

Agriculture and Farm Labor California, 1975 - 2015

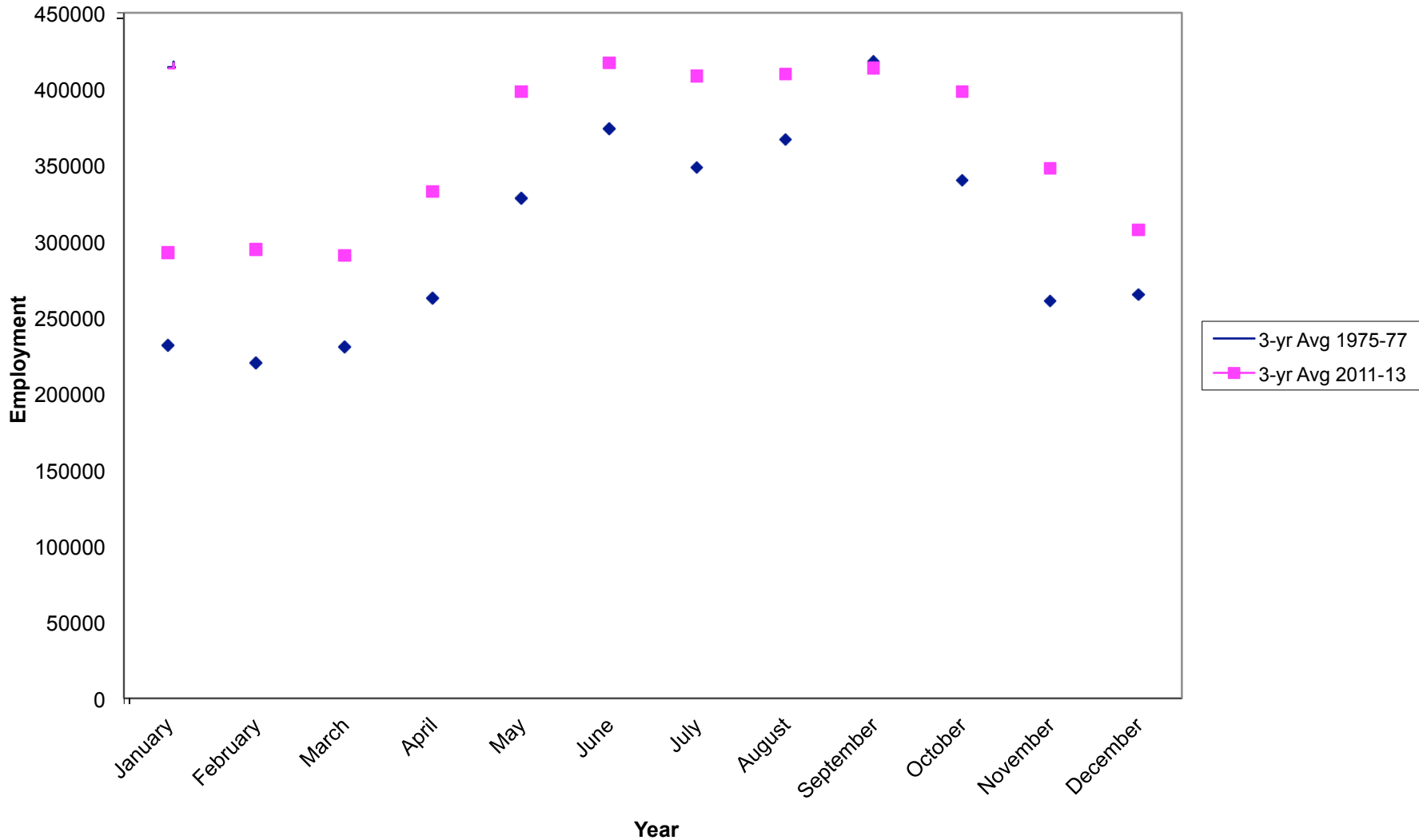
Don Villarejo, Ph.D.

April 17, 2015

ALRB at 40 Conference

Davis, California

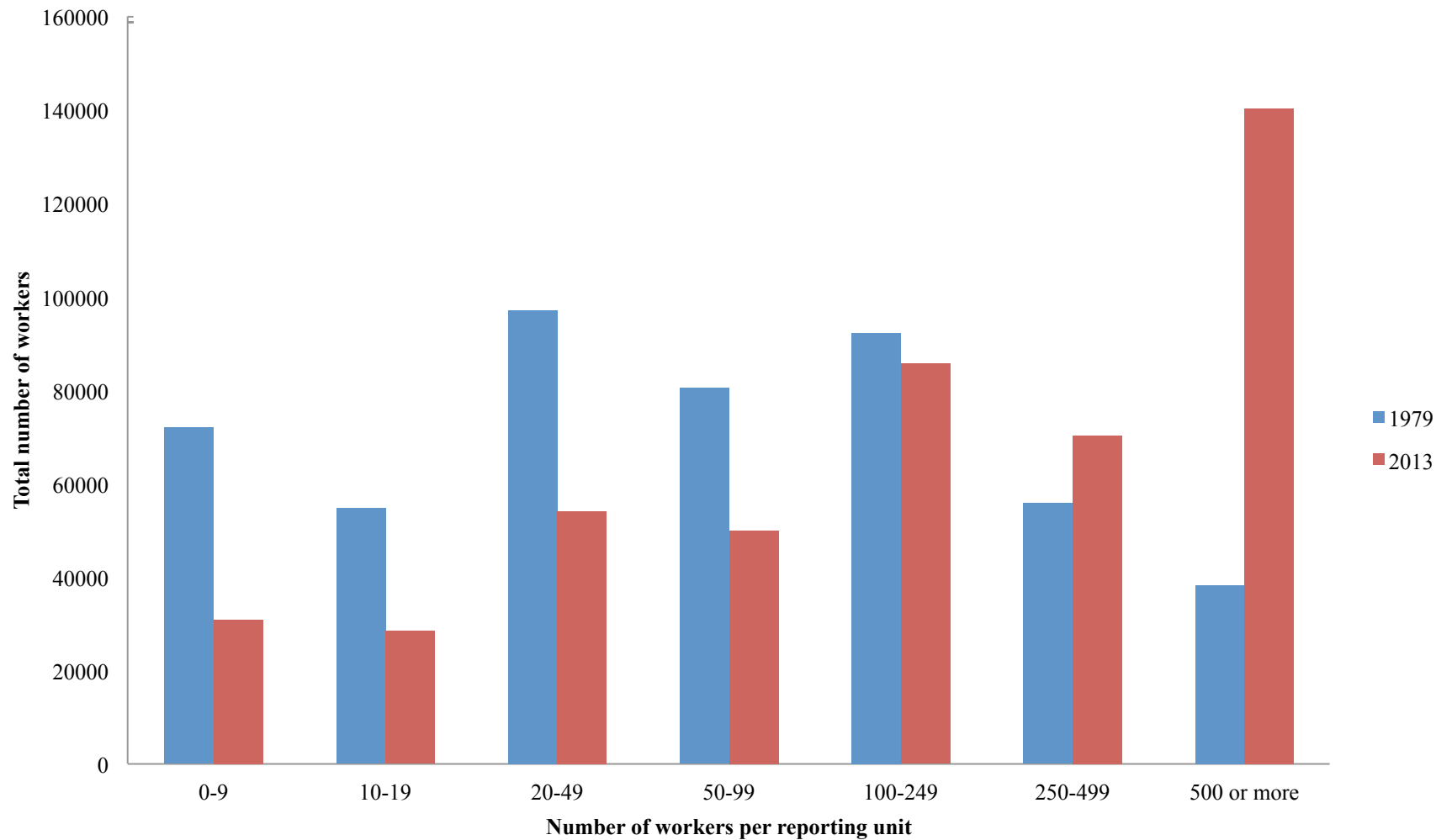
Farm Labor Employment, Monthly, California, 1975-77 vs. 2011-13



Agricultural Employment (FTE), CA 1975-2013, EDD, USDA & ACS ()*

<i>Category</i>	<i>1975</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>Change, %</i>
Farmer & Family	70,600	42,500*	-40%
Direct Hire	241,300	203,000	-16%
Labor Contractor	35,000	137,350	+292%
Other Agricultural Services	33,900	66,250	+95%
<i>Total</i>	380,800	449,100	+18%

**Hired and Contract Farm Workers by Size of Reporting Unit
California, September
1979 (Total = 490,500) & 2013 (Total = 459,500)
*Source: EDD/LMID***



Farm Labor (Direct-hire) Wage Rates Annual Average, California

1974 & 2014, *Source: USDA NASS (Farm Labor)*

- 1974 : \$2.60 per hour (field & livestock); equivalent to **\$13.50** in current (2014) dollars (cf. www.dir.ca.gov/aprl/CPI/ for CA CPI).
- 2014: \$11.33 per hour (field & livestock); \$2.17 **below** the adjusted 1974 wage rate.
- Ratio of annual average farm labor wage rates to comparable wage rates in manufacturing are unchanged: 54.2% in both 1974 & 2014 (\$2.60/\$4.76, and \$11.33/\$20.92, respectively).

Poverty Amidst Plenty

- Tulare County: #1 in the nation in farm cash receipts; farm operators reported an average net cash income from farm operations of \$146,000.
- Tulare County also has highest poverty rate of all California counties (2012): 25%. It is one of just three California counties to report more than 20% of families in poverty for all three of the most recent decennial censuses (1990, 2000, 2010), and the 2012 figure is the largest yet.
- More than one-fourth of all families rely on SNAP; a majority use food pantries.