



2026 NCAE Ag Employer Labor Forum

Wednesday, December 2

- Learn More
- Register
- Sponsor

7:00 AM	Breakfast
8:00 AM	Invocation Jamie Fussell · Director of Labor Relations, Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association
8:05 AM	Welcome and Sponsor Thank You Joel Anderson · Chairman, NCAE Executive Committee
8:10 AM	Future Farmers of America Addysen Sherwood · State President, Nevada FFA
8:25 AM	Open of Forum John Hollay · President & CEO, National Council of Agricultural Employers
8:40 AM	Break
8:55 AM	Legislative Update John Hollay · President & CEO, National Council of Agricultural Employers Matt Mika · SVP & Chief Advocacy Officer, AmericanHort
9:45 AM	Canaries in the Coalmine MODERATOR Ryan Ayres · Director of Human Resources, FirstFruits Farms Jason Resnick · Senior Vice President & General Counsel, Western Growers Association Josh Viau · Co-Regional Managing Partner, Fisher Phillips Paul Meador · President, Everglades Harvesting
10:45 AM	Trump AEWWR Regulation: The Way We AEWWR Chris Schulte · Partner, Fisher Phillips Shawn Packer · Partner, JPH Law
11:45 AM	Lunch
12:45 PM	War on Food: Modern Agriculture Under Pressure Andy Curliss · Chairman, Carver Center for Agriculture & Nutrition
1:45 PM	Trump's AEWWR Regulation: From the Eyes of the Economists Alexandra E. Hill, Ph.D. · Assistant Professor, University of California, Berkeley Samantha Ayoub · Director, International Fresh Produce Association
2:40 PM	Break
3:00 PM	From Field to Shelf: How Buyer Audits & Consumer Demands Drive Ag Workforce MODERATOR Mary Helsep · Senior Vice President of Strategy & Business Development, Ten Acre Marketing Dana Brennan · Vice President of Corporate Affairs, Grimmway Farms Eloy Garza · Chief Executive Officer, Garza Labor Rebecca Hause-Schultz · Partner, Fisher Phillips Tami Martin · Director of Human Resources, Black Gold Farms
4:00 PM	Housing: Beyond Compliance, A Commitment to Care Eloy Garza · Chief Executive Officer, Garza Labor Magali Perez · Chief Operating Officer, Garza Labor
4:20 PM	Why They Come Back Gideon Cooper · Strategic Product Consultant, H2 Organizer Lydia Hock · Founder, Labormex Special Guests
4:40 PM	Closing Remarks
4:50 PM	Break
5:00 PM	Welcome Reception
7:00 PM	Dinner on your Own



2026 NCAE Ag Employer Labor Forum

Thursday, December 3

- Learn More
- Register
- Sponsor

8:00 AM	Breakfast	
9:00 AM	America First, H-2A Edition: A Refresher on Recruitment Obligations Tom Bortnyk · Sr. Vice President and General Counsel, másLabor	
9:45 AM	Beyond the Backlog: Navigating Admin Delays in Agricultural Labor MODERATOR Jeanne Malitz · President, MalitzLaw David Singh · Human Resource Manager, West Coast Tomato Growers Kalen Fraser · Owner, Labor Brain Michael Lalich · President, Low Country Labor Palmer Packer · CEO, Marlin Workforce Services	
10:30 AM	Break	
10:50 AM	I Won't Back Down: How One Family Farm Took the Department of Labor to the Supreme Court John Hollay · President & CEO, National Council of Agricultural Employers McCarley Maddock · Litigation Fellow, Institute for Justice	
11:25 AM	U.S. Department of Labor INVITED The Honorable Keith Sonderling · Secretary, U.S. Department of Labor	
11:45 AM	The Grapes of Wrath 2.0: How Mandatory Wage Spikes Threaten California's Farm Future Chris Schulte · Partner, Fisher Phillips Rebecca Hause-Schultz · Partner, Fisher Phillips	
12:40 PM	Lunch	
1:40 PM	MILAN BALLROOM	MONTESE BALLROOM
	Staggering, Transfers/Extensions and Named Petition Best Practices: Empowering H-2A Mobility with Technology Daniel Ross · Head of Visa Operations & H-2A Attorney, Seso Dylan Katz · Product Operations Director, Seso	The Tax Man Cometh Bob Wunderle, MBA, CPA · LaPosada Tax Clinic
2:40 PM	Without Leadership the People Perish Richard Stup, Ph.D. · Director, Cornell Agricultural Workforce Development, Cornell University	Meet in La Mitad Katie Dotterer · Owner & Founder, AgvoKate
3:15 PM	Break	
3:35 PM	Barn Doors Opening Mary Knigge · Vice President Government Relations, Dairy Farmers of America Rick Naerebout · Chief Executive Officer, Idaho Dairywomen's Association Rachel Roberts · President, American Mushroom Institute	When the H-2A Deal Goes Sideways: Managing Grower-Labor Contractor Risk Jason Resnick · General Counsel, Western Growers Association Joe Martinez · Founder/President, Acrisure
4:20 PM	Dinner on Your Own	
5:00 PM	Private Reception - Invitation Only Contact Catherine Watts (catherine@laborservicesinternational.com) for More Details	



2026 NCAE Ag Employer Labor Forum

Friday, December 4

[Learn More](#)

[Register](#)

[Sponsor](#)

8:00 AM

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

INVITED **The Honorable Brett Scott** · Deputy Assistant Secretary, Private Sector Engagement, U.S. Department of Homeland Security

8:30 AM

U.S. Department of Labor: Office of Foreign Labor Certification

INVITED **Brian Kennedy** · Director, Office of Immigration Policy, U.S. Department of Labor

INVITED **Brian Pasternak** · Administrator, Office of Foreign Labor Certification, U.S. Department of Labor

9:20 AM

U.S. Department of Agriculture

INVITED **The Honorable Brooke Rollins** · Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture

9:40 AM

Break

10:10 AM

Jamaica Central Labor Organization

The Honorable Parnel Charles, Jr. · Minister of Labour & Social Security, Jamaica

10:25 AM

U.S. Department of State

INVITED **Amy Tachco** · Industry Liaison, Bureau of Consular Affairs, U.S. Department of State

INVITED **Dan Armenise** · Policy Advisor, U.S. Department of State

11:25 AM

U.S. Department of Labor: Wage and Hour Division

INVITED **Andrew Rogers** · Administrator, Wage and Hour Division, U.S. Department of Labor

12:00 PM

Closing