

# Communicating About Agricultural Labor Reform Messages

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| <p><b>General</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Agriculture contributes more than \$100 billion each year to our economy, thanks in large part to farm workers.</li><li>• Farmers and ranchers have, for too long, had difficulty in finding workers willing and able to work on farms and in fields. Agricultural employers reported more than \$300 million in losses in 2010 because of worker shortages.</li><li>• Agricultural labor reform isn't about whether foreign workers will grow and harvest our food. It's about whether they will do it here in the U.S., or in their home countries.</li><li>• Without immigrant farm workers, economic output would decline and thousands of U.S. citizens would lose their jobs.</li></ul>   | <p><b>Agricultural Visa Program</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The proposed agricultural visa program lets farmers and ranchers hire the immigrant employees they need, when they need them.</li><li>• Employers and employees could choose between the stability of a long-term contract and the freedom for workers to work on other farms.</li><li>• The visa program ensures compliance with employee safety and compensation regulations.</li><li>• For current farm workers who do not have visas, the plan provides an adjustment in status that must be earned through work in agriculture.</li><li>• The new program would let workers work on farms year-round and would be available to all types of farms.</li></ul> |
| <p><b>Border Security &amp; Enforcement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Current immigration and agricultural labor reform legislation would increase surveillance of high-risk areas along our southern border.</li><li>• E-Verify will only work if there is a legal means for a future flow of farm workers into the U.S.</li><li>• To earn eventual legal status, farm workers would have to prove that they have worked for several years in agriculture, paid taxes, kept out of trouble and paid fines. This is no "get out of jail free" card.</li><li>• One of the best ways to improve border security is to create a legal, workable way for farm workers to enter our country. If we don't have to waste resources locking up lettuce harvesters, we can focus on keeping those with criminal intentions out of our country.</li></ul> | <p><b>What You Can Do</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Let your senators and member of Congress know that you support legislation that addresses agriculture's labor needs.</li><li>• Log on to <a href="http://www.fbactinsider.org">www.fbactinsider.org</a> to learn more about the issue and take action.</li><li>• Tell your story. Visit <a href="http://www.fbactinsider.org/share-your-story">http://www.fbactinsider.org/share-your-story</a> and let us know how agricultural labor reform is important to you.</li></ul>  |