

AgJOBS (S. 359) = Amnesty for Illegal Agricultural Workers

AgJOBS is an amnesty

- Widely touted as a “guest worker” proposal, AgJOBS is an amnesty for every illegal alien, along with his/her family, who can produce sufficient evidence to show, “as a matter of just and reasonable inference,” that the illegal alien performed agricultural work in the United States for as little as the equivalent of 2½ standard work weeks—100 hours—between July 1, 2003, and December 31, 2004.
- This bill would reward people who have violated U.S. immigration laws, and it would encourage past violators to return and new illegal aliens to enter the United States.

AgJOBS requires DHS to grant amnesty

- AgJOBS first *requires* the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to grant temporary legal residence and work permits to illegal aliens who can show by “just and reasonable inference” that they have performed the requisite 100 hours of agricultural work, unless the aliens are convicted criminals, terrorists, or public charges. An estimated 860,000 illegal alien agricultural workers could qualify (not including those who would qualify through fraud).
- AgJOBS *prohibits* DHS from removing the spouses and minor children of these new temporary residents, unless the spouses or children commit certain crimes (other than illegal entry, of course). Spouses and children could bring the total number of amnesty beneficiaries to as many as three million.
- AgJOBS then *requires* DHS to grant lawful permanent residence to these newly-legalized temporary residents, along with their immediate families, if the aliens work in agriculture for the equivalent of about 52 standard work weeks (2,060 hours) during the six years following enactment. After five years as permanent residents, they become eligible for U.S. citizenship.

AgJOBS invites former lawbreakers to return

- AgJOBS invites back to the United States certain aliens who were here illegally and who performed the requisite 100 hours of agricultural work between July 2003 and December 2004, but who left the country later. These aliens are allowed to drop off a “preliminary application” at a “designated port of entry along the *southern land border*” (apparently, formerly illegal Canadians are not welcome), pick up a work permit, and come on in.

AgJOBS promises free (taxpayer-funded) counsel for all lawbreakers

- AgJOBS requires U.S. taxpayers to provide free legal counsel, through the Legal Services Corporation, to ensure that illegal aliens’ amnesty applications are approved.