

# Report on Immigration for the Larimer County Board of Commissioners

Submitted by the Agricultural Advisory Board  
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# Overview

- Economic impact of immigration for agriculture and other sectors
- Types of visas or documents used by immigrant workers
- Local law enforcement regarding immigrant workers
- Immigrant workers and their families
- Existing legislation, executive orders, and ongoing legislative efforts
- Other groups working on immigration issues
- International perspective

*( Thus far, we have presented this to our Larimer County Commissioners and Larimer County Sheriff)*



# Immigrant Workers and the Economic Impact of Agriculture in Colorado

- CO Agriculture sector: \$40 billion in production and 173,000 jobs
- 36% of Colorado farmworkers are undocumented and 32% of all undocumented workers in Colorado work in ag
- Dairy, horticulture, livestock producers and food processors rely heavily on immigrant workers
- These workers bring a strong work ethic and learn skills quickly
- Ag lacks workers, currently affecting production here. Losing more immigrant labor could cost CO more than \$100 million.
- In Colorado, undocumented workers pay over \$311 million in taxes and receive few benefits (2016 study)



# National Economic Impact

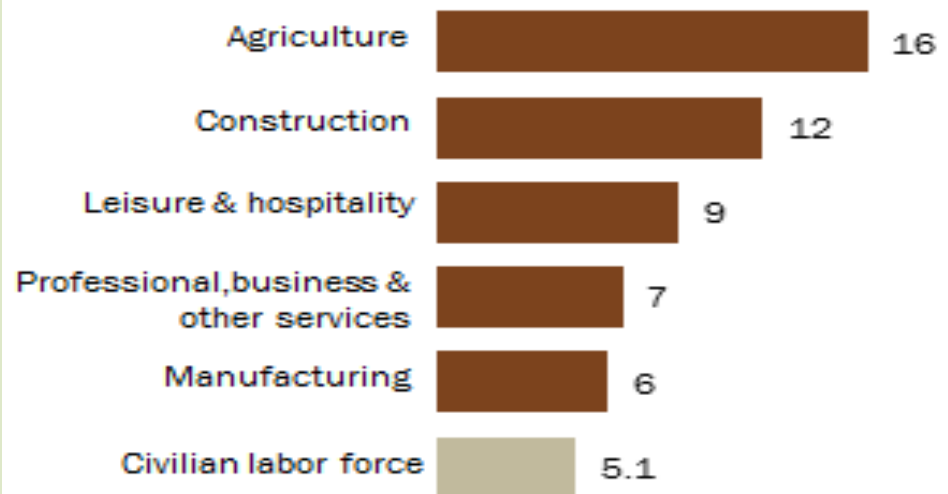
Other economic sectors are reliant/dependent on unauthorized immigrant workers across the U.S.



FIGURE 2.1

## Industries With High Shares of Unauthorized Immigrants, 2012

*% unauthorized immigrants of workers in industry*



Source: Pew Research Center tabulations from augmented 2012 American Community Survey data from Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS)

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## Sampler: Recent Headlines Across the Country

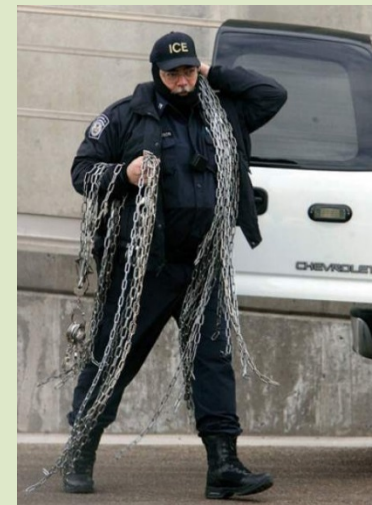
- ***Georgia's Harsh Immigration Law Costs Millions in Unharvested Crops*** (*Atlantic Monthly*)
- *US Farmers Depend on Illegal Immigrants* (*VOA news*)
- ***Undocumented workers do the jobs Americans don't want***
- *Vermont Fights for Immigrant Dairy Workers* (*NPR News*)
- ***Without Immigrant Labor, the Economy Would Crumble***
- *Idaho dairy owners bringing immigrant labor plight to GOP lawmakers* (*Miami Herald*)

# Documentation Issues

- Forged documents: SS cards and Green Cards are readily available for purchase on the black market
- H-2 A Visas (temporary or seasonal workers) and Green Cards (permanent resident) are difficult to obtain.
- H-2 A program only supplies 3% of needed labor
- Legal drivers licenses (better safety & insurance, but harder to get & appts. sold on black market)
- Legal immigration system is not working: huge backlogs, wait times, costs, administrative burden, exploitation results in illegal entry and utilization of unauthorized workers
- System can't provide workers needed during peak or high yield periods
- Favors U.S. citizens (seldom available, willing, qualified)
- Immigration/documentation system has not been updated in 27 years

# Law Enforcement: Detention and Deportation

- Immigrant workers needed while immigration reform is addressed
- Current atmosphere of fear and distrust de-stabilizes workforce, families, public safety
- Jails and LE information have served as a conduit for ICE deportations
- Replacement workers can place more strain on communities than traditional immigrant workers
- AAB asks Law Enforcement to focus on public safety and human rights
- New pressure for agreements or 287(g) collaboration with ICE could increase adverse impacts on agriculture



# Immigrant Workers and their Families

- Larimer County - > 4000 undocumented residents w > 3000 in workforce & 93% above poverty threshold \*
- 63% came before 1999 and have citizen children
- Unauthorized workers are not eligible for majority of public assistance programs despite paying taxes\*\*
- Deportation of breadwinners creates burden on social services who must serve family members w/ citizenship
- (1998-2012 nationally, 660,000 families many diagnosed w PTSD from separation)\*\*\*
- Needed workforce is increasingly de-stabilized, lacks trust, is less productive and lives in shadows of our community
- Most live in towns rather than in on-farm housing (+ econ. impact)

\*Center for Migration Studies, 2016

\*\* not even eligible for 5 years after obtaining citizenship

\*\*\* Human Impact Partners



# A History of Immigration Legislation: Existing and Proposed Legislation, Executive Orders

- Bracero Program 1942 – 1961, “Operation Wetback” 1954
- Migrant and Seasonal Worker Protection Act of 1983
- Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986
- Obama Executive Order: Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) 2012 no lawful status or path -citizenship
- Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Permanent Residents (DAPA) blocked by injunction, 2015
- Border Security and Economic Opportunity and Immigration Modernization Act – failed 2013 (bipartisan “Gang of 8”)
- President Trump’s Executive Order - Jan. 25th, 2017
- Senator Bennet’s Blue Card (being introduced)

# Summary of Executive Order, Jan 25th, 2017

- 5000 new immigration enforcement and 10,000 Border Patrol positions
- Increase in # of detention facilities
- Continuous detention in place of “catch and release”
- Withhold \$ from sanctuary jurisdictions\*
- Broadening of definition of criminal activity
- Increase requests for local collaboration with ICE, 287(g) deputization and training
- Publicizing crimes committed by unauthorized residents
- Removal of federal privacy protection

\* Sanctuary Jurisdictions: According to tracking by the Center for Immigration Studies, a think tank that advocates for restricting immigration and opposes sanctuary policies, roughly 300 sanctuary jurisdictions rejected more than 17,000 detention requests, between January 1, 2014 and September 30, 2015.

# National Events Since Our Presentations to County Officials

- Stepped up detentions and deportations, increased fear and apprehension among ag and other workers
- Contracts with private detention centers
- Threats to sanctuary jurisdictions
- States where legislation is being introduced to force full cooperation with ICE
- Many recent articles regarding non-criminal deportations



# Local and National Support for Immigration Reform

- Farm Bureau, Farmers Union, Colorado Livestock Assn., Agricultural Workforce Coalition
- Coloradans for Immigration Reform
- Partnership for a New American Economy
- Fuerza Latina and This is Our Home Coalition (Ft. Collins)
- El Centro (CSU), “Asset student” advocates
- Larimer County Ag Advisory Board
- Senator Michael Bennet’s Office



Summary : We Asked that Local Decision Makers  
Consider the Following:

- We need a stable agricultural workforce
- Legal immigration system broken and in dire need of reform
- Tremendous economic and human costs associated with deportation
- Deportation is unrealistic, prohibitively expensive
- Most deportations originate as administrative apprehensions by local law enforcement
- Local law enforcement should focus on public safety, human rights, and limit contact with agencies focused on deportation
- Limited county services available to undocumented residents help stabilize and should be continued



## Excerpt from Colorado Compact

- “We support a law enforcement strategy that focuses on public safety, targets serious crime, and safeguards victims and witnesses. We further urge a reasonable and predictable regulatory environment that considers the interests of, and unintended consequences to, businesses, workers, and consumers. Furthermore, the broader reform effort should eventually include a way to accurately, reliably, and affordably determine who is permitted to work, ensuring an adequate labor force for a growing economy”.*







# Retaining Employees

- Provide a good salary
  - Bonuses, rewards
  - Health insurance
  - Paid vacation
  - Work Clothes
  - Take homes? Veggies, meat, cheese
- \*Provide a safe workplace and functional equipment
- Define the job.
  - Written job description
  - Treat with respect.



# Immigrant Labor Abroad



- Farmers say they need more migrant workers to pick crops - because Britons do not have the "work ethic" to do it. (BBC)
- Migration from Punjab to Italy in the Dairy Sector: The Quiet Indian Revolution
- Spain (Africa, France-Basque workers)
- New Zealand (Philipino workers)
- Saudi Arabia (Indonesian workers)

Thank you  
Gracias

Questions welcome  
Preguntas apreciadas



## Legislation, Executive Orders, cont.

- **Trump Administration Executive Order of Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Key Points:**  
Requires adding 5,000 immigration enforcement positions to a “Deportation Force”; adding 10000 Border Patrol agents; increased detention facilities; continuous detention rather than “catch and release”; withholding federal money from “Sanctuary Jurisdictions” \*(> 300 existing); a broadening of what constitutes an illegal/criminal activity that = deportation priority; reinstatement of “Secure Communities” program which asks for increased local collaboration to identify unauthorized residents; forcing more international cooperation; and publicizing crimes committed by illegal residents.(CNN Summary, January 26<sup>th</sup>). It also removes federal privacy protection from immigrant records making identification and deportation easier (Washington Post, January 28<sup>th</sup>).
- \* Sanctuary Jurisdictions: According to [tracking](#) by the Center for Immigration Studies, a think tank that advocates for restricting immigration and opposes sanctuary policies, roughly 300 sanctuary jurisdictions rejected more than 17,000 detention requests, between January 1, 2014 and September 30, 2015.