

## Article #1

### **It's Your Business...Why Take Chances?**

You have poured your blood, sweat and tears into your business, reaping the benefits and shouldering the responsibility for it. Now it's just beginning to really pay off, but you are faced with the seemingly-insurmountable rising costs of labor. Do you give up and throw in the towel, or make the tough decision to stay and fight?

With the costs of benefits going higher and higher, how will you stay above the break-even mark?

And why would you want to settle for just breaking even anyway?

At H2AUSA.COM we know that you can't be profitable unless your bottom line is written in black ink. So we provide qualified candidates, quality staffing, pre-screen potential candidates, handle your paperwork from A to Z, and so much more.

We want to be the best silent partner you'll never hear from!

Call or e-mail us today and see.

## Article #2

### **So, Where is the AgJobs Bill?**

AgJobs (the Agricultural Job Opportunity Benefits & Security Act) which has been jointly sponsored by legislators on both sides of the political aisle for years, is a bill that would address the shortfall of labor for American farms and also legalize between one-half million to one million undocumented farm workers (depending on which source you consult)

It died a quick death as a part of the comprehensive immigration bill that failed for the second time in Congress recently. How did everything go so wrong?

Some see the inclusion of the AgJobs bill *together* with the comprehensive immigration movement as a technical error—a failure in tactics. That's because AgJobs started years ago as a single idea—that is, to supplement the needs of the American farm. That was its initial goal and still is. When President Bush included it in the comprehensive package and tried to push through a policy to cover from 12 to 20 millions, AgJobs was lost in the shadow of those massive numbers.

AgJobs was not conceived as such. Its purpose was to target the more specific goal of sustaining our country's agricultural system, pure and simple. Under its provisions, undocumented workers can earn citizenship through a system whereby they work in the agricultural field for a certain number of days for a specified time, earning first a 'blue card' then later be considered for a 'green card' after a period of five years.

Because of this targeting of agriculture, a lot of legislators and farming interests as well like the bill. A worker must work in farming and the employers get a bonus within the provisions of the bill: The much-troubling housing that they have had to provide up to now may be substituted by a lump sum of money, relieving them of the burden of finding and insuring housing for all their migrant workers.

AgJobs rewards those who are working the most toward citizenship, and logically should stand a far better chance of passing into law than as an attachment to a larger bill, as it has been recently.

And, if it can get beyond the verbal bloviating stage of politics, it is expected by many that AgJobs may make a reappearance this year as part of an upcoming 2007 Farm Bill or it could appear on its own merits entirely. Several scenarios being floated around Washington, D.C. are to tie it to increased border security, increase the number of visas, or a re-work the H-2A program . But H-2A workers amount to only a small percentage of the workforce.

If, by improving the system, closing loopholes, watching closely for fraud, and making it easier for farmers to use by not providing free housing for instance, it could move ahead. But a program that only uses guest workers (only 2-3% of the total immigrant population in this country) would have to be streamlined to move up the ladder to attain anything close to, say 90% involvement in farm operations in this country.

But that is just what needs to happen.

The real balancing act is between illegal workers who are being abused, overworked and underpaid and finding a fair system that treats workers right, while maintaining the needs of the employer.

If enough people get their heads together on the problem, it may yet happen.