

Labor

Wednesday morning 9:00 am

Where: Gallery Overlook (upper level) Room G & H

Moderator: Stan Moore, Dairy & Human Resource Management Educator, MSU Extension, Bellaire, MI

- 9:00 am Review of Seasonal Labor Supply Data for Michigan Specialty Crops
- Mollie Woods, MSU Product Center, East Lansing, MI
- 9:30 am MIOSHA Consultation Education and Training Services
- Deb Gorkisch, CET Safety Consultant, MIOSHA, Lansing, MI
- 9:40 am ACA Update and H-2A Implications
- Adam Kantrovich, Farm Management Educator, MSU Extension, West Olive, MI
- 9:55 am Using H-2A - Panel Discussion
- Katie Rasch, Great Lakes Ag Labor Services, Michigan Farm Bureau, Lansing, MI
 - Fred Leitz, Leitz Farms, Sodus, MI
 - Guillermo Mathus, CSI Visa Processing, Durango, Mexico
- 11:00 am Session Ends

Presented by: Katie Rasch, Associate Labor Program Coordinator
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Great Lakes Ag Labor Services: 2015 Pilot II in Review

History of Great Lakes Ag Labor Services

- **January, 2015** - Created by Michigan Farm as a response to growers' needs for a legal and seasonal workforce
- Built upon lessons from small, focused Pilot I in 2014
- **Mission:** To assist members in complying with laws and regulations governing the employment of seasonal agricultural workers through the H-2A program.
- **Strategy:** Balance of office and on-site work.

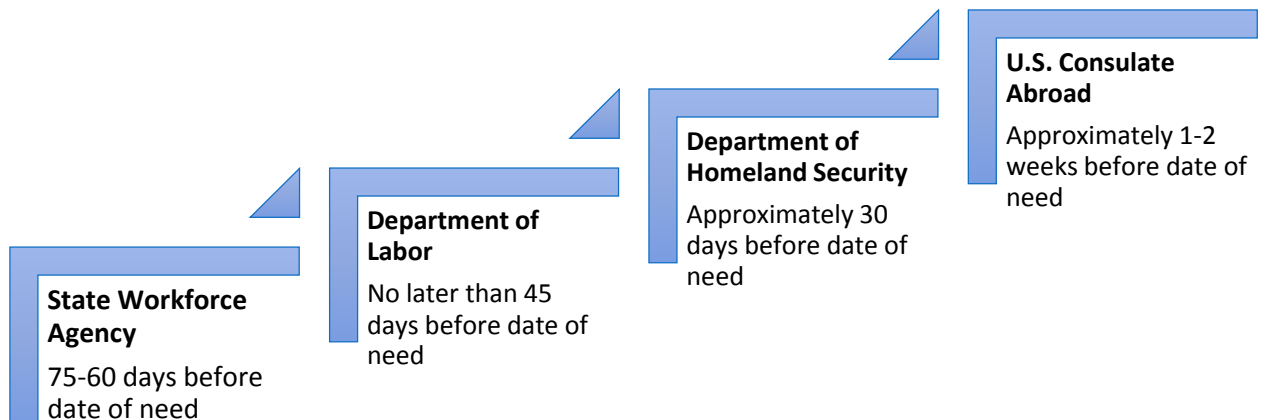
Why H-2A?

- Sole option for a guaranteed legal workforce
 - Lower risk of ICE raid
 - Peace of mind
- MI specialty crop estimated lost sales from worker shortage 2014: **\$19,700,000** (Source: USDA National Agricultural Statistics Services, Great Lakes Region. Specialty Crop Labor – 2014.)

2015 Review

- 405 workers arrived to 10 farms throughout MI
- Involvement abroad
- Focus on training and education

Timeline Considerations: Prospective employers should make a decision **no later than 120 days** before workers would arrive.



Other considerations:

Housing: Must provide free housing for all workers in H-2A jobs

Transportation: Must pay inbound & outbound travel costs. Must provide transportation daily to and from the worksite and weekly to store/bank/money wiring/laundry.

Wages: 2015 minimum: \$11.56

Domestic Recruitment: Must hire all willing, qualified, able & available U.S. workers.

Great Lakes Ag Labor Services: Program Plan

Compliance
Services

- Required pre-approval management review
- Subscription to Varnum/MFB Compliance Guide

Application
Services

- Preparation and filing of application
- DOL and USCIS filing fees
- Domestic advertising and interviews
- Assist with on-farm worker orientation and initial training
- 4 free on site meetings
- Access to GLALS/MFB staff

Worker
Services

- Arrangement of foreign worker recruitment, transportation and border crossing
- Payment of all government program, recruitment, transportation and border crossing fees
- Bilingual support