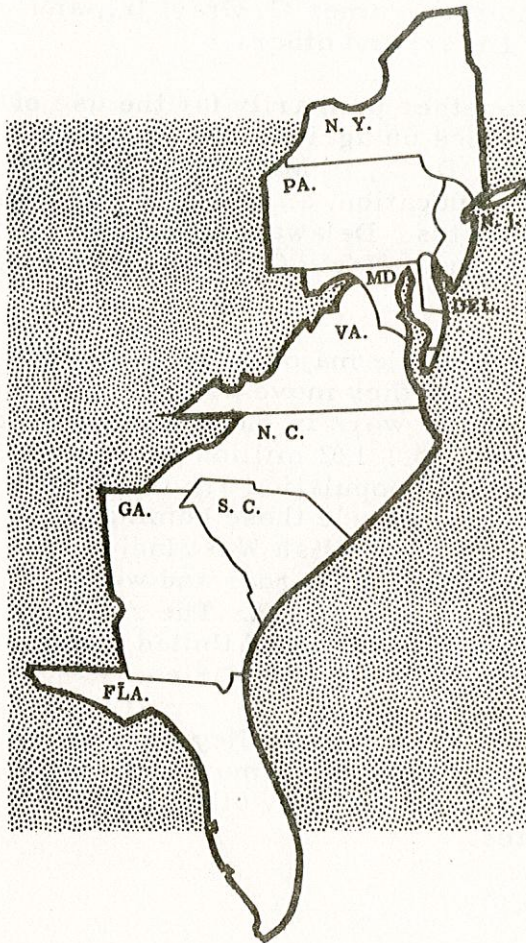


THE EAST COAST MIGRATORY STREAM



A brief picture of seasonal movements of migratory farm workers along the East Coast.

Compiled from published data by The Public Health Service in collaboration with the Children's Bureau, the Office of Education, and the Bureau of Public Assistance, all constituents of the U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

May 1954

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The Agricultural Research Service, Department of Agriculture, and the Bureau of Labor Standards and Bureau of Employment Security, Department of Labor, furnished much of the data. They also assisted by checking the manuscript.

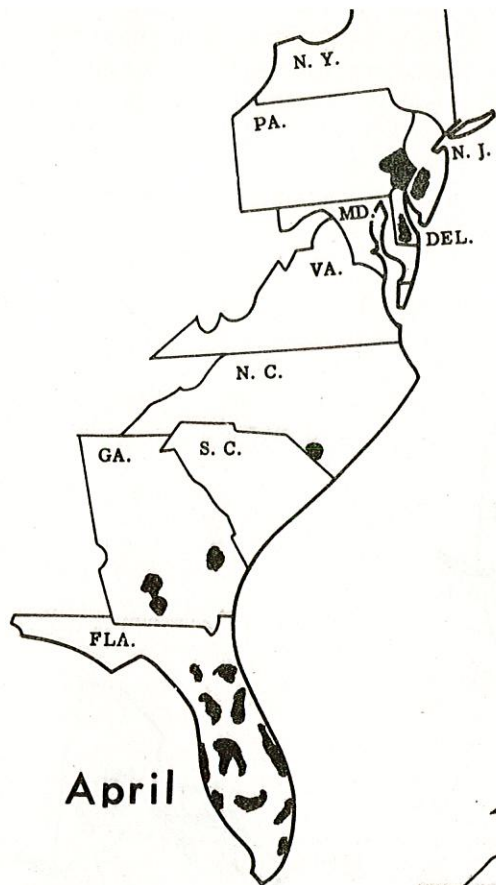
During July and August - About 18,000 work in New York and adjacent areas of Pennsylvania.

Some find work in New York and Pennsylvania counties as early as June. Many stay through the apple and late vegetable harvest in October. Those who work through October generally go directly to Florida when they leave. Others leave earlier, going south from New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania and stopping to pick apples in western Virginia and North Carolina where work is available until mid-November. Still others stop to pick beans along the coast.

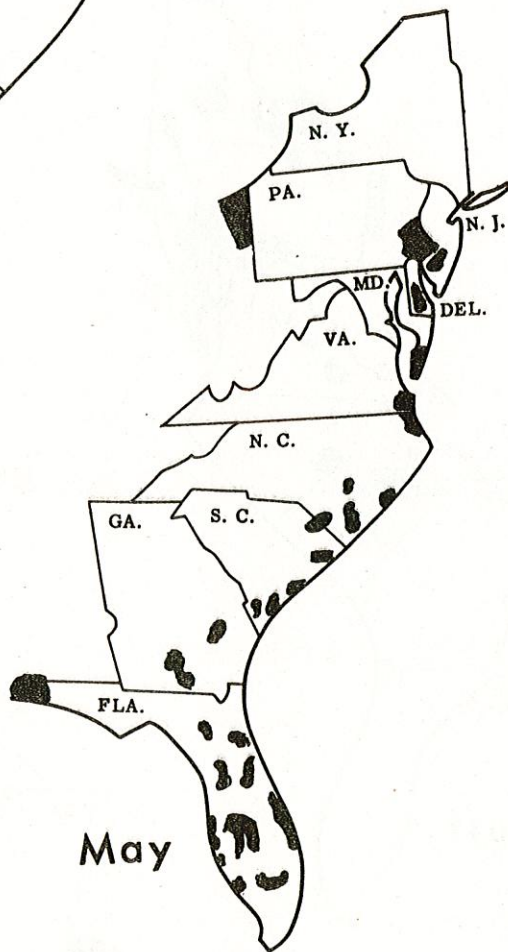
During September and October - Some workers pick apples in Virginia, Maryland and West Virginia.

By December - East Coast migrants have returned to Florida and other southern States.

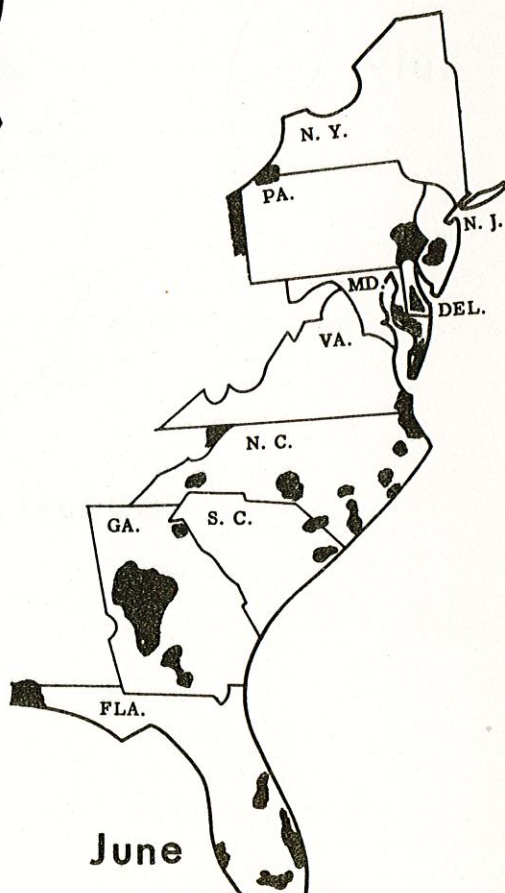
The main migratory stream stops its northward movement in New York. Southern workers are employed in the tobacco fields and sheds of Connecticut and Massachusetts but these are usually recruited directly from the South and do not follow the migratory pattern. The Maine potato harvest requires thousands of seasonal workers from outside the State. These are recruited in New England and neighboring Canada.



April

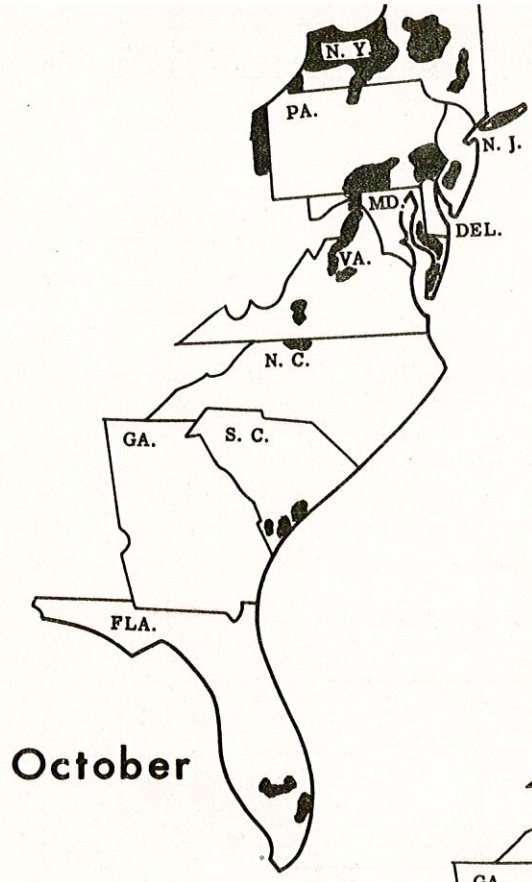


May

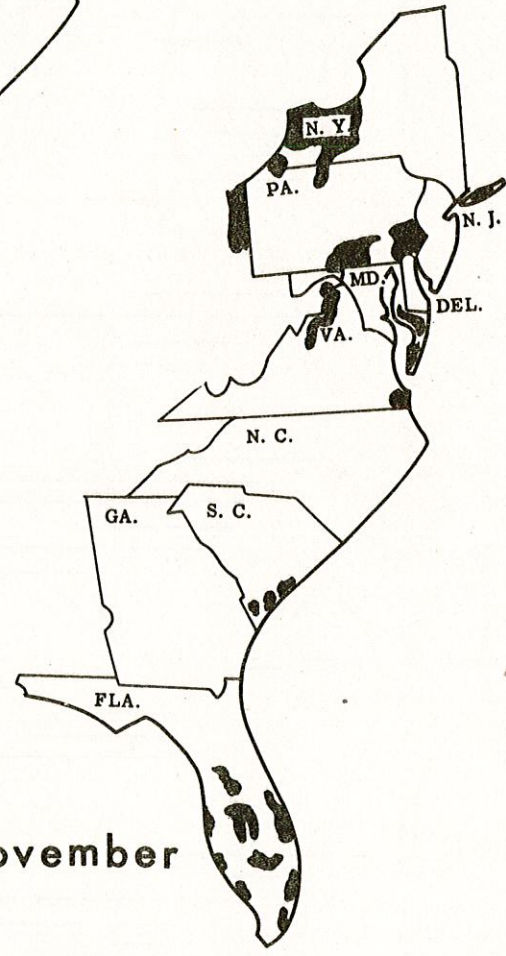


June

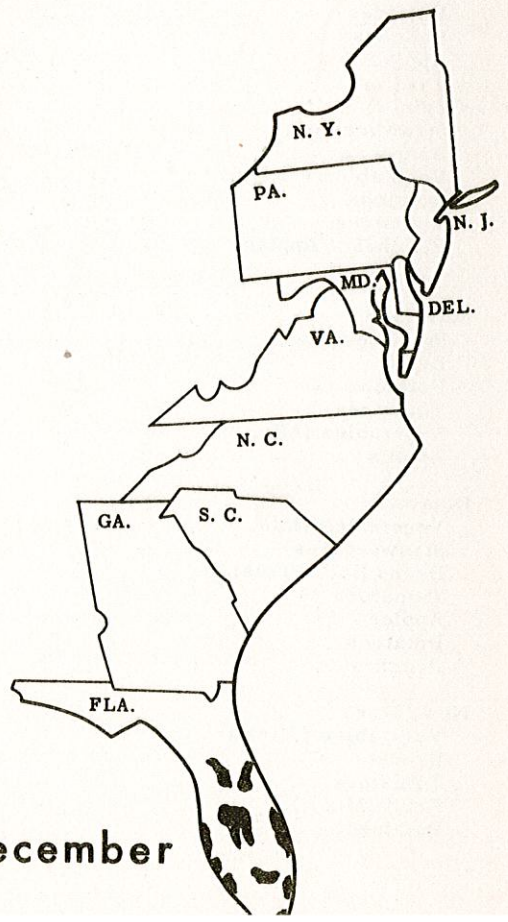
outside workers mounts in Florida as the vegetable harvest comes into full swing in the mid-winter months.



October



November



December

State and crop	Month											
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Pennsylvania	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Vegetables (Misc.)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Strawberries	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Fruit (Misc.)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Tomatoes	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Beans	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Peaches	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Tobacco	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Potatoes	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Apples	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
New York	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Fruit (Misc.)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Vegetables (Misc.)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Beans	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Potatoes	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Tomatoes	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Peaches	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Apples	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

Source: Guide to Seasonal Farm Work Areas in the Eastern Seaboard (revised 1951), Farm Placement Service, Bureau of Employment Security, U. S. Department of Labor.

handicapped in finding regular jobs by lack of education and occupational skills as well as by race or nationality. Southern Negroes, chiefly from Florida, make up the majority of East Coast workers.

Women and girls are found more frequently among migratory than among nonmigratory farm wage workers. Migratory workers, in general, are also a relatively young group. Roughly, one-third of the total migratory farm workers in the United States in 1952 were women, including both single workers and those who belonged to a family group. About four out of ten workers were under 25 and nearly two-thirds were under 35, taking into account only workers 14 years old or over. Many children under 14 also worked.

About half of the farm migrants in the United States are single workers. Those with families, however, are likely to have several children. Migratory farm worker families average 3.2 children compared with 2.7 for nonmigratory families. About 1 1/2 times as many migrant as nonmigrant families have four or more children.

Migrants from Florida may include a somewhat larger proportion of women than other migratory groups. They are also more likely to be young married couples or families.

In addition to southern Negroes, the northern States along the East Coast employ Puerto Rican workers, single males brought in from Puerto Rico under contract. More than 12,000 such contract workers were placed on farms in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, New York, and other northern States during 1952.

Besides these contract workers, approximately 3,000 noncontract Puerto Ricans who came from Puerto Rico on their own or were recruited directly by southern growers were employed in Florida during the winter months. Most of these intend to stay on the mainland, moving with the harvest from Florida to the Middle Atlantic States. There is an increasing tendency for these workers to bring their families with them.

A relatively small number of single males from the British West Indies are also brought in under contract to work in the East Coast States.

East Coast in considerable numbers during peak harvest seasons.

Some workers specialize in a single crop or group of crops. For example, most of the Florida migrants who worked in four Maryland counties surveyed during 1952 specialized in the harvest of Irish potatoes, lima beans, watermelons, and tomatoes. These "specialists" made up half or more of the labor supply in each of these crops in the four counties. In general, the annual earnings of "specialists" are less than those of workers who do whatever crop work may be available.

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Seasonality of hired farm labor use, 1931 and 1949

<u>Number of hired workers</u>	<u>Middle Atlantic States</u>		<u>South Atlantic States</u>	
	<u>1931</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1931</u>	<u>1949</u>
Low month	131,000	83,000	331,000	207,000
High month	290,000	266,000	637,000	920,000
Percent of high-month workers for whom there would be no employment in low months	55	69	48	78

Source: Farm Employment, by Regions, Revised, 1931-1949, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, February 1950.

Period	Factory workers	Farm workers	farm wage is of factory wage
	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Percent</i>
1910-14.....	0.21	0.14	67
1915-19.....	.33	.22	64
1920-24.....	.52	.24	47
1925-29.....	.55	.23	41
1930-34.....	.50	.14	29
1935-39.....	.61	.15	25
1940.....	.67	.16	24
1941.....	.73	.19	26
1942.....	.85	.25	29
1943.....	.96	.33	34
1944.....	1.02	.39	38
1945.....	1.02	.44	43
1946.....	1.09	.48	44
1947.....	1.24	.51	41
1948.....	1.35	.54	40
1949.....	1.40	.55	39
1950 ¹	1.45	.55	37

¹ Preliminary.

Source: Column 1, "Factory workers," Monthly Labor Review, U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Column 2, "Farm workers," Farm Labor, U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Employment and earnings of farm and factory workers, 1949

	Type of worker		
	Migratory farm	Nonmigratory farm	Manufacturing
Average days of work 1949.....	¹ 101	¹ 120	245
Average rate per day.....	\$5.10	\$4.40	\$11.21
Cash earnings per year.....	¹ 514.00	¹ 520.00	² 2,746.00
Value of perquisites.....	³ 36.00	³ 60.00	⁴ 120.00
Total earnings.....	550.00	580.00	2,866.00

¹ Louis J. Ducoff, "Migratory Farm Workers in 1949," Bureau of Agricultural Economics, 1950.

² Monthly Labor Review, Bureau of Labor Statistics, July 1950

³ Barbara B. Reagan, "Perquisites Furnished Hired Workers, 1945," Bureau of Agricultural Economics, December 1946.

⁴ A rough estimate based on U. S. Department of Commerce figures which show the annual non-wage income of wage earners at around \$6 billion: This includes employer contributions to sickness, accident and old age benefits, vacation and holiday pay and similar payments.

Wage payment and wage collection - Only two of the 10 States, New York and Pennsylvania, have laws providing for regular payment of wages that are broad enough in coverage to include employers of agricultural workers.

As to wage collection laws, in New York the authority of the Commissioner of Labor to take assignments from workers for the collection of back wages is broad enough to cover the claims of farm workers. In New Jersey the Migrant Labor Board handles wage claims of farm workers.

Regulation of farm labor camps - New Jersey,* New York, and Pennsylvania, of the 10 States, have laws or regulations applying to labor camps. In New Jersey and Pennsylvania the authority to regulate labor camps is in the State Department of Labor and Industry. In New York, although the regulation of the camps is in the Department of Health, the Department of Labor is authorized to enter and inspect camps.

Regulation of farm labor contractors - Except in New York, the regulation of farm labor contractors in the 10 States depends upon the coverage of legislation regulating private employment agents. The New Jersey and Pennsylvania laws apply to labor agents, which would appear to cover farm labor contractors. In Virginia, labor agents must obtain an annual license. The Pennsylvania act expressly requires an employment agent sending workers outside the city to give each laborer a statement regarding wages and terms of transportation.

New York has legislation designed expressly to regulate farm labor contractors. Under a 1946 law, New York requires persons recruiting 10 or more out-of-State farm workers to register with the Industrial Commissioner, giving information on their wages, housing, and working conditions. A 1954 law requires all farm labor contractors and crew leaders to register annually, and the Industrial Commissioner may refuse registration if the contractor has violated any labor law or misrepresented working conditions to migrants.

* In New Jersey, the Bureau of Migrant Labor in the Department of Labor and Industry enforces all applicable labor laws, including private employment agency regulation, child-labor and wage claims, with respect to migrant labor camps.

New York

To be eligible a person must reside in or be found in the State at the time of application. Residence is ordinarily lost by absence from the State for one year or more.

North Carolina

1 year required to gain residence.
Settlement is not lost until gained elsewhere.
3 years' residence required for care in a tuberculosis sanatorium.

Pennsylvania

1 year required to gain residence.
Assistance is granted to an eligible applicant who does not have 1 year's residence if he comes from a State with which Pennsylvania has an agreement to grant assistance without regard to duration of residence.
Residence is lost by absence with intent to abandon residence.

South Carolina

3 years required to gain residence.
No legal provision for loss of settlement.
For care in a mental hospital, required residence is defined as the same as that in effect in the State where the individual's residence was last established.

Virginia

1 year required to gain residence.
Settlement is acquired by self-sustained residence for 12 consecutive months in a county or a city. Persons who are dependent when they enter the State must reside therein for at least three years including 12 consecutive months of self-maintenance in a county or city.
Settlement is lost when gained elsewhere.

The following list of regional and State groups is not exhaustive nor does it take account of local groups --whether or not formally organized-- that may have substantial accomplishments to their credit in their own communities.

Continuing Committee on Migratory Farm Labor in the East Coast States

Set up in the fall of 1947 under the auspices of the Council of State Governments, the Continuing Committee includes representatives from each of the Seaboard States. The committee has considered such matters as recruitment and placement practices, transportation of workers, housing, health, and welfare.

John G. Sholl, Chairman, 29 East Front Street, Trenton 8, N. J.

Division of Home Missions, National Council of Churches, Eastern Area

For more than 30 years, many of the churches of the United States have cooperated through the Division of Home Missions in extending services to migrants. The Division's program for migrants varies from community to community. It deals with such problems as education of children, provision of care for young children whose parents work, health and welfare, and opportunity to take part in community life.

Mrs. C. Emanuel Ekstrom, Area Supervisor, 290 Slater Avenue, Providence 6, Rhode Island.

The following East Coast States also have State committees with State supervisors: Florida, North Carolina, Virginia, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and New York.

New Jersey

Bureau of Migrant Labor
Department of Labor and Industry
John G. Sholl, Supervisor
29 East Front Street
Trenton 8, New Jersey

Migrant Labor Board
Jay C. Garrison, Chairman

The Migrant Labor Act under which the Board and Bureau were established was adopted in New Jersey in 1945 as the result of a move started by the Consumers' League of New Jersey, the Subcommittee on Child and Migrant Labor Committee of the Middle Atlantic Conference of Christian and Congregational Churches, the Department of Social Service of the Protestant Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey, and the the New Jersey Council of Churches. The Act was also endorsed by labor organizations.

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- b. U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Employment Security. Migratory Farm Labor on the Eastern Seaboard. In The Labor Market and Employment Security. pp. 8-12. May 1953. Washington: U. S. Govt. Print. Off.
- c. U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Employment Security, Farm Placement Service. Labor Recruitment for Agriculture, 1949-1950-1951. Washington: U. S. Govt. Print. Off. 32 pp.
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- d. Ducoff, Louis J. The Hired Farm Working Force of 1952. Washington: U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics. 1953. 21 pp.
- e. Metzler, W. H. Migratory Farm Workers in the Atlantic Coast Stream. Washington: Agricultural Research Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture. 1954. (In process of preparation.)
- f. U. S. Department of Labor, Farm Placement Service. Major Agricultural Migrant Labor Demand Areas. 1950. (No paging.)

2. How many migrants are there?

- a. U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Employment Security.
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- b. Ducoff, Louis J. Migratory Farm Workers: A Problem in Migration Analysis. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America, Chapel Hill, N. C., May 12-13, 1951. 12 pp.

3. Who are the farm migrants?

- a. Ducoff, Louis J. Socioeconomic Backgrounds of the Migratory Agricultural Labor Situation. Paper presented at the National Conference on the Church and Migratory Labor of the Home Missions Council of North America, Inc., Chicago, Ill., Sept. 27, 1949. 8 pp.

- b. U. S. Senate, Committee on Labor and Public Welfare. (82d Cong., 2d sess.) Migratory Labor. Hearings before the Subcommittee on Labor and Labor-Management Relations. Part 2. Washington: U. S. Govt. Print. Off. 1952. pp. 967-1089.
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 - a. American Public Welfare Association. The Public Welfare Directory 1954. Chicago: the Association. 1954. (Loula Dunn, editor.)
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U. S. Federal Interagency Committee on Migrant Labor. Migrant Labor...a human problem. Washington: U. S. Govt. Print. Off. Published March 1947; reissued 1952. 58 pp.
 8. Residence requirements for old-age assistance, aid to the blind, aid to dependent children, and aid to the permanently and totally disabled
 - a. American Public Welfare Association. (See 7, a, pp. 369-370.)
 - b. U. S. Social Security Administration, Bureau of Public Assistance. Characteristics of State Public Assistance Plans. Public Assistance Report No. 21. 1953. (No paging.)
 9. Some regional and State organizations concerned with farm migrants on the Eastern Seaboard
 - a. Annual reports of New York State Interdepartmental Committee on Farm and Food Processing Labor.
 - b. Annual reports of New Jersey Migrant Labor Board and Bureau.
 - c. Unpublished information from National Council on Agricultural Life and Labor, Continuing Committee on Migratory Farm Labor in the East Coast States, and other sources.