

Latino Farmers in Michigan: An Overview

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ABSTRACT

Michigan Latino farmers contribute to the largest and fastest growing minority-farming group in the U.S. However, they are subject to lack of financial resources, limited land ownership, difficulty in obtaining bank loans, low sales, insufficient training, meager farm equipment, language barriers, and limited information resources. This report provides research results from a survey of Latino farmers in Michigan, and focuses primarily three types of farmers: berry, livestock, and other-produce farmers. These farmers are a diverse group of individuals with different practices and processes. This study demonstrates that a study focusing on specific types of farmers can identify specific issues pertaining to those types of farmers. For example, this study shows that Latino berry farmers tend to engage in agricultural planning and practices that lead to improved sales.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Rubén Martínez is professor of sociology and director of the Julian Samora Research Institute at Michigan State University. His areas of specialization include leadership and institutional change, education and ethnic minorities, youth development, and environmental justice.

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Paul Babladelis is a specialist in land resource management theory and practice. Babladelis has worked internationally to develop new models for economic and social management of natural areas that span national boundaries. His work seeks to create value through place and turn conservation and preservation costs into tangible benefits.

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