

MAFO MILESTONES: 30 Years of History

1. 1968 MAFO Incorporated in Illinois.
2. 1970 MAFO formed the **National Association of Farmworker Organizations (NAFO)**. National representation was based on federal regional farmworker coalitions.
3. 1979 MAFO's corporate office was changed to and incorporated in Minnesota. Currently, MAFO is incorporated in Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, New Mexico and Colorado.
4. 1980 MAFO took a **stand against the North American Free Trade Agreement's (NAFTA)**.
5. 1981 MAFO was responsible for organizing a **National Day of Mourning in Washington, D. C.** This historical event occurred on **Thursday, May 7, 1981**. The mourning referred to the symbolic death of the nation's commitment to the War on Poverty.
 - a. It brought over **5000 marchers** to Washington, D.C.
 - b. Besides **bringing together farmworker caravans**, the march symbolized the migratory patterns of farmworkers. The March brought the **Reverend Jesse Jackson and Coretta Scott King** (wife of Martin Luther King) and other civil rights leadership.
6. 1982 MAFO received a **grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to conduct regional trainings** to meet the Job Training Partnership Act requirements and performance standards.
7. 1982 **Peter Laylo was hired as the first MAFO Director** with the main office in Chicago, Illinois.
8. 1983 – 1985 **Sandy Harding served as MAFO Policy Analyst/Consultant** in Washington, D.C.
9. 1985 Lupe Martinez and Lalo Zavala met with Raul Yzaguirre, President of the National Council of La Raza (NCLR) in Houston, Texas and asked that NCLR consider the establishment of a **Farmworker Division within NCLR**. The National Farmworker Institute was established.
10. 1988 Lalo Zavala and Lupe Martinez identified the need for an Interregional Conference between Supplier and Receiver states. The concept of a National Farmworker Conference was born.
11. 1988 MAFO approached Gil Apodaca, the United States Department of Labor **National Monitor Advocate to join MAFO** in its first National Farmworker Conference.
12. **1989 With a budget of \$26.85, MAFO held the first MAFO National Farmworker Conference in Austin, Texas**, in partnership with the Texas Department of Agriculture. At this Conference, we held a **Working Together Farmworker Summit** with all the national FW organizations. **Jim Hightower**, Secretary of the Texas Department of Agriculture, was our first Keynote Speaker. **Alejandro Mercuri**, former U.S Under-Secretary of Agriculture, was guest speaker.
13. 1989 Partnership with the **Texas Department of Community Affairs**.
14. 1989 Partnership with the **National Governors Association**.
15. 1989 Introduced the issue of **Immigration Reform and Control Act: Impact on Farmworker**.
16. 1990 A national effort of "**Building a FW Alliance**" was introduced and discussed.
17. 1990 A long-standing **partnership with the Housing Assistance Council (HAC)**. HAC and MAFO have held several Farmworker Housing Summits throughout the years.
18. 1992 MAFO introduced the discussion of **Farmworker Women Issues**.
19. 1992 **Children of farmworkers** was identified as a major issue in a MAFO Action Plan
20. 1992 Partnership with the Miller Brewing Company as a conference sponsor.
21. 1992 **Herman Acosta** was awarded the **Unsung Hero Award** in Albuquerque, New Mexico.
22. 1993 On **February 24th**, **Cesar Chavez spoke** at the 5th National Farmworker Conference held in San Diego, California.
23. 1993 **Domestic violence among farmworker women** was highlighted.
24. 1994 MAFO introduced the **MAFO Lifetime Achievement Award** in Albuquerque, New Mexico. **Gil Apodaca, was the first recipient**.
25. 1995 Partnership with **The Coca-Cola Company** as Conference Sponsor.
26. 1995 Partnership with the **Philip Morris Company** as Conference Sponsor.

27. 1996 **Involuntary servitude and slavery among farmworkers** was highlighted.
28. 1999 The **Leadership, Unity, Professionalism and Excellence Award (LUPE)** was introduced in Atlanta, GA. The first recipients recognized were **Alicia Avila (Kansas), Victor Benavides (Washington State) and Jesus Flores (Texas)**.
29. 2000 The National Council of La Raza (NCLR) and MAFO convened the first **National Farmworker Alliance meeting in Washington, DC** to explore the possibility of a national partnership of existing national farmworker groups. The National Farmworker Alliance was created.
30. 2001 The **NFA Mini-Summit was canceled due to 9/11**
31. 2002 In February, a **NFA Mini-Summit planning meeting was held at the MAFO Conference in San Diego**.
32. 2002 In September, the **first National Farmworker Leadership Summit** was held in Washington, DC.
33. 2002 **Noemi Barry became the first Government Employee Leadership Award** recipient in San Diego, Ca.
34. 2004 Partnership with the **Texas Workforce Commission and Workforce Development Division**.
35. 2004 Partnership with the **California Endowment**.
36. 2004 Partnership with **Housing, and Urban Development (HUD)**.
37. 2006 In Atlanta, Georgia, **MAFO adopted a policy to promote Latino Farmers and Ranchers**.
38. 2006 MAFO **partnered with the USDA** to help identify Latino Farmers and Ranchers nationally.
39. 2006 MAFO partnered with and started working closely with the various departments within USDA to promote Farmworkers to Farmers and to begin the Latino Farmer and Rancher Census.
40. 2007 MAFO introduced the first **Farmworker to Farmer conference track**.
41. 2007 The MAFO **President Award was introduced** in San Antonio, Texas. The first recipient was **David Hall, Executive Director of Texas Rural Legal Assistance (TRLA)**.
42. 2008 MAFO contracted with the Latino Economic Development Center for **promotion of Latino businesses in central Minnesota**.
43. 2009 **Jim Hightower** returned as MAFO's Keynote Speaker at the **20th Anniversary MAFO Conference**.
44. 2009 MAFO continued contracting for the promotion of **Latino businesses in central Minnesota**.
45. 2011 MAFO contracted with the **USDA Risk Management Agency to provide Risk Management Education and Outreach to Latino Farmers in Minnesota**.
46. 2016 MAFO recognized the contributions of **The Farmworker Woman**.
47. 2017 The first **Colorado Agriculture Labor Summit in Colorado Springs, Colorado** occurred in partnership with the Colorado Trust, the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and the Colorado Department of Education.
48. 2018 **Rudy M. Beserra, The Coca-Cola Company**, was MAFO's first Corporate Partner Award Recipient In Albuquerque, New Mexico.

MAFO members were organizations from the Midwest.

Originally, MAFO primarily represented the U.S. Department of Labor Federal Region V or the Midwest. The following were the **founding MAFO organizational representatives**.

Minnesota Migrant Council (MMC)	– Jose Valdez
United Migrant Opportunity Services, Inc. (UMOS)	– Salvador Sánchez
Illinois Migrant Council (IMC)	– Roberto Munoz
Associated Migrants Opportunity Services, Inc. (AMOS)	– Raul Barrera
La Raza Unida de Ohio	– Narciso Rodrigues
United Migrants for Opportunity, Inc. (UMOI)	– Carlos Sundermann

MAFO organizational representation changed as administrators changed.

MMC (Minnesota, North and South Dakota)	– Heladio (Lalo) F. Zavala
UMOS (Wisconsin)	– Lupe Martínez
IMC (Illinois)	– Arturo Lopez, Eloy Salazar
UMOI (Michigan Economics for Human Development)	– Salvador Herrera, Miguel Uriegas
AMOS (Indiana)	– Tom Jones, Daniel Tirado, Cathy Sarris
La Raza Unida de Ohio (Ohio)	– Miguel Ornelas

MAFO membership expanded to include other states.

Migrant Action Program (Iowa)	– Joe Lucido, <u>Lorenzo Sandoval</u>
North Dakota Migrant Council	– Juan Rodriguez
Oro Development Corporation (Oklahoma)	– Joe Gomez
Harvest America (Kansas)	– Mark Marcano, Laurie Rosenwasser, <u>Charles Heter</u> , Al Kayhill
Nebraska Association of Farmworker (NAF Multi-Cultural Human Development Corporation)	– Ella Ochoa
Federation of Southern Cooperatives (Missouri)	– Charles Prejean
Ohio Farmworker Opportunities	– Alicia Fernandez-Mott
Idaho Migrant Council	– Humberto Fuentes, Dr. Alberto Pacheco, Danny Ozuna
HELP New Mexico	– Gene Ortega, John Martinez

Current MAFO membership is now composed of individuals representing organizations rather than the organizations.

MAFO no longer has organizational membership but individuals who represent farmworkers and organizations providing services in one or more states.

UMOS	– Lupe Martinez
Centro Campesino Farmworker Center	– John Martinez
Coalition of Florida Farmworker Organizations	– Arturo Lopez
Harvest America Corporation	– Terri Bookless
Community Council of Idaho	– Irma Morin
East Coast Migrant Head Start Project	– Dr. Jose S. Villa
La Cooperativa Campesina de California	– Marco Lizarraga

PAST MAFO Chairs:

- Roberto Munoz
- Jose A Valdez
- Heladio F. Zavala
- Lupe Martinez
- Ella Ochoa
- Lupe Martinez