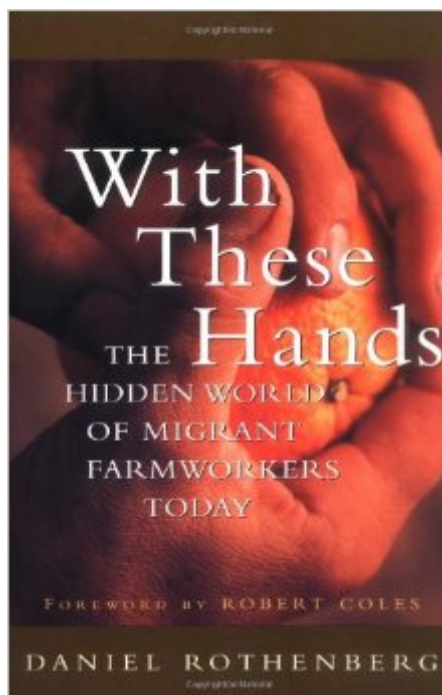


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# With These Hands: The Hidden World Of Migrant Farmworkers Today



## Synopsis

With These Hands documents the farm labor system through the presentation of a collection of voices—workers who labor in the fields, growers who manage the multi-billion dollar agricultural industry, contractors who link workers with growers, coyotes who smuggle people across the border, union organizers, lobbyists, physicians, workers' families in Mexico, farmworker children and others. The diversity of stories presents the world of migrant farmworkers as a complex social and economic system, a network of intertwined lives, showing how all Americans are bound to the struggles and contributions of our nation's farm laborers.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book is very good. It's not short, but I read it in a day -- it was hard to put down. Perhaps half or more of the text is transcribed interviews, and the stories told are exceptional and engaging.

Rothenberg deals with farmworkers, growers, contractors, some of the families attached to migrant labor, and a lawyer, lobbyist, doctor, INS officers, etc -- all of several different races and ages, from different regions, including men, women, and teenagers, in the US and in Mexico. As an unemployed person considering migrant fruit-picking as a way to earn money, this book has been indispensable in informing and warning me of the dangers and layout of the industry, and giving me ideas for success. Again, this book is very good, and I recommend it. But I would like to point out what it is not about, as the author does not directly discuss a lot of factors touching on farm labor, about which he could have perhaps given a cursory note (leading the reader to other sources) at the beginning or end. The book does not discuss many "success" stories in agriculture, or what I would

consider comprehensive methods of changing the structure of farm labor, though there are some interviews touching on this. The book focuses on fruit and vegetable pickers, making mention of mushrooms, cotton, and sugar cane. It does not discuss the mechanization processes going on across agriculture, crop diversification, or the other forms of work being sought by current generations of migrants to the US (mostly from Mexico). It does not explore the poultry, meat processing, or food processing and packing industries in general.

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