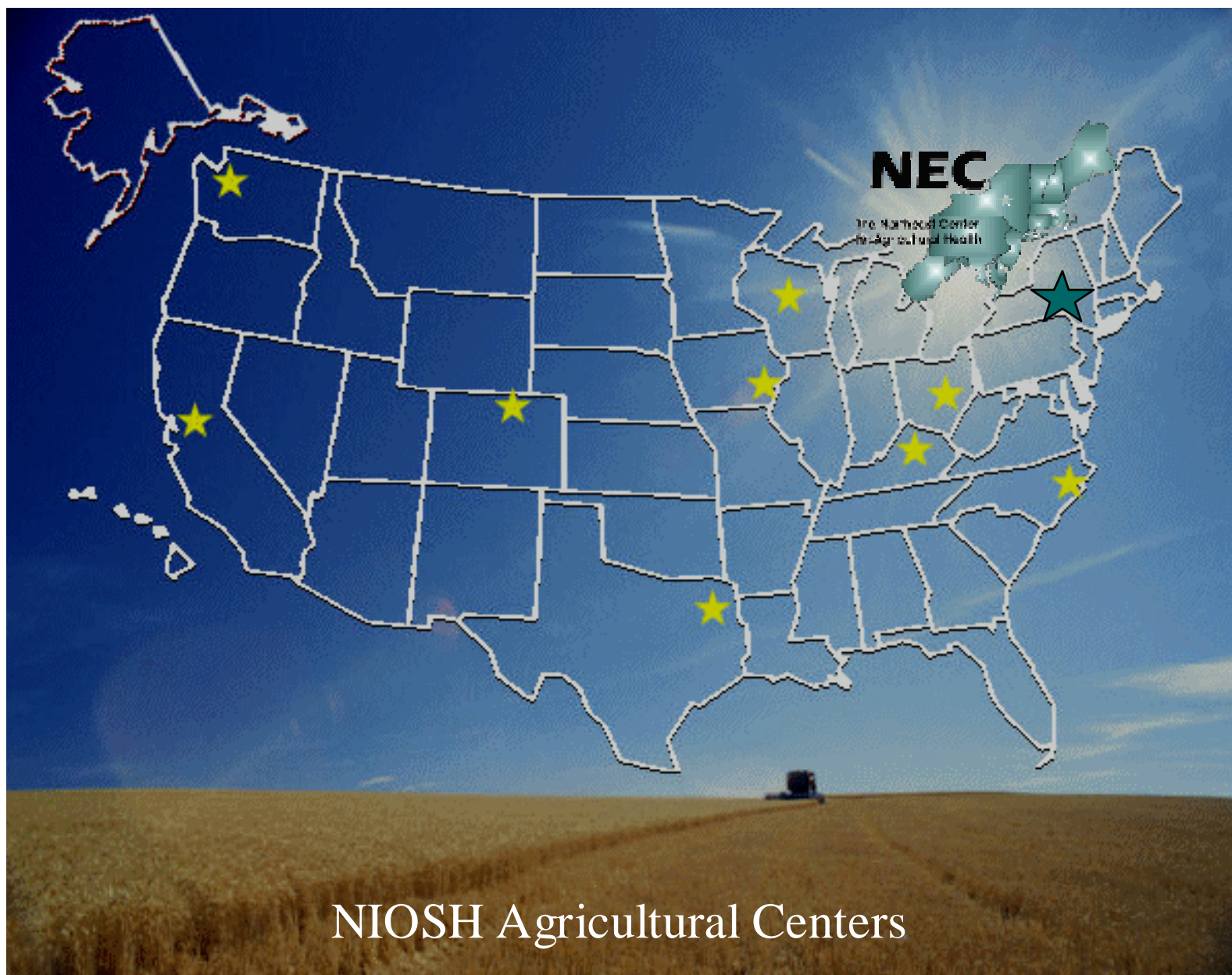


# Community-based occupational health interventions for Northeastern farmworkers: **Employers as part of the community**

Lynae Hawkes, Study Coordinator

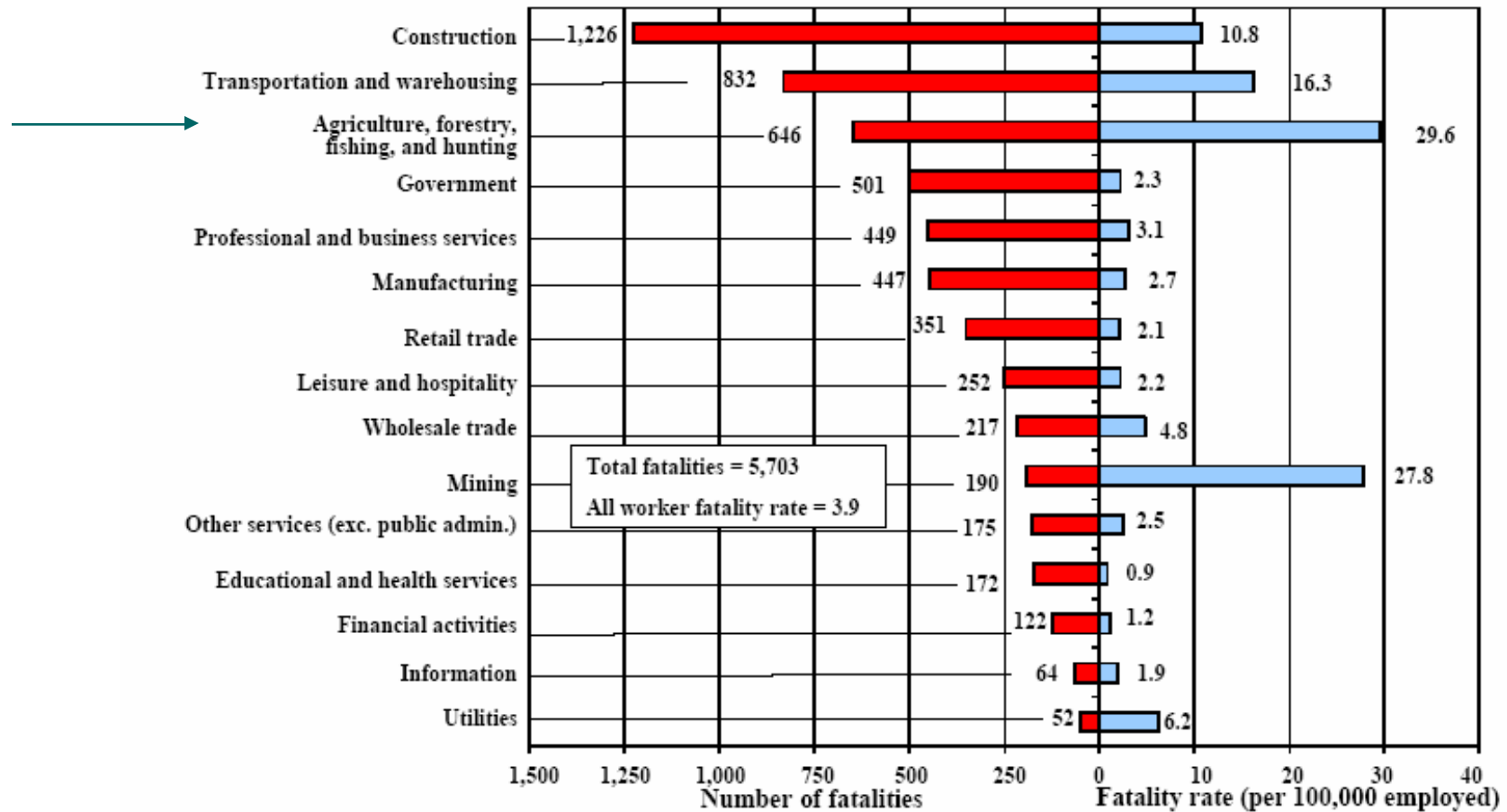
November 5, 2007





## NIOSH Agricultural Centers

## Number and rate of fatal occupational injuries, by industry sector, 2006



SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, 2007

Mission: Enhancing agricultural and rural health by preventing and treating occupational injury and illness



# Community Collaboration for Farmworker Health & Safety

- Develop, test, refine a community process to reduce occupational injury and illness in MSFWs

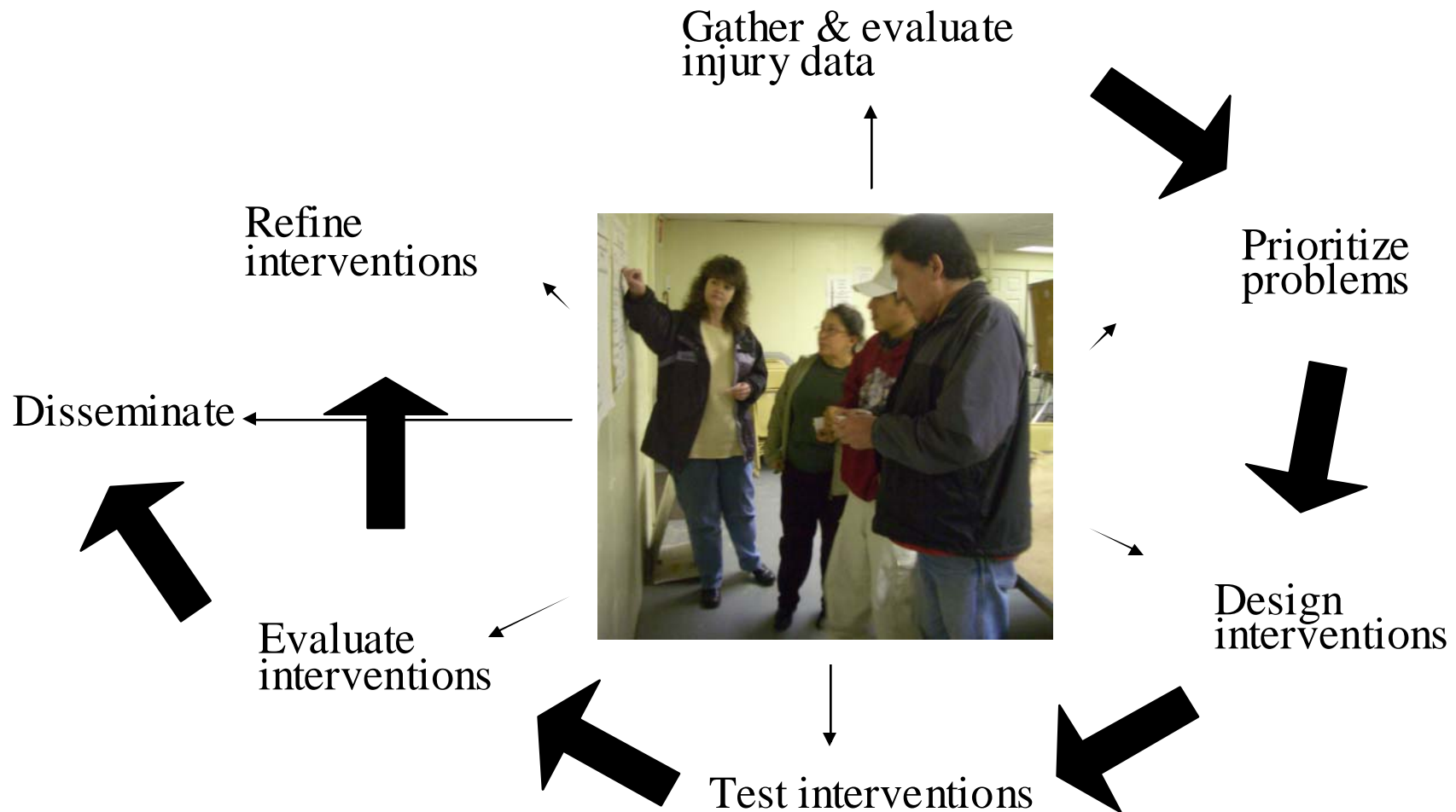


# Washington County – “downeast” ME

- 10,000 migrant and seasonal farmworkers
- Hispanic, Native American & Anglo rakers
- Low bush wild blueberries



# Community Process



# Gather & Evaluate Injury Data

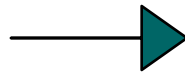
- Community input - interviews, focus groups, surveys
- *Work team discussions*
- Medical chart review
- NIOSH survey (s)





# Prioritize Problems

- Bee stings
- Knee pain
- Back pain
- Sun exposure
- Toilet facilities
- Pay
- Shoulder pain
- Snake bite
- Wrist / Hand pain
- Blisters
- Rake puncture
- Emergency response



- Heat exhaustion
- Back pain
- Sun exposure
- Bee stings
- Shoulder pain

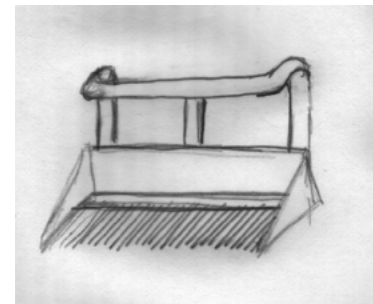
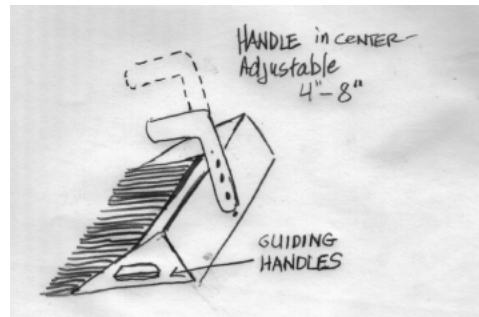
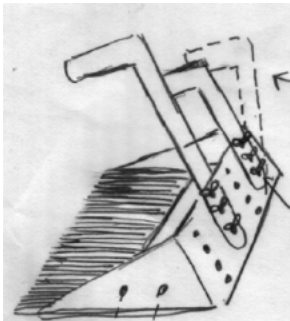


**Muscle / Joint**

**Sun / Heat**

# Design Interventions

- Improve access to drinking water
- Proved shaded areas – quick shade
- Increase access to “proper” clothing
- Education (clothing, water intake, sun screen)
- Physical conditioning
- Proper raking techniques video
- Education of health professionals
- Seated raking
- **The rake**



# 2005 Pilot Trial of Rake Designs

12 design/size alternatives

+

42 rakers



Extended handle – 70 & 80 tines



**2006 Trial**

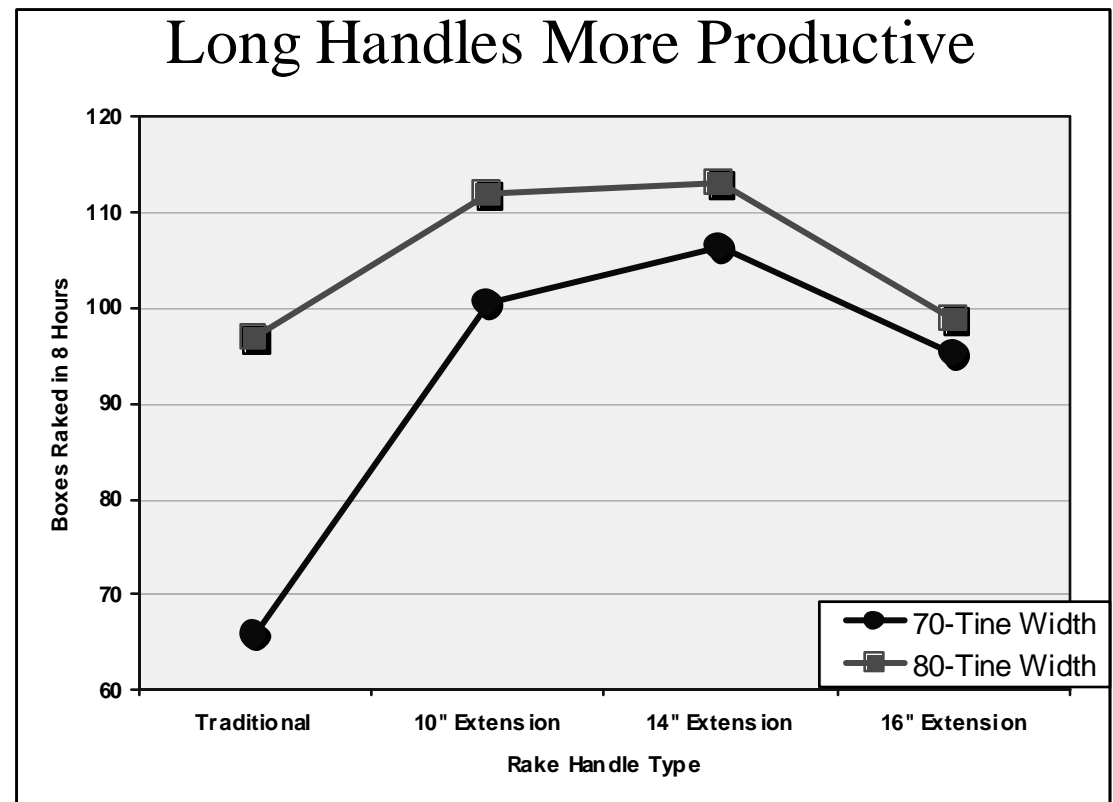
# Refine Intervention

- Traditional single handle vs extended handles
- 70 tine vs 80 tine



# 2006 Traditional vs. Long Handle

- Force Required
  - $p < 0.0001$
- Pain Experienced
  - $p < 0.0001$
- Acceptability
  - $p < 0.0001$



# Disseminate

- Grower Presentations
- Rake Modification Workshops
- Story Board
- Video
- Publications

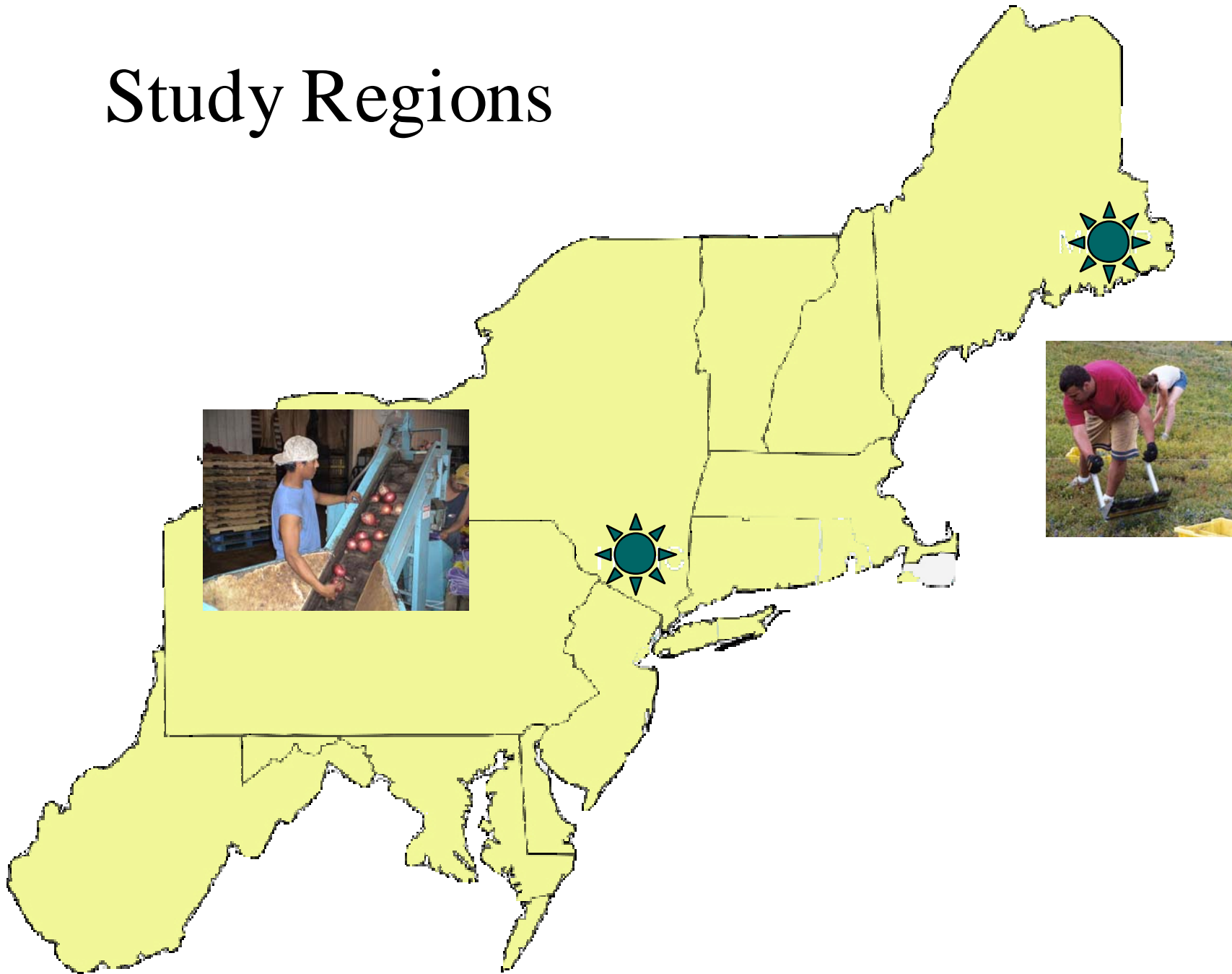


# Sustainability

- Intervention
  - Increased demand for handles
  - MDOL support video
  - Additional \$ for workshops
- Work Team
  - Continue working on occupational safety issues
  - Other community concerns
- MMHP/NEC Collaboration
  - New Project Site



# Study Regions





# Employers in the Process

## Con

- Reluctance for workers
- Translation requirements
- Competing demands
- Competition between producers
- Choice of priority

## Pro

- Migrant clinic relations
- Donation of equipment
- Access to decision makers
- Choice of intervention
- Builds trust with workers
- Interest in sustaining

# In Summary

