

## Fresh Produce Workers in Arizona, afc2015/028

**Crossroads of Confianza: the fresh produce industry in Nogales, Arizona, Archie Green Fellows Project, 2015-2016**

**Jim Cathey interview, 2015-08-26 : interview conducted by Nic Hartmann**

**Interview ID: afc2015028\_03021**

**Date: August 26, 2015**

**Duration: 01:01:01**

0:00] Introduction

[0:16] Entering the industry and moving to Arizona

[2:49] Going into business for himself

[4:26] Ups and downs in the business

[5:30] Entering the greenhouse industry

[6:58] Operations in Texas

[10:18] McAllen's rise as a produce center, and Nogales's response

[12:04] Tomato growing and Florida as a produce center

[13:29] Red Suna's products and greenhouses

[14:56] Greenhouse locations: Mexico, US and Canadian operations

[16:04] Closure of the Leamington, Ontario Heinz processing plant

[17:00] Virginia operations: tomatoes on-the-vine

[17:49] Pause-technical issues- back to Virginia operations

[19:29] Owning operations in three countries

[20:20] Employee operations

[21:24] Why not more vertical operation?

[23:00] An average workday

[25:11] Challenges of working in produce

[28:30] The challenge of being seasonal

[30:04] Contracts- "The days of a handshake" are gone.

[32:30] The computer's role in changing the work

[33:24] Stigma about Mexican produce versus domestic produce

[36:34] Return to conversation- tech glitch

[36:41] Return to conversation about stigma

[37:59] Trend of local produce

[40:43] Pause and talking about people's understandings of produce industry

[42:38] (Cathey takes a phone call)

[44:39] Discussion of cartel stereotype

[47:29] Perceptions of Mexican labor

[50:38] Farm labor shortages

[54:26] Concluding thoughts: food safety and perceptions of Mexico

[1:01:01] End interview