



**NCAE News Brief 2010, #1**  
**January 8, 2010**

**NCAE Executive Vice President's update, week ending 01/08/10.**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR 2010!**

**As we enter a new decade we hope for continued economic recovery, political stability, governance that will allow American Agriculture to compete and thrive, and the opportunity to work together with Members to assure the voice of Agricultural Employers will be heard by our policy makers in Washington, DC.**

- Despite claims that the President may sign **comprehensive health care reform** by late February 2010, there is much to be done to reconcile the House and Senate versions, and much risk for those seeking re-election in November 2010. Business in general (not just Agriculture) has not been very effective in implementing changes to the legislative proposals during the process. This issue has seen some of the most expensive and self-centered lobbying efforts seen in recent years—employers in general have been outspent in lobbying efforts by the Insurance Industry many fold. For a comprehensive comparison of the House/Senate versions see the chart by Carrie Budoff Brown of Politico published January 5, 2009: [http://www.politico.com/static/PPM136\\_100104\\_health\\_reform\\_conference.html](http://www.politico.com/static/PPM136_100104_health_reform_conference.html)
- We will hear more about Immigration Reform next month, after whatever is done with Health Care is done. The following link will take you to a well written and thoughtful article on the issue by Harry DeMell, an immigration attorney, published in Immigration Daily (by American Immigration LLC.) <http://www.ilw.com/articles/2010,0105-demell.shtm>
- Political winds of change? Or more of the same old, same old? Only time will tell, but the retirement announcements from Democratic and Republican House and Senate members continue. On January 6 we learned that Senator Dodd (D-CT) and Dorgan (D-ND) will not run for re-election. For more:

<http://dyn.politico.com/members/forums/thread.cfm?catid=9&subcatid=44&theadid=3513954>

- **Agricultural Quote of the week:** *“Be always at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let each New Year find you a better man.”*  
~Benjamin Franklin

Until Next Week,  
Frank

### **News articles and citations of interest for week ending 01/08/10:**

**January 5, 2010.** Keyword: Agricultural Labor.

Sun Journal. “In 1790, farmers were 90 percent of the U.S. labor force. By 1900, only about 41 percent of our labor force was employed in agriculture. By 2008, less than 3 percent of Americans are employed in agriculture.” *Walter Williams uses agriculture as an example of changes taking place in manufacturing. He asks the key question—to avoid job losses in agriculture, should Congress have outlawed the technical innovations that allow American farmers to feed the world? The right answer is NO—but there are groups lobbying Congress every day to say ‘yes, let’s restrict agriculture and roll-back the progress that has improved the lives of America’s farmers and created the most abundant, affordable, and diverse food supply the world has ever known!’*

<http://www.newbernsj.com/articles/beliefs-56299-untrue-.html>

**January 5, 2009.** Keyword: Agricultural Labor.

NJBIZ. “The DEP must be held accountable for its actions and compelled to conduct economic impact studies..” *A good concept to hold ALL regulations and regulatory agencies to! Remember that “To every action there is always an equal and opposite reaction: or the forces of two bodies on each other are always equal and are directed in opposite directions” (Newton’s third law.) Even the best intentioned regulation will have some impact in the opposite direction, we must work to hold our elected and appointed officials accountable to assure the benefits of their actions outweigh the risks/costs.*

<http://www.njbiz.com/article.asp?aID=80227>

**January 5, 2010.** Keyword: E-Verify.

The Orange County Register. “Less than 1 percent of employers in Orange County [California] use E-Verify...”

<http://www.ocregister.com/news/verify-216305-business-employers.html>

**January 5, 2009.** Keyword: H-2A.

Press Democrat. *A good article on immigration reform includes encouraging open talk by worker rights advocates of pushing AgJOBS if comprehensive stalls.*

<http://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/20100105/ARTICLES/100109774/1350?Title=Lowered-expectations-for-immigrant-rights-advocate>

**January 3, 2010.** Keyword: Healthcare Reform.

The Washington Post. *This has been discussed from the beginning. Many of us have questioned the constitutionality of requiring purchase from private companies.*

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/01/02/AR2010010200620.html?wpisrc=nl\\_pmpolitics](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/01/02/AR2010010200620.html?wpisrc=nl_pmpolitics)

**December 31, 2009.** Keyword: H-2A.

USCIS. *USCIS grants "one time" accommodation for shepherders under H-2A rules.*

<http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.5af9bb95919f35e66f614176543f6d1a/?vgnextoid=1c9a1543455e5210VgnVCM100000082ca60aRCRD&vgnextchannel=68439c7755cb9010VgnVCM10000045f3d6a1RCRD>

**December 31, 1997.** Keyword: H-2A.

GAO Report. "(11) however, both employers and Labor officials have difficulty meeting time frames specified by law and regulation; (12) because Labor does not collect key program management information, it is unable to determine the extent and cause of missed time frames; (13) the multiple agencies and levels of government implementing the program may result in redundant oversight and confusion for both employers and workers; and..."

<http://www.gao.gov/products/159693>

**Keywords searched:** "Immigration", "Border Health Care Relief", "H2A" "E-Verify", "Undocumented Worker", "Agricultural labor", "Agricultural Employer", "illegal alien", "farm worker", "NCAE", "NCAEonline", "NCAEonline.org"

News Briefs Completed 1/7 – M.Coffindaffer