

Rhythm of the Harvest

Do you want to know what it is like to be a field worker? Being a field worker is hard because you have to work in the crops where it is really hot. My dad is a field worker, he picks oranges and grapefruit. Field workers have to face a lot of difficult challenges; even their typical work day is stressful. They have to move each season to find work. There is also always a chance they could get in an accident.

I'm going to tell you why a field worker's typical day is stressful. They have to wake up early in the morning get dressed and make themselves something to eat. Next, the van picks them up to go to work. When they get there, they get on a ladder and start picking grapefruit as fast as they can because the more boxes they fill the more money they earn. At the same time the field workers have to be careful because bees, mosquitoes, snakes, and ants could bite them. When they are done filling the boxes, they neatly pack the boxes in a trailer. At last, the trailer takes the boxes to the packing house where the people who work there pour the grapefruits into a machine. The machine cleans the dirt off the grapefruits by using wax, bleach, and water. After the machine cleans the grapefruit, it is placed on a long table where a machine separates the grapefruit by size. Next, the women who work in the packing house have to be really careful not to put rotten grapefruit in the boxes. The grapefruit that are rotten are sent to the juice plant.

When the season is over a lot of the field workers' families have to move to a different state where they have to find a new place to live and a new job. Some field workers move to other states to pick blueberries, peaches, apples, tomatoes, and strawberries. My dad went to South Carolina to pick peaches, and tomatoes; he went to North Carolina to pick apples and strawberries; he picked watermelons in Georgia and picked apples in Virginia.

There are a lot of difficult challenges field workers have to face. When working they could fall off a ladder and even break their necks, poke out their eye, or get bitten by insects and snakes. They also have to face the heat of the sun, which can cause them to become dehydrated. When it is cold they could get sick.

Being a field worker is really dangerous, especially when you are driving a trailer full of oranges or grapefruit. One time there were nine people on a trailer full of oranges and they crashed. Everyone died except one person he was in the hospital for four months. The doctors had to teach him how to walk, eat, and talk again. Over the years many field workers have died going and coming from the field.

Field workers are really hard workers because they face difficult challenges, have to move each year, and their typical work day is stressful. Field workers have an important job that affects all of us, if it was not for them we would not have the fruits and vegetables we need to stay healthy. I am so proud of my dad because he loves us enough to face these challenges each day.