Camila Figueroa Essay Contest June 24, 2017 7th Grade

"Growing Up in the Fields that Feed America"

Have you ever wondered for a moment and thought to yourself what is it like to work in the field everyday. Well millions of farm workers and labor in the fields across the United States, including handpicking the majority of the fruit and vegetable crops produced here. In many cases these workers are young adults or even children. Families need to move around multiple times a year. Because it's seasonal so in winter they work on pine trees, summer grapes, spring cherries, fall apples etc... Children have to miss their education to help their families earn money but the children end up missing their education that helps them in their live to get a good job. Farmworkers do not have a choice to work in the field it is an obligation. It is a dangerous job. In term of equipment, using tools designed for the muscle power of an adult can have dangerous consequences. Often times, children operate heavy equipment unsupervised and without adequate training beforehand. Operating large machinery, like tractors, has resulted in tragedy for child laborers. Children who work in the field may also use dangerous tools like sharp knives to perform their duties. Like other farmworker, children experience heat-related conditions from intense sun exposure. This includes heat exhaustion, heat stroke, dehydration, and even death. At a young age they may also be less aware of their bodies

functions, and thus less able to recognize these conditions when they are occurring. Farm workers are really brave people that are hard workers that do not give up on their lives.