Farmers – Lets Talk Labor!

The following is a compilation of suggestions shared by farmers at round table events and online surveys.

What Have You Tried that Didn’t Work?

- Making staff harvest their own produce as their benefit
- Not being very clear about what you can/will provide for apprentices/interns
- Letting go of crew management
- Not delegating responsibility to returning staff
- Part-time schedules
- Advertising in local newspapers
- Not taking time to write job descriptions
- Not taking the time to train/explain expectations & responsibilities
- Seasonality makes it hard to retain labor
- September burn-out
- Long commutes for staff
- Fall staffing/shoulder season staffing
- Transportation for staff
- How to pay a living wage without charging $20 for a bunch of chard
- Not conveying realistic picture of work (hot/buggy/etc) and expectations
- Youth lack of commitment (leaving for family vacations, etc)
- Assuming all farm staff want to be farmers
- Romantic (incorrect) idea of farm work