

Talking Points on AgJOBS Farmworker Immigration Legislation of 2007  
from Farmworker Justice  
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- We ask you to be a Congressional leader in the effort during September to pass “AgJOBS,” the Agricultural Job Opportunities, Benefits, and Security Act, S. 340, H.R. 371.
- AgJOBS is critically important because it would provide America with a stable farm labor force and help ensure that farmworkers are treated fairly. America’s farmworkers, farmers, and consumers of fruits, vegetables and other vital agricultural products need AgJOBS.
- AgJOBS is a unique agreement between farmworker organizations and agricultural employers and Members of Congress from both parties. It has the support of a broad range of organizations, including Latino community leaders, civil rights organizations, religious groups, and hundreds of agricultural employer organizations.
- The status quo is untenable. It’s bad for farmworkers, bad for farmers and bad for the nation. Over 50% of farmworkers are undocumented. Farmers need a stable supply of workers. We depend on the farm labor force for the food on our table. Farmworkers need to be treated fairly.
- AgJOBS is a responsible solution. It is a compromise that was carefully negotiated after years of intense conflict. All sides have made painful concessions.
- The opponents of AgJOBS have no solutions. Doing nothing is unacceptable. Congress has repeatedly defeated other proposals for harsh guestworker programs that would slash farmworkers’ wage rates, reduce government oversight and remove other labor protections.
- AgJOBS has two parts: (1) an earned legalization program for undocumented farmworkers and (2) changes to the H-2A agricultural guestworker program. First, AgJOBS would offer currently undocumented farmworkers the chance to come out of the shadows and earn temporary legal status by meeting a past-work requirement in American agriculture. Farmworkers then could earn permanent immigration status by meeting a stringent future-work requirement of three to five additional years in U.S. agriculture. Second, to regulate migration in the future, AgJOBS would revise the H-2A agricultural guestworker program in a balanced manner due to concessions made by all sides. Under that program, employers may hire foreign workers on temporary work visas for seasonal employment.
- AgJOBS offers an effective and humane solution. Please support AgJOBS and pass it in September.