



NATIONAL
COUNCIL OF
AGRICULTURAL
EMPLOYERS

NCAE News Brief 2010, #2 **January 15, 2010**

NCAE Executive Vice President's update, week ending 01/15/10.

- Congress is back and appears fully consumed trying to finish the Health Care reconciliation process in hopes of having a bill completed in time for the State of the Union address (apparently scheduled for early February this year.)
- I am traveling to Orlando Thursday and Friday to address the Ag Connect Expo (a new international ag expo) thanks to an invite from American Agri-Women. <http://www.agconnect.com/>
- Next week is NCAE's Annual Meeting's. Here is our finalized agenda: http://www.ncaeonline.org/associations/5889/files/2010_AM_Final_Agenda.pdf
There is still time for registration and several 'room nights' remain available at Hotel Monaco DC. Here is a link to the registration forms: http://www.ncaeonline.org/associations/5889/files/NCAE2010_Agenda.pdf

In light of yesterday's events (1/13), our thoughts and prayers are with those affected by the natural disaster in Haiti.

Until Next Week,
Frank

News articles and citations of interest for week ending 01/15/10:

January 13, 2010. Keyword: Agricultural Employers.

HR Morning. *Important clarification on COBRA subsidy. Employees terminated between December 31, 2009 and February 28, 2010 qualify and only pay 35% of the cost of COBRA, the employer fronts the rest and can reclaim it from the federal government. This was put into effect last fall, extended for 12/31/09 to 2/28/10, and may well be extended again after expiration.*

<http://www.hrmorning.com/feds-clarify-cobra-subsidy-reporting/>

January 13, 2010. Keyword: Agricultural Labor.

Western Farm Press. "...for every \$1 of direct labor income in agriculture, \$1.27 additional labor income is generated in the state." *Agriculture is not only a critical industry for food production—it is GOOD for the economy.*

<http://westernfarmpress.com/news/california-agriculture-0113/>

January 12, 2010. Keyword: EFCA.

Workforce Management. *The US Chamber and others are concerned that the Senate will attach EFCA (the Card Check bill we continue to oppose) to job creation legislation expected to be discussed as soon as Health Care Reform is complete. We will continue to follow—and oppose Card Check and other EFCA provisions.*

<http://www.workforce.com/section/00/article/26/93/76.php>

January 11, 2010. Keyword: EFCA.

TPMDC. *I certainly hope Mr. Trumka is wrong on this one! It is not unlikely however that Card Check could become a bargaining chip in Immigration Reform—there is going to be much action this first quarter!*

<http://tpmdc.talkingpointsmemo.com/2010/01/trumka-predicts-efca-passage-in-first-quarter-of-2010.php>

January 11, 2010. Keyword: Healthcare Reform.

The Wall Street Journal. *"Marriage penalty" in current Health Care Reform proposals. Similar to the income tax situation, proposed health care reforms would cause married couples to pay more than un-married for those whose incomes would qualify them for federal subsidies.*

<http://finance.yahoo.com/insurance/article/108540/married-couples-pay-more-than-unmarried-under-health-bill>

January 9, 2010. Keyword: Agricultural Employer.

Appeal Democrat. *This is a well written column on the enforcement issues targeting Agricultural Employers, that we hope will be widely read. "Agricultural businesses seem to be the favorite target of recent efforts by federal authorities to tighten immigration procedures--." I have e-mailed the author and hope to start a dialogue with him.*

<http://www.appeal-democrat.com/articles/patchwork-90527-immigration-employees.html>

January 9, 2010. Keyword: Undocumented Workers.

East Bay Express. *Study says legalization program for immigrants would boot the US economy.*

<http://www.eastbayexpress.com/92510/archives/2010/01/09/study-says-granting-amnesty-to-illegal-immigrants-would-boost-economy>

January 8, 2010. Keyword: Healthcare Reform.

Delta Farm Press. "Probably the most unlikely article in the most unlikely publication, making the most unlikely comparison, is the one in a recent *New Yorker* magazine that contrasts health care reform and the evolution of U.S. agriculture."

<http://deltafarmpress.com/news/hbrandon-column-0108/>

January 8, 2010. Keyword: Agricultural Labor.

Syracuse.com. *NY State continues to propose bad legislation that would heap even more competitive pressure on its Agriculture. In addition to putting NY family farms out of business, this misguided legislation would also likely spread to other US states.*

http://blog.syracuse.com/farms/2010/01/farmers_rally_against_labor_bi.html

January 8, 2010. Keyword: Frank A. Gasperini.

The Packer. *Frank wrote a letter to the editor commending The Packer on its service to agriculture.*

<http://thepacker.com/Letter--Column-demonstrates-public-s-lack-of-produce-knowledge/Article.aspx?articleid=973636&feedid=220>

December 2009 Newsletter. Keyword: NCAE.

The Small Business Advocate. *See page 2 for an article on the roundtable NCAE and others held with the US Small Business Administration and the Department of Labor in November 2009.*

<http://www.sba.gov/advo/dec09.pdf>

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 1/14 – M.Coffindaffer