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 — **Legislative Update**
John Hollay · President & CEO, National Council of Agricultural Employers
Matt Mika · SVP & Chief Advocacy Officer, AmericanHort

9:30 AM Break

9:50 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

10:50 AM — **The Way We AEWR: Updates on the 2025 AEWR Interim Final Rule**
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 — **Brand Reputation: Maintaining A Positive Reputation in a Challenging Landscape**
MODERATOR **Mary Heslep** · Senior Vice President of Strategy & Business Development, Ten Acre Marketing
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**

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYERS

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
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

11:35 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

	MILAN BALLROOM	MONTESE BALLROOM
1:40 PM	**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: The Language Gap Cost Is Real. So Is The Solution.** **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 Dairymen'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

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYERS

2026 NCAE Ag Employer Labor Forum

Friday, December 4

Learn More | Register | Sponsor

8:00 AM	**U.S. Department of Labor: Office of Foreign Labor Certification** **Brian Kennedy** · Director, Office of Immigration Policy, U.S. Department of Labor **Brian Pasternak** · Administrator, Office of Foreign Labor Certification, U.S. Department of Labor
9:00 AM	**U.S. Department of Agriculture** **The Honorable Stephen Vaden** · Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture
9:20 AM	**U.S. Department of State** **Dan Armenise** · Policy Advisor, U.S. Department of State **Matt McAllister** · Principal Deputy Nonimmigrant Visa Chief, U.S. Department of State
10:20 AM	Break
10:40 AM	**Trusted Recruiter Alliance**
11:00 AM	**Jamaica Central Labor Organization** **The Honorable Pearnel Charles, Jr.** · Minister of Labour & Social Security, Jamaica
11:15 AM	**U.S. Department of Labor: Wage and Hour Division** **Jennifer Lee** · Senior Policy Advisor, Immigration, Farm Labor, and Trade, Wage and Hour Division, U.S. Department of Labor **Katherine Walum** · Director, Immigration, Farm Labor, and Trade, Office of Policy, Wage and Hour Division, U.S. Department of Labor
12:00 PM	**Closing**