

Fresh Produce Workers in Arizona, afc2015/028

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

Walter Ram, Jr. interview, 2015-08-31 : interview conducted by Nic Hartmann

Interview ID: afc2015028_03022

Date: August 31, 2015

Duration: 01:03:58

[0:00] Begin interview
[0:27] Entering the industry
[1:33] Education and family
[2:21] Background of working in food safety
[4:18] Entering the area of food safety
[5:28] Working with his father
[6:14] An average workday
[6:51] Food Safety Modernization Act
[10:00] FDA regulation of produce versus the USDA
[11:57] Detecting outbreaks
[14:09] Professionalization of the industry
[16:27] "Customers used to buy what farmers grew": consumer-driven production
[19:28] Rise of food safety as a concern
[25:55] Challenges of working in food safety
[29:25] Speaking people's language about food safety
[31:33] Inspecting snow peas: a historical anecdote
[32:14] Three types of food hazards: chemical, physical, biological
[34:23] Food safety standards and practices
[38:04] Implementing organic programs
[38:48] Pause and return to talking about "big ag" and pesticides
[42:14] The selling of fear
[44:08] The sustainability of organic agriculture
[47:08] The impact of public concern on the produce industry
[49:48] Discussion of public concern over GMOs
[51:53] Food, locality and the building of community
[54:48] Personal concerns over GMOs
[56:10] "We have the safest food supply in the world"
[57:08] Desire for sustainable practices and credible food research
[59:22] End of 1st track

[0:00] Start 2nd part- different players in the industry: who makes the industry?
[2:09] Changes in customers and practices
[4:37] End of 2nd track