

Agriculture's Labor Crisis

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NATIONAL COUNCIL OF FARMER COOPERATIVES





American agriculture faces twin labor challenges:

- A severe shortage of workers to work crops or tend animals; and
- Of the hired workers on-farm, some estimates hold that 60 to 60% do not have proper work authorization.

2019 Farm Labor Survey by the CA Farm Bureau and UC Davis

- 56% of those surveyed have been unable to find enough workers; survey also showed that the situation has worsened in the past two years.
- 86% have reported raising wages even though prices for most of the commodities they grow have stagnated (at best).
- Only 6% of producers in California report using the H-2A program.
- 14% have left product in the field due to a lack of workers.
- Many producers are looking to switch acreage to less labor intensive crops or to invest in mechanization where possible.

FARMS USING
IMMIGRANT LABOR SUPPLY
MORE THAN

60 PERCENT

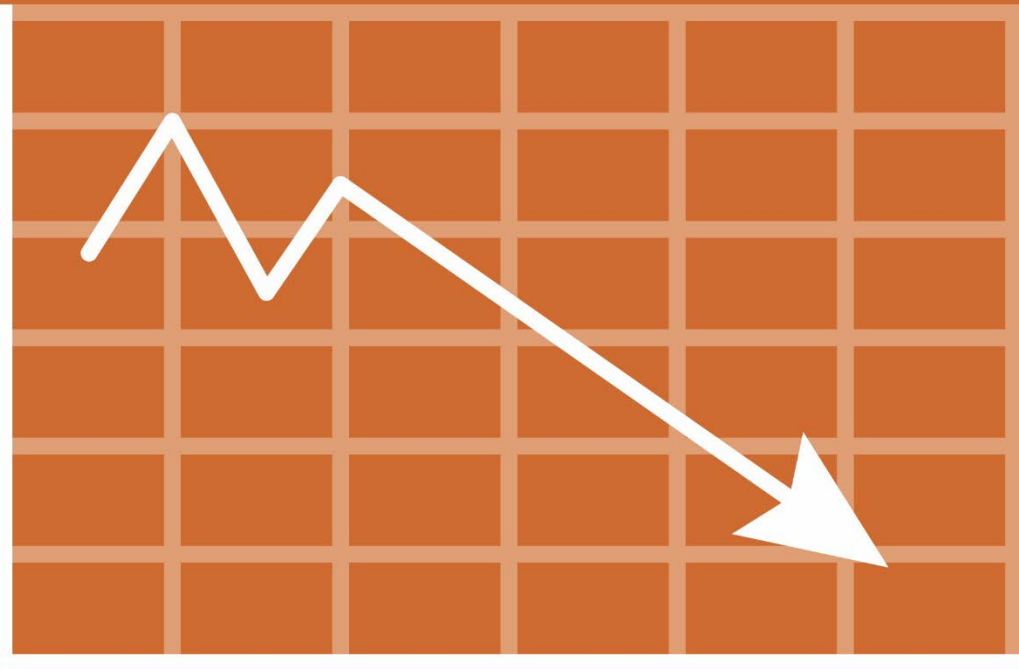
OF THE MILK IN THE COUNTRY



WITHOUT THESE EMPLOYEES
ECONOMIC OUTPUT WOULD DECLINE BY

**\$22 BILLION &
133,000 WORKERS**

WOULD LOSE THEIR JOBS



**EVERY FARM WORKER ENGAGED IN
LABOR INTENSIVE PRODUCTION**



**SUSTAINS
TWO TO
THREE
OFF-FARM
JOBS**



Access to affordable labor by farmers, ranchers and growers impacts the economy far beyond the farm gate.