



NATIONAL  
COUNCIL OF  
AGRICULTURAL  
EMPLOYERS

## **NCAE News Brief 2010, #5** **February 5, 2010**

### **NCAE Executive Vice President's update, week ending 02/05/10.**

- NCAE's H-2A Committee met by webinar/teleconference on Wednesday. Over 30 NCAE Members participated because of our concern over the expected issuance of the Obama administration (Solis) H-2A rule expected to be published in the Federal Register at any time. We believe the final rule will be virtually unchanged from the March 2009 proposals that rolled back the 2008 Bush rule—that the new rule will be even more costly and onerous than the “pre-Bush” rules. The H-2A Committee is raising funds for an analysis/how-to-comply paper to be produced as soon as possible after the rule is published. Additionally, DOL is expected to hold information sessions in San Diego, Dallas, and Raleigh as early as the last week February of first week March and we will attend all/most of these meetings. As a reminder of our concerns with the coming Solis rule, click this link to read NCAE's detailed comments submitted in 2009:  
<http://www.ncaeonline.org/associations/5889/files/NCAE2009H2ARuleComments20oct2009.pdf>
- I attended the House Labor Committee testimony by Secretary Solis via weblink on Wednesday. The Secretary is a zealot and our situation is likely to remain difficult through the current administration. See the news-link below to read the article on the hearing.
- President Obama's budget for FY 2011 was released on February 1<sup>st</sup>, and contains proposals to make the FUTA 0.2% Surtax permanent. By making the FUTA surtax permanent, the administration projects that an additional \$14.2 billion in revenue will be raised from the increase in employer paid FUTA tax through 2020. (From an update provided 2/2/2010 by Douglas J. Holmes, President, UWC – Strategic Services on Unemployment & Workers' Compensation.)

- UWC (Strategic Services on Unemployment and Workers Compensation) will hold a national conference on unemployment insurance issues on Chicago June 22-24, 2010. UWC President Doug Holmes presented important information on the future of Unemployment and Workers Compensation federal legislation and funding at the NCAE Annual Meeting. If you manage the UI and WC program for your company, check the information at: <http://www.uwcstrategy.org/Conferences/index.shtml>
- NCAE President John Arnold, Western V.P. Luawanna Hallstrom, Eastern V.P. Fred Leitz, and I will participate in the American Society of Association Executives “CEO Symposium” from February 7-9. We will learn governance skills and be coached in working together to deliver even better Member value to our association.
- For those of you that had difficulty opening the 2010 Annual Meeting Special Edition of News Briefs, here is an updated link: <http://www.ncaeonline.org/associations/5889/files/NCAE%20Annual%20Meeting.pdf>
- **Agricultural Quote of the week:** “If my shadow I do see, six more weeks of winter be.” *Punxsutawney Phil, the only true weather forecasting groundhog (the others are just impostors.)* <http://www.groundhog.org/index.php?id=30>

Until Next Week,  
Frank

### **News articles and citations of interest for week ending 02/05/10:**

**February 3, 2010.** Keyword: EFCA.

Wall Street Journal. *I attended the first hour of this hearing by weblink. Secretary Solis was relatively defensive under comment/questioning from Representative Kline (R-MN). The Secretary repeatedly emphasized additional enforcement and stronger regulation in several areas—notably ‘child labor’ and ‘wage theft’ as enforcement priorities for 2010.*  
<http://www.yumasun.com/news/day-55791-fields-life.html>

**February 1, 2010.** Keyword: E-Verify.

SFGate. Despite vows to cut spending across the board, DHS will receive increased funding, including \$110 more for e-verify and added funding for biometrics.  
<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0110/32172.html>

**January 31, 2010.** Keyword: Agricultural Labor.

Hudson Valley. "Agriculture continues to be the number one industry in Orange County and this ill-conceived bill, which has nothing to do with leveling the playing field, and everything to do with appeasing misguided individuals, will devastate the very industry it pretends to reform,"-- *Frank wrote a response to the publication noting that Mr. Diana has it right with his comments. This bill would push already struggling NY farmers over the edge and result in more unemployment, more imported food, more urban/suburban sprawl, and more NY State unemployment! There is no 'up-side' to this bill!*

<http://www.laht.com/article.asp?ArticleId=351265&CategoryId=12395>

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

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