



**TEAM: FOOD & AGRICULTURE**

**Issue Experts:**

David Ogilvie, Wilson Farms-Silt Wine Co, [David@WilsonVineyards.com](mailto:David@WilsonVineyards.com)

Trish Kelly, Valley Vision, [trish.kelly@valleyvision.org](mailto:trish.kelly@valleyvision.org)

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**SUBJECT: STRENGTHENING AGRICULTURE THROUGH WORKFORCE STABILITY**

**APPENDIX:**

California Agriculture's Economic Footprint: California's \$48.6 billion in farm production expenditures represents more than 10% of the \$477.6 billion national total—the largest share of any state. The sector's concentration in specialty crops (fruits, tree nuts, vegetables, and wine grapes), permanent plantings, and dairies creates year-round, highly skilled labor demand that distinguishes California from states with predominantly seasonal grain and commodity operations.

About the Agricultural Workforce Modernization Act (AWMA): **The AWMA (H.R. 3227 / S. 3599) is bipartisan legislation** designed to address structural failures in agricultural labor policy. Its central provision—Certified Agricultural Worker (CAW) status—would allow experienced agricultural workers with a documented history of agricultural employment to earn lawful work authorization without requiring departure from the country. The legislation also includes targeted reforms to the H-2A temporary guestworker program.

Federal Workforce Training Programs: The U.S. Department of Labor's Registered Apprenticeship Program supports earn-and-learn training in agriculture for roles including irrigators, equipment operators, mechanics, processing technicians, and supervisors. The National Farmworker Jobs Program (WIOA Section 167) provides funding for employment and training services specifically for migrant and seasonal farmworkers. USDA workforce initiatives administered through NIFA support safety certification, climate adaptation training, and applied skills development.

Sacramento Valley and Delta Regional Context: Agriculture in the Sacramento Valley and Delta underpins local tax revenues, supports networks of farm-service businesses, and defines rural community structure. Crops including rice, almonds, walnuts, processing tomatoes, wine grapes, and stone fruit depend on consistent labor availability across planting, irrigation management, pruning, and harvest cycles. Workforce instability in this region has historically resulted in unharvested crops, reduced plantings, and consolidation pressure on smaller family operations.



*For more information, please contact  
Caleigh Olgeirson, Senior Policy Analyst  
[colgeirson@metrochamber.org](mailto:colgeirson@metrochamber.org) | [www.metrochamber.org](http://www.metrochamber.org)*