

**National Farmers Union -- 2008 Special Order of Business**  
**Immigration**

**WHEREAS**, America's family farmers, ranchers and fishers are expected to comply with labor standards not met or required by our international competitors, putting our producers at a competitive disadvantage, while trade agreements continue to ignore the lack of adequate labor standards by our trading partners. Our country's history as an immigrant society serves as reminder that people seeking employment and a life in the U.S. do so out of a desire to better oneself; and

**WHEREAS**, as a general farm organization, many National Farmers Union members are engaged in agricultural production that requires seasonal workers to perform a variety of jobs for which the "window of opportunity" is very short; and

**WHEREAS**, the domestic agricultural labor pool is limited; and

**WHEREAS**, Congress has failed to act on comprehensive immigration reform in during the 110<sup>th</sup> session. Due to a lack of federal reform, many states are responding with piecemeal approach's to the immigration challenge facing local communities. States should not be compelled to take it upon itself to resolve the broader challenge of immigration reform; and

**WHEREAS**, National Farmers Union belongs to a broad coalition of organizations representing farm worker advocates, agricultural employers, religious leaders and others in support of bipartisan legislation pending in Congress. The Agricultural Job Opportunities, Benefits and Security Act (AgJOBS) represents a balanced solution for American agriculture and would achieve historic reforms to our labor and immigration laws relative to production agriculture; and

**WHEREAS** today's immigration and guest worker laws have failed to maintain pace with today's agricultural production needs. Both farmers and prospective seasonal employees are placed in an untenable situation of risking violation of current law. The H-2A guest worker program needs an overhaul that resolves the overwhelming bureaucratic, complicated and expensive process.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, National Farmers Union calls upon Congress to immediately pass and the president sign the AgJOBS legislation to provide relief to the agricultural community.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NFU urges an overhaul of our trade negotiation system to ensure all agreements address differences in labor standards, health standards, currency manipulation and environmental standards.