

## H-2A Temporary Agricultural Visa Program FY 2011 Select Statistics

### Summary

- ❖ Significant program use increases in key agricultural states like Florida (95.37%), Georgia (35.28%), and South Carolina (17.62%).
- ❖ The percent of new employers using the H-2A program for the first time in FY 2011 was 26%; compared to approximately 17% in FY 2010.
- ❖ Significant program decreases as measured by workers certified in states include Arkansas (-17.76%), California (-18.56%), and Kentucky (-14.13%). Program increases and decreases for a state's specific crops were significant in a majority of the top 13 states (ranging from -18.56% to 95.37%).
- ❖ Significant program increases in specific crop or agricultural activities as measured by workers certified include Washington State Apples (203.72%), Virginia General Farm Labor (273.68%), Florida Oranges (204.80%), Florida General Farm Labor (138.76%), and South Carolina Bell Peppers (173.71%).
- ❖ Significant decreases in specific crop and or agricultural activities as measured by workers certified include New York General Farm Labor (-57.30%); South Carolina Peaches (-38.72%); Kentucky's Tobacco (-33.32%); and Texas's General Farm Labor (-17.52%).

### Processing Performance

Application Category	FY 2010	FY 2011
Total Determinations	7,378	7,361
Percent Issued Deficiency Notices	41.57%	66.53%
<b>Total Applications Certified</b>	<b>6,988</b>	<b>7,000</b>
Total Positions Requested	89,177	78,579
Total Positions Certified	79,011	68,088
<b>Total Determinations Processed Timely</b>	<b>3,544</b>	<b>6,239<sup>1</sup></b>
Percent Processed Timely	N/A	85% <sup>2</sup>
Total Appeals Received	148	436

<sup>1</sup> When the application meets all program requirements, the Department is required by law to issue a certification decision no later than 30 days before the employer's start date of need. Applications not certifiable at day 30 were initially denied, creating a larger number of appeals than normal. Beginning February 2011, the Office of Foreign Labor Certification allowed employers additional time (up to 5 days) to submit the documentation required to receive a certification. This action significantly reduced unnecessary appeals and processing delays attributable to the Department.

<sup>2</sup> Of the 85% processed timely, approximately 74% of applications were issued a decision at day 30, and another 11% of applications were issued a timely decision during the additional 5 day grace period for employers to submit documentation necessary to meet program requirements.

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### Data Summary

	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	% Change FY 2010 to FY 2011
Determinations	7,857	7,378	7,361	-0.24%
Applications Certified	7,665	6,988	7,000	0.17%
Positions Requested	91,739	89,177	78,579	-11.88%
<b>Positions Certified</b>	<b>86,014</b>	<b>79,011</b>	<b>68,088</b>	<b>-13.82%</b>

### Top States of Employment, by Positions Certified (more than 2,000 positions)

State	FY 2010 (Rank)	FY 2011	% Change
North Carolina	9,387 (1)	9,154	-2.49%
Florida	4,510 (5)	8,839	95.37%
Georgia	5,561 (4)	7,523	35.28%
Louisiana	6,967 (2)	7,409	5.97%
Kentucky	5,455 (3)	4,684	-14.13%
Arizona	4,309 (6)	4,032	-6.43%
New York	3,858 (7)	3,951	2.57%
Washington	3,014 (8)	3,197	6.07%
Virginia	2,455 (12)	2,647	7.82%
South Carolina	2,247 (14)	2,643	17.62%
Arkansas	3,006 (9)	2,472	-17.76%
Texas	2,299 (13)	2,204	-4.13%
California	2,629 (10)	2,141	-18.56%

### Top Crops/Activities, by Positions Certified (more than 2,000 positions)

	FY 2011	Top States
General Farm Labor <sup>1</sup>	13,130	GA (12%), LA (10%), ID (8%), AR (7%), MS (7%)
Oranges <sup>2</sup>	6,750	FL (99%), LA (1%)
Tobacco <sup>3</sup>	5,892	KY (48%), VA (23%), TN (16%), NC (8%)
Apples <sup>4</sup>	4,182	NY (51%), WA (20%), VA (8%), VT (6%), MA (4%)
Onions <sup>5</sup>	3,762	GA (63%), NV (35%), UT (2%)
Lettuce	3,215	AZ (83%), CA (17%)
Nurseries & Greenhouses <sup>6</sup>	2,732	OH (22%), LA (13%), PA (9%), MD (7%), KY (7%)
Corn <sup>7</sup>	2,698	NC (65%), IA (7%), KS (4%), CO (4%), MN (4%)
Sugarcane	2,570	LA (100%)
Cotton	2,510	NC (85%), SC (8%), AR (4%), TX (2%)
Sheep <sup>8</sup>	2,475	UT (60%), CO (12%), WY (9%), ID (6%), CA (4%)
Hay & Straw <sup>9</sup>	2,396	NC (66%), KY (16%), TX (5%), TN (4%), LA (2%)

## New Applicants

	FY 2009	FY 2010 (10/1/09 to 3/14/10)	FY 2010 (3/15/10 to 9/30/10)	FY 2011
Total Applications	7,857	5,759	1,619	7,285
New Applicants	1,877	993	278	1,871
<b>% of New Applicants</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>26%</b>

## Top Crop/Activity by State and Positions Certified

State	Crop	FY 2010 (Rank)	FY 2011	% Change
North Carolina	Cotton	135 (5)	2,125	147%
	Corn <sup>7</sup>	<i>Not Ranked</i>	1,272	N/A
Florida	Oranges <sup>2</sup>	2,205 (1)	6,721	204.80%
	General Farm Labor <sup>1</sup>	258 (3)	616	138.76%
Georgia	Onions <sup>5</sup>	1,458 (2/3)	2,368	62.41%
	General Farm Labor <sup>1</sup>	1,833 (1)	1,636	-10.74%
Louisiana	Sugarcane	1,839 (1)	2,570	39.75%
	General Farm Labor <sup>1</sup>	1,192 (2)	1,283	7.63%
Kentucky	Tobacco <sup>3</sup>	4,247 (1)	2,832	-33.32%
	General Farm Labor <sup>1</sup>	685 (2)	712	3.94%
Arizona	Lettuce	1,676 (1)	2,678	59.79%
	General Farm Labor <sup>1</sup>	403 (3)	528	29.78%
New York	Apples <sup>4</sup>	1,505 (2/3)	2,137	41.99%
	General Farm Labor <sup>1</sup>	1,295 (1)	553	-57.30%
Washington	Apples <sup>4</sup>	269 (3)	817	203.72%
	Yellow Cherries	<i>Not Ranked</i>	691	N/A
Virginia	Tobacco <sup>3</sup>	1,382 (1)	1,376	-0.43%
	General Farm Labor <sup>1</sup>	152 (3)	568	273.68%
South Carolina	Peaches	1,392 (1)	853	-38.72%
	Bell Peppers	175 (4)	479	173.71%
Arkansas	General Farm Labor <sup>1</sup>	776 (1)	924	19.07%
	Tomatoes	330 (3)	500	51.52%
Texas	General Farm Labor <sup>1</sup>	468 (1)	386	-17.52%
	Grains <sup>10</sup>	<i>Not Ranked</i>	253	N/A
California	Strawberries	927 (1)	830	-10.46%
	Lettuce	580 (3)	532	-8.28%

<sup>1</sup>General Farm Labor Category includes: General Farm Labor; General Farm Worker; Farm Labor; and Farm Worker

<sup>2</sup>Oranges Category includes: Orange; Oranges; and Oranges, Valencia

<sup>3</sup>Tobacco Category includes: Setting Tobacco; Stripping Tobacco; Tobacco; Tobacco Cutting and Housing; Tobacco, Topping and Oiling; and Tobacco Work

<sup>4</sup>Apples Category includes: Apple; Apples; Apple Harvester; Apple Orchard; Apple Picker; and Orchard

<sup>5</sup>Onions Category includes: Onion; Onions and Onions, Vidalia

<sup>6</sup>Nurseries & Greenhouses Category includes: Greenhouses; Nursery; Nursery Workers; Nurseries; and Nurseries and Greenhouses

<sup>7</sup>Corn Category includes: Corn and Sweet Corn

<sup>8</sup>Sheep Category includes Sheep; Shepherders; Sheep Shearers; and Wool Graders

<sup>9</sup>Hay & Straw Category includes: Hay; Hay and Straw; and Straw

<sup>10</sup>Grains Category includes: Grain; Grains; and Wheat