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[E-Verify Threatening Farm Labor Availability](#)

The Legal Workforce Act, H.R. 2164 by House Judiciary Committee Chairman Lamar Smith, R-Texas, would require employers to electronically verify the eligibility of prospective employees before hiring. Under E-Verify, the Social Security numbers of new hires are checked against Social Security Administration and Department of Homeland Security records in order to identify fraudulent numbers, prevent their use and help ensure that new hires are eligible to work.

Member organizations of the Agricultural Coalition for Immigration Reform (ACIR) have voiced their concern that E-Verify could have detrimental consequences for U.S. food security. Leaders of the organizations said mandatory implementation of E-Verify, without a program to help agriculture find a legal and stable labor supply, also threatened thousands of farms, as well as off-farm jobs throughout the food chain.

"Dairy farmers have a workforce crisis," noted Greg Wickham, chair of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives and Chief Executive Officer of Dairy Lea Cooperative, Syracuse, N.Y. "Dairy is labor intensive, with cows milked at least twice each day, 365 days a year, including all holidays. While many commodities have harvests over the course of a few weeks ... for dairy farmers, the harvest comes twice each day."

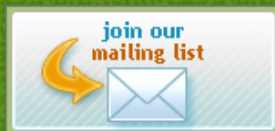


"Dairy needs workers that stay longer than just seasonal," Wickham said. "In fact, some of our current immigrant workers have been on farms for 2, 3 to 4 years. Typically, because of the training aspects and the intensity, some of the workers become supervisors and managers. We would like (a labor program) that would work for an extended program."

"We need a stable workforce now," he said, noting the fast-growing yogurt processing industry is boosting demand for milk in the Northeast at the same time the labor crisis is growing. A recent Farm Credit study showed 1,600 farms would go out of business in the Northeast without an adequate workforce, equating to the loss of \$1.6 billion in agricultural production, and 20,000 jobs would be adversely affected. "Within our coalition, dairy is an extremely important industry," said ACIR's Craig Regelbrugge. "It's a shared problem, and although the specifics may bring different labor force dynamics, the sense we have is roughly half of the dairy labor force has papers that look better than they really are. These workers are skilled in animal care; they know the work."

"As a coalition, we recognize the importance needs and challenges that confront the dairy industry," Regelbrugge said. "Our guiding philosophy is that solutions that work on the ground will not choose winners or losers among regions, and will not choose winners and losers among agricultural sectors. They have to solve the spectrum of problems in the diversity of the industry."

*Excerpted from DairyBusiness.com, "Ag groups criticize mandatory E-Verify without program to supply farm labor" by Dave Natzke, 16 Jun 2011 and California Farm Bureau Federation, Ag-Alert June 22, 2011*



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**Fifth Annual "Golf for Good Works"  
Another Success!**

The Northeast Ag and Feed Alliance recently hosted its fifth annual "Golf for Good Works" golf tournament at the Turning Stone Resort in Verona, New York. Following a Feed Safety Seminar and industry reception on Thursday, the event began with a shotgun start fielding 26 teams. By the end of the day, the Alliance had raised over \$10,000 to support worthy initiatives such as the North

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American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge. In fact, Dairy Challenge representatives were on hand selling Hole In One Prize chances worth \$5,000. Over \$1,200 was raised in additional support for the Dairy Challenge. (No hole in one prizes were given out.) Many thanks to the teams who came out to enjoy the day and secure their bragging rights for another year.

A complete collection of team photos can be viewed on our website at:  
[www.northeastalliance.com/NEAFPhotos.html](http://www.northeastalliance.com/NEAFPhotos.html)

**Congratulations to the Diamond V Team for their First Place victory!**



Diamond V - First Place Team: Mark Atkins, Dave Anderson, John Myers & Mark Anderson

Recognition also goes out to the following teams:

*Second Place* - Balchem: Tom Buck, Ron Limoges, Eric Reid, Ryan Ordway  
*Third Place* - Alltech: Marvin Zimmerman, Roy Dykeman, Ray Dykeman, Charles Biche  
*Fourth Place* - Arm & Hammer: Joel Pankowski, Mitch Roy, Pat Brennan, Chad Tillotson  
*Closest To The Pin* - Steve Finkle at 12'1"  
*Longest Drive* - Rob Sled  
*Putting Contest* - Mitch Roy

**Special Thanks to our Generous Sponsors ....**

<b>Reception Sponsor:</b> <i>Interstate Commodities, Inc</i>	<b>Hole In One Sponsors:</b> <i>Feed Ingredient Trading Corp. Mercer Milling Co. Novus International, Inc</i>	<b>Eagle Sponsors:</b> <i>Gannon Associates Kent Nutrition Group</i>
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**Safety Corner:**

## OSHA's On-Site Consultation Program Offers Confidential Advice

For small businesses, OSHA's On-site Consultation Program offers free and confidential advice on health and safety solutions with priority given to high-hazard worksites such as feed mills. Through this program, small and medium-sized employers can obtain free advice on addressing safety hazards.

On-site Consultation Program consultants, employed by state agencies or universities, work with employers to identify workplace hazards, provide advice on compliance with OSHA standards, and assist in establishing safety and health management systems. They are independent from OSHA's enforcement efforts. As a small business owner your only obligation will be to correct serious job safety and health hazards -- a commitment which you are expected to make prior to the actual visit and carry out in a timely manner.

Because consultation is a voluntary activity, you must request it. Your telephone call or letter sets the consulting machinery in motion. The consultant will discuss your specific needs with you and set up a visit date based on the priority assigned to your request, your work schedule, and the time needed for the consultant to adequately prepare to serve you. OSHA encourages a complete review of your firm's safety and health situation; however, if you wish you may limit the visit to one or more specific problems.

When the consultant arrives at your worksite for the scheduled visit, he or she will first meet with you in an opening conference to briefly review the consultant's role and the obligation you incur as an employer.

A comprehensive consultation also includes (1) appraisal of all mechanical and environmental hazards and physical work practices, (2) appraisal of the present job safety and health program or establishment of one, (3) a conference with management on findings, (4) a written report of recommendations and agreements, and (5) training and assistance with implementing recommendations.

### The On-Site Consultants Will:

- Help you recognize hazards in your workplace
- Suggest general approaches or options for solving a safety or health problem
- Identify kinds of help available if you need further assistance
- Provide you a written report summarizing findings
- Assist you to develop or maintain an effective safety and health program
- Provide training and education for you and your employees
- Recommend you for a one-year exclusion from OSHA programmed inspections, once program criteria are met.

### The On-Site Consultants Will Not:

- Issue citations or propose penalties for violations of OSHA standards.
- Report possible violations to OSHA enforcement staff.
- Guarantee that your workplace will "pass" an OSHA inspection.

For more information, visit <http://www.osha.gov>, or call 202-693-4668

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## Review of Key Issues

Agricultural, conservation, and food advocates are gearing up for development of the 2012 Farm Bill, the main piece of legislation that establishes our nation's food and agriculture policy. The Farm Bill affects farm payments, supplemental nutrition assistance programs (SNAP, formally called food stamps), international trade, conservation programs, the opportunities in rural communities, agriculture research, food safety, and more. Currently 75% of Farm Bill payments go towards human nutrition programs. Of the approximately \$21 billion in payments to farmers, 70% of the funds are collected by 10% of the

producers, largely for the traditional commodity crops of corn, soybeans, wheat, cotton and rice. It seems the House Agriculture Committee is gearing up for a serious overhaul of Farm Bill programs this time around. House Agriculture Committee Chairman Collin Peterson (D-MN) has said it will be very difficult to pass a status-quo farm bill in 2012. Peterson has said that all options will be "on the table" for the planning of this Farm Bill.

Due to budgetary constraints affecting all areas of government, Peterson and his committee will specifically be re-considering the efficiency of direct payments, disaster relief programs, crop insurance and conservation programs. Peterson has suggested that commodity crop subsidy programs could phase out over the next 20 years as crop insurance programs strengthen and become less focused on commodities

It is highly likely that legislators from southern states, where government payments often account for more than 50% of net cash farm income, will push for the continuation of existing programs and the dollars that flow from commodity crop payments into their rural communities. Nutrition advocates will drive for more resources for locally sourced and minimally processed foods, while conservation supporters will endorse expansion of land retirement programs.

Dairy policy has historically been a divisive part of Farm Bill development due to regional interests, variations in farm size, and the competing needs of producers and processors. The National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF) and many other producer groups have developed plans to reduce price volatility, provide revenue insurance and create a tighter connection between Federal Market Orders and market prices for dairy products. Differences are still being addressed in an effort to develop a comprehensive program that works for farmers in every region of the country. Dairy processors, with the International Dairy Foods Association in the forefront, have launched a strong opposition to the farmer backed plans.

Many portions of the Farm Bill impact dairy farms and will be tracked by the Northeast Ag and Feed Alliance over the coming months. Conservation programs provide technical and financial assistance for regulatory compliance. Farmland protection funding supports continued access to land and provides cash for capital improvements. Land utilization programs provide cash payments in return for adoption of specific production practices, but can limit use of land for crop production. Rural development funds support energy projects and sustain many different technical assistance programs. Watch the newsletter for ongoing reports of Farm Bill Policy development.

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## Food Safety Modernization Act The Focus of Feed Alliance Seminar



Leah Wilkinson  
AFIA Director of Ingredients  
and State Legislative Affairs

On June 23rd, prior to the *Golf for Good Works* Tournament, American Feed Industry Alliance's Leah Wilkinson presented timely information on feed manufacturer compliance with the FDA's Food Safety Modernization Act. The industry faces new responsibilities and the Alliance offered this opportunity to hear about what is coming at us. In addition, Leah offered a review of the updated Salmonella control guidelines.

The complete power point from the June 23rd presentation can be viewed at the Alliance website at [www.northeastalliance.com](http://www.northeastalliance.com)

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***Remember, if you missed one,***

*past issues of NEAFA News are always available on our website at:*

[www.northeastalliance.com/newsletter.html](http://www.northeastalliance.com/newsletter.html)

NEAFA News is a publication of the Northeast Ag & Feed Alliance.

## Calendar of Events:

### 2011 Safety, Health & Environmental Quality Conference

**Sponsored by: NGFA & Grain Journal**

July 27-28, 2011

Hilton KCI Airport

Kansas City, MO

[Click here for more information](#)

### Cornell Nutrition Conference for Feed Manufacturers

October 18-20, 2011

Doubletree Hotel Syracuse

East Syracuse, New York

[Click here for more information](#)

### Cornell Dairy Executive Program

December 4-8, 2011

The Statler Hotel & Cornell University

Ithaca, New York

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