

Abstract: Latino dairy workers in Franklin County, Vermont live on geographically isolated farms within 28 miles of an international border in a state that ranks as the second least racially diverse in the nation. Most of these workers are thought to be undocumented and lack access to transportation. This research project explores the experiences of Latino dairy workers, a relatively new immigrant group to Vermont, within this specific context. Data was collected through in-person semi-structured interviews and field observations. Purposive sampling was used to identify nine participants for the interviews; Latino dairy farmworkers and their spouses. Interviews were individually transcribed and coded. Major themes were extrapolated through analysis of both observational and interview data. Using a technique called poetic transcription, exact words and phrases of the research participants, in their original context, were used to represent the results of the data analysis and present a combined lived experience of the farmworker participants. Two interwoven themes are the main focus. The first, a common motivation of international migration, is that the motivation and risks taken to come to the United States are driven by hopes of a better life in the future for themselves and their families in their home country. The second I have coined “voluntary imprisonment”; the temporary exchange of freedom of movement and sense of community for a faster path to the original end goal. Latino immigrants have found Vermont dairy farms to be a unique immigrant destination defined by geography and type of work. An omnipresent fear of *la migra* (Border Patrol) results in on-farm isolation endured through the conviction that it is a more direct avenue towards the prosperity they left their home country to find and dream of returning to their home country to enjoy.