

The Farm Labor Issue

Economic Impact in New York State

The following is Farm Credit East's estimate of the projected New York State impact of the deportation of all undocumented agricultural workers from enhanced immigration enforcement actions. This also assumes no new agricultural guest worker program and no adjustment to legal status for current workers:

FARM IMPACT

Approximately 1,080 New York farms are highly vulnerable. That is, they could go out of business or have significantly reduced operations.

INDUSTRY IMPACT

New York agricultural production would likely be reduced by more than \$1.37 billion or 24 percent of the value of the state's agricultural output.

EMPLOYMENT ON FARMS

Farm Credit East estimates 21,672 on-farm jobs would be eliminated. While some of those will be undocumented workers, others will be U.S. citizens.

EMPLOYMENT OFF-THE-FARM

23,490 off-farm jobs in agriculturally-related businesses could be impacted. These positions, which are often held by local citizens, are in agricultural marketing and processing businesses, farm suppliers and farm service businesses.

POTENTIAL ECONOMIC IMPACT

Lower state agricultural production could result in reduced economic activity of related input, processing and marketing businesses. We estimate that the secondary impact of the \$1.37 billion reduction of agricultural output could reduce non-farm economic activity by \$7.2 billion.

FARMLAND NO LONGER IN PRODUCTION

Highly-vulnerable farms operate more than 995,000 acres of cropland, which would potentially go out of production or be converted to non-agricultural uses.

MORE IMPORTED FOOD

The loss of labor-intensive agriculture operations could lead to increased imports from foreign countries. More imported food and farm products means the jobs and related income associated with food processing and farm services will be generated in other countries.

Failure to provide an adequate guest worker program in New York means ...

