



## **FAMILY FARMING AND FARM LABOR 2019 SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Today, many of our nation's farmers face a daily struggle to identify enough available, qualified, and eligible workers. The lack of available labor costs American farmers and ranchers billions of dollars each year that threatens farm viability and consumer access to affordable, domestically-produced food. Congress and the Administration must act to resolve the current labor crisis.

The only established means of addressing domestic labor shortages in agriculture is the H-2A visa program, but it is an excessively bureaucratic program with statutory and regulatory restrictions that render it unavailable to family farms in its current form.

Congress must take action to both stabilize the current agricultural workforce and ensure a future flow of agricultural workers through a flexible, efficient, and compassionate agricultural worker visa program that is easily accessible to family farms. Additionally, Congress should take action to attract U.S. citizens to jobs as agricultural workers and acknowledge the importance of educating interns and apprentices on farms as a pathway to increased availability of skilled agricultural labor.

NFU urges Congress to enact comprehensive and long-term solutions to ensure a legal and stable workforce for family farmers and ranchers.