



NCAE News Brief 2010, #4 January 29, 2010

NCAE Executive Vice President's update, week ending 01/29/10.

- If you missed the NCAE Annual Meeting last week—you missed excellent speakers, great food, wonderful networking opportunities with other Agricultural Employers and policy makers. But all is not lost!
 - We will share photos and information from the meeting in the next few weeks in News Briefs.
 - We will soon announce one or more free webinars where you can participate and learn from expert speakers on important employer issues during the next month or two.
 - **MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW FOR FEBRUARY 1,2, and 3, 2011** for the 47th NCAE Annual Meeting in Washington, DC.
- I participated in the Agricultural Safety and Health Council of America (ASHCA) joint meeting with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) in Dallas, TX this week. I was a speaker in a panel on pesticide safety, and was installed as a Board member of ASHCA representing employers/producers on behalf of NCAE.

We will take advantage of this linkage by sharing information and resources available through ASHCA and its diverse membership which includes university research and extension experts, compliance & enforcement folks from several states, professional risk managers, ergonomic experts, agri-medicine practitioners, and experts in various areas of insurance and liability services.

The most important take-home message relates to the fact that farming is (depending on how measured) either the highest, or one of the highest risk occupations in America for on-the-job injury and death. Safety training and education programs are mandated by law in some instances, are commonly done as special programs, may be done to check a box for insurance/liability purposes—but are too important to be left at that. On the farm safety—every minute of every day—is not just good business, it is the right thing to do. The only truly effective safety program is to make safety an integral part of the culture of

your business, not a program, not another box to check, but part the DNA of your entire operation. When businesses reach the point of safety as culture, costs do go down, productivity does go up, and people are protected.

- **Agricultural Quote of the week:** "If you are not planning on preventing farm injuries--- then you better plan on having them!" (From a presentation on safety, prevention, and risk management by Jan Klodowski, VP Agri-Services Agency, at the ASHCA meeting 1/27/2010.)

Until Next Week,
Frank

News articles and citations of interest for week ending 01/29/10:

January 29, 2010. Keyword: Immigration.

Some pro-immigration groups are discouraged with State of the Union comments on reform. <http://www.laht.com/article.asp?ArticleId=351265&CategoryId=12395>

January 28, 2010. Keyword: Immigration.

Politico. An "odd couple" indeed as Schumer and Lou Dobbs discuss immigration reform! <http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0110/32172.html>

January 28, 2010. Keyword: H-2A.

Yuma Sun. Finally, a positive newspaper article about guest workers on the farm! Thanks to the Yuma Sun for this. "The only certainty, he says, "is that it's something we have to do, because in Mexico things are not good. It's good that we have the opportunity to come here.""
<http://www.yumasun.com/news/day-55791-fields-life.html>

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