



The Ag Sector: The Nexus of Migration and Human Trafficking

Seventh Generation Interfaith
February 14, 2020

Welcome!

- ▶ Participants will be in listen only mode until the Q&A section.
- ▶ We will make recording and slides available and post on our website

Reflection



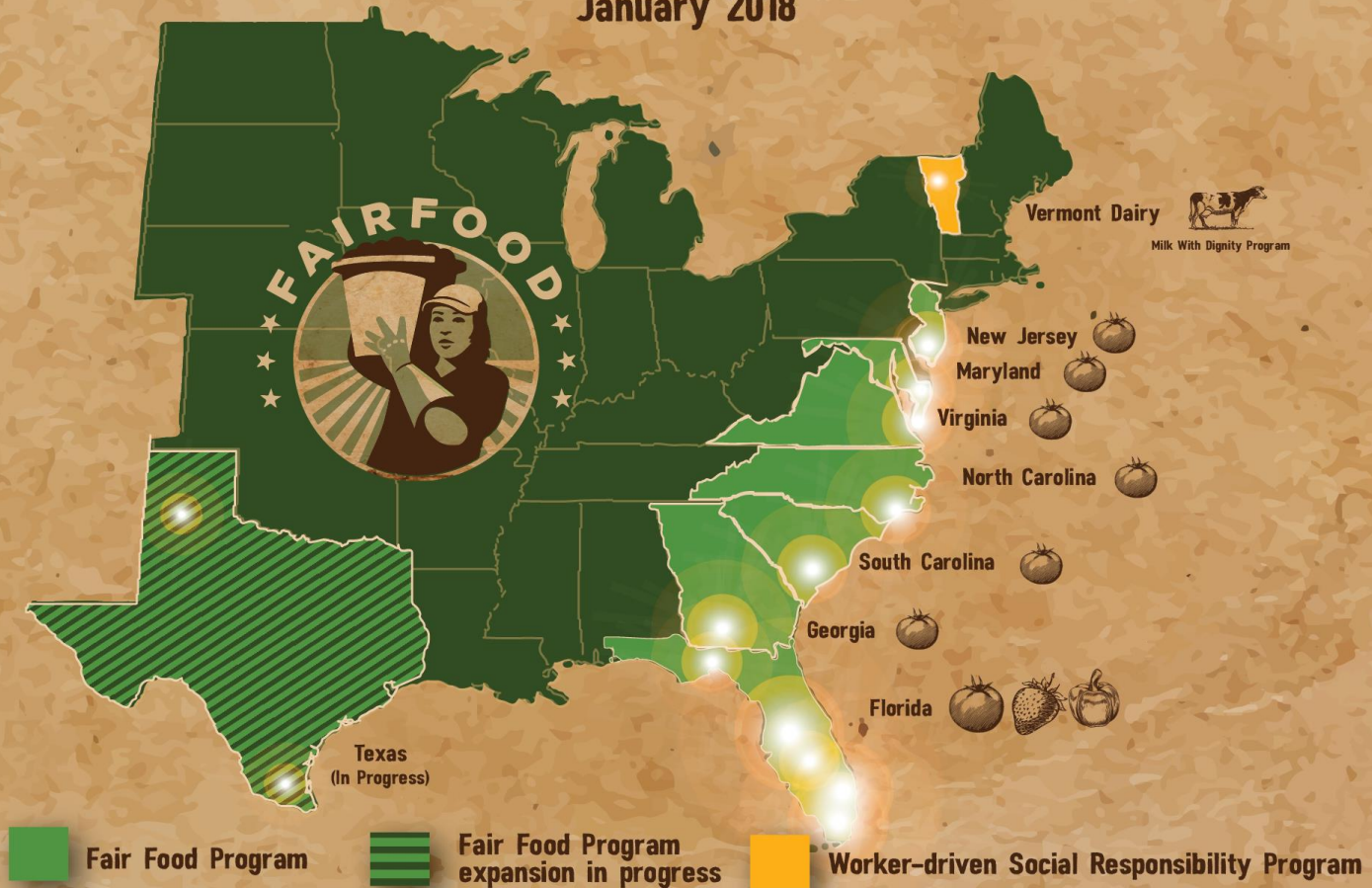
Companion in this conversation



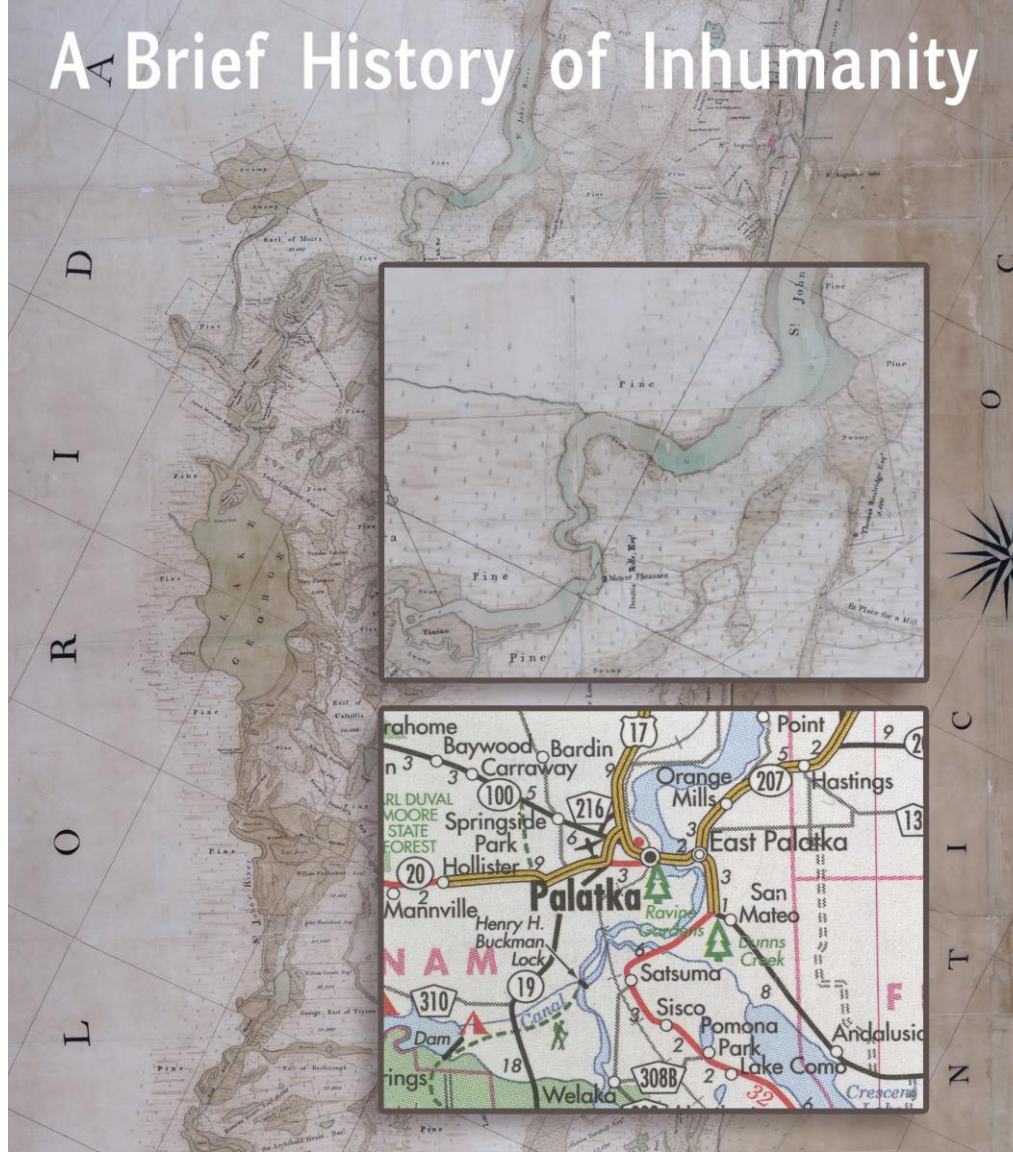
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The Fair Food Program and Worker-driven Social Responsibility Programs

January 2018



A Brief History of Inhumanity



This map shows British slave plantations in North Florida during the 1770's. Denys Rolle, a former member of parliament, owned 78,000 acres on the banks of the St. Johns River in what is present-day East Palatka, Hastings, Spuds, and San Mateo. He built this massive plantation on forced labor – first with indentured workers from England, then with more than 200 enslaved Africans – harvesting turpentine, indigo, rice and corn.

Today the area of Rolle's former plantation is home to vast potato, cabbage and winter vegetable fields. It is also the site of a recent farm labor servitude operation.

In 2007, Ron Evans was sentenced to 30 years in federal prison on drug conspiracy, financial re-structuring, and witness tampering charges, among others. Evans recruited homeless U.S. citizens from shelters across the Southeast with promises of good pay and housing in exchange for harvesting crops in the surrounding potato and cabbage fields. At his East Palatka labor camp – the same East Palatka where 230 years earlier Denys Rolle brought Africans to work as slaves on land he called Rollestown – Evans deducted rent, food, crack cocaine and alcohol from workers' pay, holding them "perpetually indebted" in what the Department of Justice called "a form of servitude morally and legally reprehensible."

The map allows us to trace the arc of three centuries of forced labor, not just at the state level but within the confines of one particular North Florida community. The story of this community of this soil is the story of the evolution of slavery in Florida writ small.

Thank You

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