

# Michigan State University Farm Labor Conference

November 2, 2023, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. (EST)  
MSU University Club (Heritage Room)  
3435 Forest Road, Lansing, MI 48910



Register for the Michigan State University farm labor conference using the link below.

<https://events.anr.msu.edu/farmlabor23>

## Understanding and Addressing Agricultural Labor Challenges in the United States

In the face of a critical shortage of farm labor, Michigan State University will host a conference on **“Understanding and Addressing Agricultural Labor Challenges in the United States”** on November 2, 2023. The main goals of the conference are to discuss the most pressing farm labor challenges, disseminate research findings, connect local stakeholders with information and resources to help them address their labor challenges, and discuss potential policy and regulatory solutions.

Speakers include the nation’s leading farm labor experts in academia and the U.S. government, top Michigan state government officials, and key industry stakeholders representing both employer and employee interests.

The draft agenda on the reverse side of this document offers details about the conference, which is sponsored by the MSU Elton R. Smith Chair in Food and Agricultural Policy and the United States Department of Agriculture. A continental breakfast and hot lunch will be provided, and coffee and refreshments will be available throughout the day. The conference is free to attend, but registration is required. Please use the link below to secure one of the limited seats available.

<https://events.anr.msu.edu/farmlabor23>

For further information, contact one of the conference organizers, Betsy Braid for logistics ([braidbet@msu.edu](mailto:braidbet@msu.edu)) or Zach Rutledge for content ([rutled83@msu.edu](mailto:rutled83@msu.edu)).



Agricultural, Food, and  
Resource Economics  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY



# Understanding and Addressing Agricultural Labor Challenges in the United States

MSU University Club (Heritage Room), Lansing, Michigan, November 2, 2023

8:00 – 8:30 – Breakfast/Coffee

## Early Morning Session – Intro and Keynote

8:30 – 8:35 – Welcoming Comments (Zach Rutledge, AFRE, Michigan State University)

8:35 – 8:50 – Overview of Land Grant University Mission (Kelly Millenbah, Dean of CANR, Michigan State University)

8:50 – 9:35 – Keynote – Labor Issues & Policy Solutions (Michael Marsh, President of NCAE)

9:35 – 10:00 – Machines, Migrants, and Imports (Phil Martin, University of California, Davis)

10:00 – 10:15 – Coffee Break

## Late Morning Panel – Government (20 minute talks)

10:15 – 10:35 – Mich. Dept. of Ag and Rural Development (Tim Boring, Director)

10:35 – 10:55 – Insights from ERS Research on the H-2A Program (Marcelo Castillo, USDA-ERS)

10:55 – 11:15 – Mich. Agricultural Labor Services (Hugo Pantoja, Michigan Dept. of Labor and Economic Opportunity)

11:15 – 11:35 – National Agricultural Workers Survey (Daniel Carroll, US Dept. of Labor & Andrew Padovoni JBS Intl.)

11:35 – 11:55 – Panelist Q&A

11:55 – 1:00 – Lunch

## Early Afternoon Panel – Ag Labor Economists (20 minute talks)

1:00 – 1:20 – Imperfect Competition in Ag Labor Markets (Timothy Richards, Arizona State University)

1:20 – 1:40 – COVID Impacts on H-2A Use (Diane Charlton, Montana State University)

1:40 – 2:00 – Ag Overtime Legislation Impacts (Ali Hill, Colorado State University)

2:00 – 2:20 – Legal Status & Ag Labor Supply (Margaret Jodlowski, Ohio State University)

2:20 – 2:40 – AEWR Impacts on Domestic Wages (Zach Rutledge, Michigan State University)

2:40 – 3:00 – Panelist Q&A

3:00 – 3:15 – Refreshment Break

## Late Afternoon Panel – Industry (20 minute talks)

3:15 – 3:35 – Farmworker Perspective (Daniel Oropeza, Michigan UFW Foundation)

3:35 – 3:55 – Labor Issues in Great Lakes Specialty Crops (Jamie Clover Adams, Michigan Asparagus Advisory Board)

3:55 – 4:15 – H-2A Services in Michigan (Sarah Black, General Manager, Great Lakes Ag Labor Services)

4:14 – 4:35 – The Current State of Mechanization in Fruit/Veg (Ines Hanrahan, Wash. Tree Fruit Research Commission)

4:35 – 4:55 – Panelist Q&A

4:55 – 5:00 – Concluding Remarks and Thank You – Zach Rutledge