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## Watermelon Harvesters



Two modified school buses, both loaded with watermelons, pass each other on a road in Levy County on Friday morning (June 10). It is watermelon harvesting time and the buses and melons are rolling.



Meanwhile, in these photos and video, Mexicans are loading the watermelons into another modified school bus. These hard-working gentlemen are visiting the United States as migrant farm laborers. At the time of this video, it was 87 degrees Fahrenheit at about 10:30 a.m. on Friday (June 10).

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**Melon after melon, they pick them, toss them and store them for transportation. This is very hot, strenuous work as they end the agricultural project of the season for this field. Farmers lead a tough life. They take chances, because the weather and the market can make them or break them. Agriculture is one of the three major industries in the Tri-County Area of Levy, Dixie and Gilchrist counties, with tourism and government jobs being two other major parts of the local economy.**  
*Photos and Video by Jeff M. Hardison © June 10, 2016 @ 4:17 p.m., All Rights Reserved*