



Michigan 2020 Agricultural Worker Enumeration Study

**IMSC Member - Michigan Department of Labor and
Economic Opportunity-Workforce Development**

The Monitor Advocate System

The Monitor Advocate System is a federal/state monitoring system that ensures migrant and seasonal farmworkers (MSFW) have equitable access to career services, skill development, and workforce protections offered by American Job Centers (AJC), so they may improve their living and working conditions.

The Monitor Advocate System

Key components of the Monitor Advocate System

- Monitoring services provided to MSFWs at AJCs;
- Conducting outreach to MSFWs at their working, living, and gathering places, this includes conducting outreach to workers who have been hired through the Foreign Labor Certification Program;
- Facilitating the Employment Service and Employment-Related Law Complaint System, which helps resolve labor-related complaints; and
- Promoting the Agricultural Recruitment System for U.S. workers, which connects jobseekers who need employment to employers who need workers.

Foreign Labor Certification Program

What is the Foreign Labor Certification Program?

The Foreign Labor Certification (FLC) Program is a federal program established to allow the hiring of foreign workers for employment in the U.S. and normally requires approval from several government agencies.

The foreign labor certification process is the responsibility of the employer, not the employee. The actual procedures depend on the nature of the visa being requested. For the sake of this presentation, we will focus on the H-2A Visa Temporary Agricultural Program.

Foreign Labor Certification Program

What is the H-2A Temporary Agricultural Program?

The H-2A temporary agricultural visa is a nonimmigrant visa which allows foreign nationals to enter into the U.S. to perform agricultural labor or services of a temporary or seasonal nature.

Note: *The temporary agricultural program establishes a means for agricultural employers who anticipate a shortage of domestic workers to bring nonimmigrant foreign workers to the U.S.*

Foreign Labor Certification Program

Program Utilization

- Contracts throughout Michigan, with the majority on the west side of the state
- Growing use: 17% increase in the number of H-2A workers certified from Program Year 2017 to Program Year 2018
- Variety of crops and agricultural activities

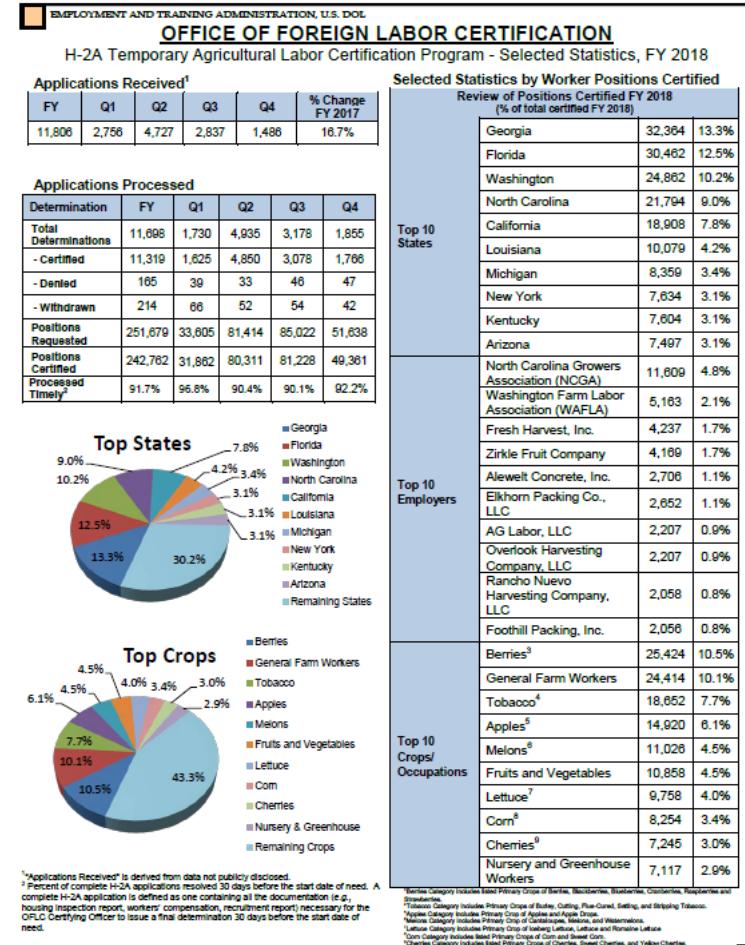
Examples:

- Apple hand harvester
- Corn de-tasseling
- Nursery worker
- Agricultural field supervisor

Foreign Labor Certification Program

Program Utilization 2018

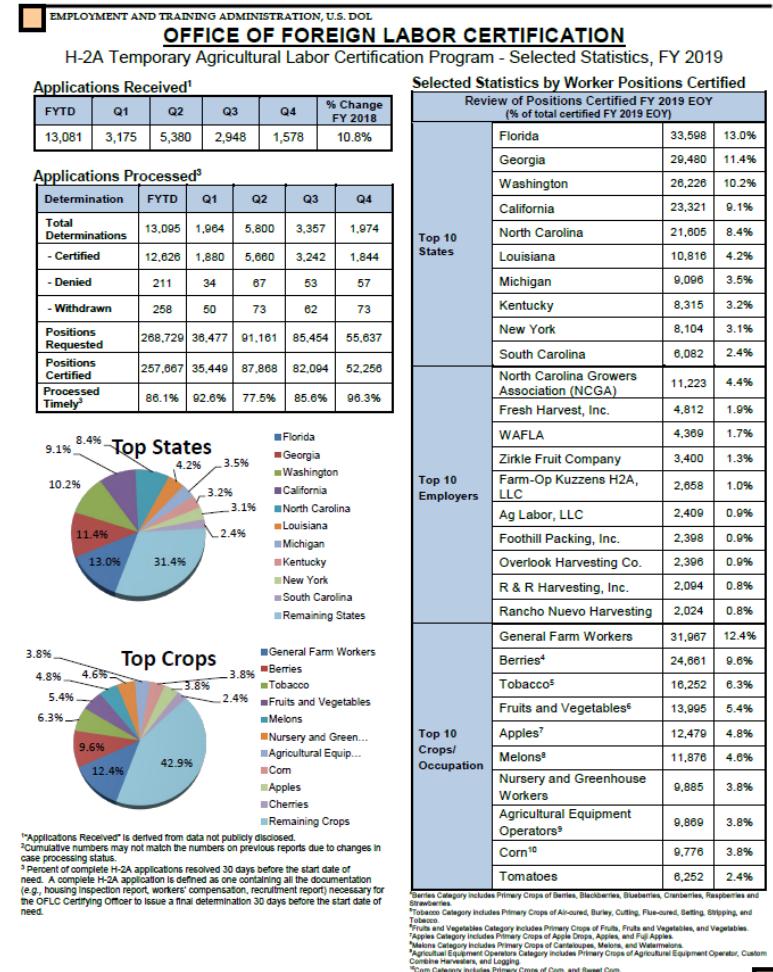
- Nationally, 242,762 foreign worker positions were certified.
- Michigan was among the top ten states, ranking # 7 in the nation for the number of foreign worker positions certified.
- Michigan's 8,359 foreign worker positions certified, made up 3.4% of the national total.
- Berries were the #1 crop for which foreign worker positions were certified.



Foreign Labor Certification Program

Program Utilization 2019

- Nationally, 257,667 foreign worker positions were certified. An increase of 14,905 positions from the prior year.
- Michigan was among the top ten states, ranking # 7 in the nation for the number of foreign worker positions certified.
- Michigan's 9,096 foreign worker positions certified made up 3.5% of the national total.
- Berries were the #1 crop for which foreign worker positions were certified.



The Monitor Advocate System

What is the ultimate purpose?

To ensure MSFWs receive services that are qualitatively equivalent and quantitatively proportionate to the services provided to all other job seekers.

While the program focuses on retaining a skilled labor force for Michigan's farmers, encouraging participation in employment service programs to MSFWs can open the doors to improving employment opportunities, leading to an improved way of life.



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