and consistency
Schedules
Exhaustion
Safe meeting space
Anti-immigrant sentiments in the area?

Police/community relations?

Presence of ICE ??

Accessibility and cost of public transportation ?
4 Million Children Born in the US who have undocumented immigrant parents
Student engagement: