



***** October 26, 2017 *****

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---SURVEY SHOWS IMPACTS IMMIGRATION POLICY HAS ON AGRICULTURE---

-A survey recently released by the California Farm Bureau Federation shows immigration policy still harms agriculture in the same capacity as seen in a similar survey in 2012. The informal survey showed that more than half of responding farmers had experienced employee shortages during the past year. CFBF President Paul Wenger talked about how the worker shortage impacts farm operations in a recent [Newsline](#).

“The bottom line is we have a broken immigration system,” Wenger said. “Farmers and ranchers are having to make decision not based on the markets but based on the availability of labor.” He also noted that the shortage in farm labor means a more competitive situation for farmers to source workers.

---H-2A PROGRAM USE CONTINUES TO RISE---U.S. agricultural groups, AFBF included, have for decades drawn attention to a growing labor challenge in our industry. The H-2A visa program, which went into effect 25 years ago, was intended to be a part of the solution to solving employers’ labor needs. New data released by the Labor Department reveals that the demand for labor is stronger than ever.

The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952 introduced a temporary unskilled worker category, the H-2 category for foreign agricultural and non-agricultural workers who were coming to the U.S. to perform temporary work. The Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 subdivided this category into two subcategories: The H-2A (an uncapped category for temporary agricultural workers) and H-2B (a capped category for non-agricultural fields). After the law was signed into effect, several years passed during which time regulations were written and an eligible countries list was established. Finally, in 1992 first-year visas were issued and the program began in earnest. Changes to those regulations have been made over the years, but for the most part this is the same program that is in effect today.

In the early years after the H-2 category was split, visas issued under the H-2B program significantly surpassed the H-2A program. In fact, this was the case in all of the first 17 years of the programs except one. However, in 2009, visas issued under the H-2A program exceeded the H-2B program, and have never looked back.

- [Market Intel update](#)

---FINANCIAL TIMES: FARMERS AND RANCHERS WARY OF TAX CUT PLAN---

AFBF’s Pat Wolff was quoted in a Financial Times article on the potential impact of certain tax reforms on agriculture. The Financial Times noted, “Among a number of issues for farmers are possible limits on their ability to deduct interest against tax bills.”

Wolff, AFBF senior congressional relations director and tax specialist, explained that farmers and ranchers depend largely on debt to operate their farm or ranch businesses. “Our industry is almost completely debt-financed,” said Wolff. “It is push, push, push to hold on to the interest deduction.” Financial Times subscribers can access the [full article](#) online.

Arizona Farming & Ranching Hall of Fame Announces 2018 Inductees

Eight member of Arizona’s pioneering agricultural community have been named to the 2018 Arizona Farming and Ranching Hall of Fame. This year all but one of the honorees are being inducted posthumously.

The honorees are: Living; Jerry Cullison –Yuma Valley; Posthumous; Basilio Aja – Buckeye; John Evans – West Valley; Kenneth Fooks – Chandler; O.L. “Mack” McDaneil – West Valley; Marianne Etchart Manterola & Jose Antonio “Tony” Manterola Sheep Company – Casa Grande; William “Bo” Warren – Casa Grande/Arizona City. and for Special Contributions to Agriculture; Dr. Lucis Nelson “Ben” Butler, DVM – Glendale.

Each honoree was chosen for their contributions in the fields of farming, ranching, Agri-business, education or science by an impartial panel of Arizonans with a diversity of backgrounds. They will be inducted at the 2018 Arizona Farming and Ranching Hall of Fame Honoree Dinner on March 3, 2018 at the Wigwam Resort in Litchfield Park. Their stories will be told in volume two of the Arizona Farming and Ranching Hall of Fame book, which will be published in 2022.

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Arizona Farm Bureau members can now receive special access to the John Deere's GreenFleet™ Loyalty Rewards program, providing members with a free two-year Platinum 2 membership. It's easy to become a GreenFleet member too! Just sign up for John Deere GreenFleet Loyalty Rewards program using a valid member ID and zip code for membership verification, and become a Platinum 2 level by visiting www.JohnDeere.com/FarmBureau!

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Go to the [GreenFleet website](#) to learn about the discounts and other benefits of being a Platinum 2 member!

Agriculture and Farm Bureau News is a weekly service to Farm Bureau leaders from the Arizona Farm Bureau, 325 S. Higley Rd., Ste. 210, Gilbert, AZ 85296. For more information, contact Farm Bureau Director of Public Relations Julie Murphree at 480.635.3607 or juliemurphree@azfb.org.

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