

February 24, 2022

The conversation around HB 4002 contains some very interesting and misleading statements often with the intention of making farm employers the villain:

"Median pay for farm workers in Oregon is just \$28,000 a year"
Using this number If all farm workers earned only minimum wage this would be an average of a 43 hr work week.

"Farm workers face lack of water and breaks"
Illegal in the state of Oregon.

"Farm workers face unsafe working conditions"
Illegal in the state of Oregon.

"Farm workers are underpaid, with individuals estimated to earn between \$15,000 and \$17,499 annually"
Using this number at Oregon minimum wage that would average a 26 hr work week.

"Farm workers have been excluded from the minimum wage protections"
Illegal in the state of Oregon

"Farm workers don't get breaks or Paid Time Off"
Illegal in the state of Oregon

There will be unintended consequences for the employees of our dairy farms if HB 4002 is implemented as written. Many dairies provide family housing, the value of that housing is not identified or addressed in any consequential way in HB 4002. HB 4002 will result in lost jobs, though automation, consolidation and dairy farms leaving the state. HB 4002 will result in wage and schedule adjustments as the economics of dairy farming does not have any room for a larger payroll. The employees of dairy farms are skilled, competent employees who could easily leave for a 40hr work week in logistics or construction. The employees of our dairy farms are not "sharecroppers" and are free to move to other sectors. Thankfully they choose to farm alongside us!

Sincerely,

Tim Kuenzi
Oregon Dairy Farmer