

## H-2A Temporary Agricultural Visa Program FY 2012 – Quarter 3: Select Statistics

### Summary

- ❖ The percent of new employers using the H-2A program for the first time through FY 2012 Q3 was 17%, consistent with FY 2011 activity.
- ❖ Significant program use increased in key agricultural states like Washington (120.5%), Virginia (82.3%), and Arizona (22.3%).
- ❖ Kentucky was the only state to show an overall program decrease (-1.4%).
- ❖ Significant program use increased in specific crop or agricultural activities include Arizona's Lettuce (125.7%), South Carolina's Peaches (106.4%), Arkansas' Tomatoes (99.0%); Virginia's Tobacco (98.7%), Florida's Oranges (66.2%), Washington's Cherries (57.3%) and Georgia's Onions (52.8%).
- ❖ Significant program use decreased in specific crop and or activities such as New York's Apples (44.1%), North Carolina's Hay and Straw (-40.2%), and Louisiana's Sugarcane (-23.2%).

### Processing Performance

Application Category	FY 2010 Full Year	FY 2011 Full Year	FY 2012 (Q1, Q2 & Q3)
Total Determinations	7,378	7,361	7,168
Percent Issued Deficiency Notices	41.57%	66.53%	34.2%
<b>Total Determinations Certified</b>	<b>6,988</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>7,009</b>
Total Positions Requested	89,177	83,844	74,889
Total Positions Certified	79,011	77,246	70,497
<b>Total Determinations Processed Timely<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>3,544</b>	<b>6,239</b>	<b>6,172</b>
Percent Processed Timely	N/A	85%	86%
Total Appeals Received	148	448	79

<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. 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.

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### Data Summary

	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2011 (Q1, Q2 & Q3)	FY 2012 (Q1, Q2 & Q3)
Determinations	7,378	7,361	6,638	7,168
Determinations Certified	6,988	7,000	6,310	7,009
Positions Requested	89,177	83,844	69,326	74,889
Positions Certified	79,011	77,246	63,389	70,497

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

State	FY 2011 (Rank)	FY 2011 - Q1, Q2 & Q3 (Rank)	FY 2012 (Q1, Q2 & Q3)
North Carolina	9,137 (1)	8,481 (1)	9,295
Georgia	6,793 (3)	5,993 (2)	6,375
Louisiana	7,342 (2)	5,603 (3)	5,735
Washington	3,194 (7)	2,524 (6)	5,565
Florida	5,741 (4)	3,711 (5)	5,233
Kentucky	4,684 (5)	4,565 (4)	4,499
Virginia	2,647 (8)	1,801 (13)	3,283
South Carolina	2,640 (9)	2,409 (8)	2,726
Arizona	2,110 (12)	2,101 (9)	2,570
Arkansas	2,472 (10)	2,453 (7)	2,468
Tennessee	1,928 (13)	1,870 (11)	2,199
New York	3,938 (6)	2,081 (10)	2,159

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

	FY 2012 (Q1, Q2 & Q3)	Top States
General Farm Worker <sup>2</sup>	12,814	WA (29%); GA (12.4%); ID (10%); NC (9%); LA (9%)
Tobacco <sup>3</sup>	7,734	KY (37%); VA (35%); TN (12%); NC (8%); CT (5%)
Hay & Straw <sup>4</sup>	5,265	NC (90%); TX (3%); TN (2%); LA (1%); KY (1%)
Oranges <sup>5</sup>	4,375	FL (100%)
Cotton <sup>6</sup>	4,029	NC (90%); AR (2%); TX (2%); AL (1%)
Corn <sup>7</sup>	3,157	NC (49%); IN (13%); KS (5%); CO (5%); IA (4%)
Nurseries & Greenhouses <sup>8</sup>	3,043	OH (21%); PA (8%); MD (7%); MN (6%); NY (5%)
Onions <sup>9</sup>	2,816	GA (76%); NV (15%); NY (7%); WI (1%)
Sheep <sup>10</sup>	2,775	UT (42%); NV (13%); ID (9%); CO (9%); WY (8%)
Tomatoes <sup>11</sup>	2,489	AR (40%); CA (18%); SC (18%); TN (18%); FL (3%)
Peaches	2,430	SC (72%); GA (19%); CO (4%); AL (3%)
Lettuce	2,316	AZ (72%); CA (25%); NJ (2%); OH (1%)

<sup>2</sup> **General Farm Worker** includes: Farm (-General, -Hand, -Labor, -Worker, -Diversified), Field Labor, General Field Work, and Manual Labor Tasks)

<sup>3</sup> **Tobacco** includes: Tobacco (-Cutting, -Housing, -Setting, -Stripping, -Topping & Oiling, -Work)

<sup>4</sup> **Hay & Straw** includes: Hay and Straw

<sup>5</sup> **Oranges** includes: Oranges (-Early, -Mid, -Fresh, -Valencia)

<sup>6</sup> **Cotton** includes: Cotton and Cotton Hauling

<sup>7</sup> **Corn** includes: Corn (-Detasseling; -Seed; and -Sweet)

<sup>8</sup> **Nurseries & Greenhouses** includes: Greenhouse(s); Nursery(ies) (-Stock, -Tree)

<sup>9</sup> **Onions** includes: Onion(s) (Vidalia, Onion Sets)

<sup>10</sup> **Sheep** includes: Ewe, Sheep (Multi-state); Sheep Shearers; Sheepherders, Wool Graders and Wool

<sup>11</sup> **Tomatoes** includes: Tomatoes and Grape Tomatoes

**New Employers**

	FY 2011	FY 2012 (Q1, Q2 & Q3)
Total Employers	7,361	4,821
New Employers	1,271	798
<b>% of New Applicants</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>17%</b>

**Top Crop/Activity by State and Positions Certified**

State	Crop	FY 2011 (Rank)	FY 2011 (Q1, Q2 & Q3)	FY 2012 (Q1, Q2 & Q3)
North Carolina	Hay & Straw	3,990 (1)	3,990 (1)	2,386
	Cotton	1,631 (2)	1,629 (2)	1,918
Georgia	Onions	1,708 (1)	1,361 (2)	2,080
	General Farm Labor	1,636 (2)	1,513 (1)	1,585
Louisiana	Sugarcane	2,563 (1)	2444 (1)	1,877
	General Farm Labor	1216 (2)	1216 (2)	1,128
Washington	General Farm Labor	450 (3)	370 (3)	1,871
	Cherries	691 (2)	691 (2)	1,087
Florida	Oranges	4,051 (1)	2,632 (1)	4,375
	Grapefruits	170 (4)	N/A	275
Kentucky	Tobacco	2,830 (1)	2,761 (1)	2,703
	General Farm Labor	718 (2)	718 (2)	874
Virginia	Tobacco	1,376 (1)	1,376 (1)	2,734
	Nurseries & Greenhouses	118 (4)	118 (2)	144
South Carolina	Peaches	853 (1)	853 (1)	1,761
	General Farm Labor	386 (3)	386 (2)	449
Arizona	Lettuce	743 (1)	743 (1)	1,677
	General Farm Labor	650 (2)	650 (2)	280
Arkansas	Tomatoes	500 (2)	500 (2)	995
	General Farm Labor	934 (1)	934 (1)	597
Tennessee	Tobacco	942 (1)	910 (1)	939
	Tomatoes	292 (2)	292 (2)	436
New York	General Farm Labor	553 (3)	499 (1)	532
	Apples <sup>12</sup>	1,339 (1)	487 (2)	272

<sup>12</sup> Apples includes: Apple(s); Apple (-Harvester, -Orchard, -Picker)