

I will be conducting research as the Volunteer Assistant Project Coordinator for Huertas, a program under Bridges to Health through the University of Vermont Extension. In connection with this applied project on food security, I will be surveying needs of Mexican and Guatemalan migrant farmworkers in Vermont's dairies to identify needs and preferences associated with building kitchen gardens. I will investigate the following research question: How have Mexican and Guatemalan farmworkers been affected by changes associated with food access and personal eating habits having migrated to Vermont? This will provide a better understanding of how and why Latino/a farmworkers access certain foods, and aid Huertas with information to develop a more sustainable model for the program. This project is significant because a large number of Latino/a farmworkers support Vermont's primary source of agricultural income: dairy farming. Though it may not necessarily be apparent, our small Vermont communities are very diverse. In order to create a just food system where all Vermonters can access healthy and affordable food, it is important to know where barriers exist.