



# Washington apple orchard

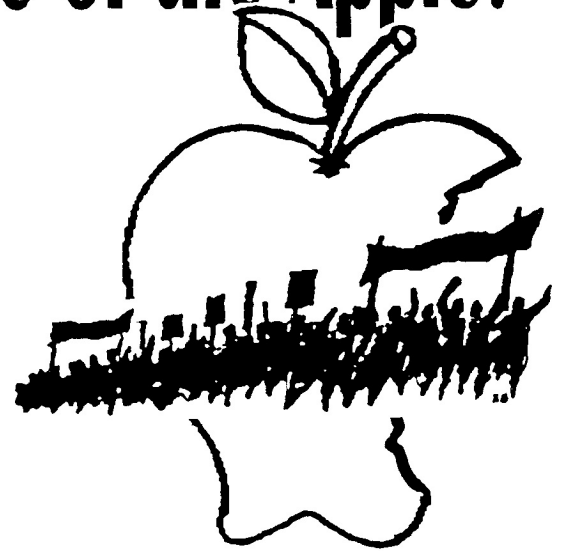


## workers want a Bigger bite of the Apple!

The Washington apple industry is growing. The value of the apple crop has more than doubled in the past ten years. But the workers' bite of the apple is poverty wages.

About half the farm workers in our state labor in the apple orchards. In 1996 the average annual wage for Washington farm workers was \$6,664.

Orchard workers toil long hard hours planting, pruning and thinning trees, and harvesting fruit, without opportunity for overtime pay. Many cannot afford to decently house, feed, clothe and educate their families. They have little or no job security and too often face favoritism and firings on a whim. Workers want jobs free of sexual harassment and discrimination and they want proper protection from pesticides.



Last season, 1500 workers and supporters marched in Mattawa to demand higher wages. Workers continue to organize committees and host house meetings to listen to the concerns of their *compañeros* and hear about the union founded over 30 years ago by César Chávez and Dolores Huerta. At five ranches, workers walked out on strike and won pay increases and fairer treatment, yet 28 workers at Auvil Fruit, Inc., are filing suit for alleged discrimination and retaliation after their Labor Day strike.

**This season, help the farm workers win dignity and respect by gathering signatures to raise the minimum wage, traveling to eastern WA to witness living and work conditions, and hosting workers as they tour the cities sharing their struggle.**

Yes, I will help apple orchard workers get a bigger bite of the apple!

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (h) (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ (w) (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

- I will help to raise the minimum wage
- Travel to eastern Washington
- Host workers on tour
- Make a contribution of \$20, \$30
- Become an Associate Member
- Join a support committee

Return form to the United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO, at 2700 First Ave. #200, Seattle, WA 98121. Phone (206) 443-7645 Fax (206) 443-3340 E-mail [ufwa2@igc.apc.org](mailto:ufwa2@igc.apc.org)