

workers. Because of the seasonality which characterizes most employment in the agricultural sector of the economy, the program of the Farm Labor Service is vital to the economic activity and growth of this sector.

Growers heavily dependent upon large numbers of seasonal workers to meet their peak needs must, in effect, reconstruct the bulk of their labor force from time to time. In the aggregate, for the Nation as a whole, this involves the expansion in seasonal employment of over one million workers, many of whom will work in many different jobs for many different employers. The resources of farm employers are such that they could not themselves provide for any semblance of a rational, orderly recruitment program of this magnitude, although the recruitment and placement of seasonal farm workers is by no means an orderly process; what order it does have is the result of activities of the public employment service.

Referral to and placement of workers in farm jobs, the primary function of the Farm Labor Service, is an integral part of the farm economy. The number of farm workers and employers who look to the Employment Service for assistance each year is an indication of the value of the services provided. In fiscal year 1965, six million placements were made.

The big cotton producing States in the south-central section of the country accounted for over one-third of total placements by Farm Labor Service in 1964. Mississippi led the area and the country with its 1,071,900 placements. Tennessee placed 528,000 farm workers; Texas, 354,800; Missouri, 135,900; and Oklahoma, 112,000.

Placement activities of the Farm Labor Service are conducted in all 50 States plus Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. In calendar year 1964, placements ranged from a total of five in the Virgin Islands to 1,071,900 in Mississippi. States having 100,000 or more placements in 1964 were concentrated on the east coast, the west coast, and in the south-central section of the country.

On the east coast, the leading States in placements were North Carolina (445,800), Pennsylvania (327,900), Florida (166,500). Other important States were New York, Maryland, and New Jersey.

Arizona topped the western States with 883,000 placements in 1964. Oregon had 310,000; California, 250,700; Washington, 195,600; and Idaho, 129,500.

There are approximately 3.6 million farms in the United States, of which about 1.7 million use some hired farm labor. In 1964, average monthly hired farm worker employment was less than 1.6 million, approximately ten percent below the comparable figure for 1963, a trend which is expected to continue. About 3.4 million individuals did some farm work during 1964. However, 1.4 million were employed for less than 25 days of farm wage work. Over half of the farm labor force, primarily housewives and students, were not in the labor force most of the year. Earnings of hired farm workers averaged about \$7.15 a day. As a group, hired farm workers averaged 80 days of farm employment and earned \$578 per year. Seasonal farm workers, those employed 25 to 149 days per year, averaged 64 days of work and earned approximately \$400 from farm employment. There were approximately 300,000 workers who were employed from 150 to 249 days, and these regular workers averaged 198 days and