NATIONAL COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYERS

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 AEWR Regulation: The Way We AEWR
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 AEWR 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

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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

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

MONTESE BALLROOM

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

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

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYERS

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Friday, December 4

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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 Pearnel 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