

H-2A Forum

Tuesday, January 9, 2024
Yakima Convention Center

- 8:30-9:10 **How H-2A Fits Into the Political Environment in 2024; Unions, Foreign Ministries & Government Involvement** - Mike Gempler, Executive Director, Washington Growers League
- 9:10-9:40 **USDA Farm Labor Survey, AEWL Methodology & Separate Occupations Using the OEWR** - Mike Gempler, Executive Director, WGL
- 9:40-10:10 **The New H-2A Wage Rule** - Tom Bortnyk, Senior VP and General Counsel, másLabor
- 10:10-10:20 **Break**
- 10:20-10:50 **Hot Legal Topics for H-2A Employers** - Sarah Wixson, Attorney, Stokes Lawrence Velikanje Moore and Shore
- 10:50-12:00 **Federal Governments New Effort: Improving Protections for Workers** - Tom Bortnyk, Senior VP and General Counsel, másLabor
- 12:00-1:00 **Lunch**
- 1:00-1:30 **ASWS Structure & Responsibilities, H-2A Usage Trends & Certification Process** Bertha Clayton, Director, Agricultural & Seasonal Worker Services
- 1:30-2:00 **Updates from WA State Dept of Health & How Growers Should Prepare for Temporary Worker Housing Inspections** - Gerald Caird, Lodging Program Supervisor, Department of Health
- 2:00-2:10 **Break**
- 2:10-2:40 **ASWS Outreach Activities and Findings on Domestic Recruiting** - Staff of the Agricultural & Seasonal Worker Services
- 2:40-3:10 **H-2A Compliance by Government Agencies** - Mike Gempler, WGL



Labor Conference

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- 8:00-8:20 **WGL Annual Meeting of the Members and Board Elections**
- 8:30-9:00 **Immigration and Border Politics** - Riley Bushue, Director of Congressional Relations & Export Programs, Northwest Horticultural Council
- 9:00-9:45 **I-9 and Newly E-Verify Workshop**
Eamonn Roach, Immigration Attorney, Roach & Bishop
- 9:45-10:00 **Break**
- 10:00-10:30 **Immigration Rules for Work Authorization Card Holders** - Eamonn Roach, Immigration Attorney, Roach & Bishop
- 10:30-11:00 **Labor Relations Acts in Agriculture** – Mike Gempler, Executive Director, Washington Growers League
- 11:00-12:00 **Workforce Training and Education** – John Reeves and Laura Flores, Heritage@WORK
- 12:00-1:00 **Lunch**
- 1:00-1:30 **Washington State Legislative Report** - Nora Burns, Palattao Burns Strategies, WGL Contract Lobbyist
- 1:30-2:30 **Update on Recent Labor Laws: LT Care, Sick Leave, WA FMLA & Overtime with Risk Assessment** - Sarah Wixson, Attorney, Velikanje, Stokes, Lawrence and Moore
- 2:30-2:40 **Break**
- 2:40-3:40 **Cultivating Resilience: Harmonizing Agriculture Progress with Workers' Well-being** - Lloyd Brooks, Brookswright Solutions, Workers' Compensation Consultant