

From: Dorothy Hoskins <dhoskins@villanova.edu>
Sent: Friday, February 26, 2021 2:57 PM
To: Renaud, Tracy L <Tracy.L.Renaud@uscis.dhs.gov>
Subject: where do dairyworkers fit in new proposed policies?

Dear Acting Director Renaud,

I live and work in the western New York area which has a large number of dairy farms. I see no specific mention of the dairyworker, who is often here without official documents, in the proposed legislation. Every day, I can drive past the frigid barns where these workers are carrying on their essential work for the country.

I would like to know whether they will be eligible for the adjustments of status that pertain to temporary and seasonal workers under the proposed policy and regulations as shown below. If the dairyworker is excluded, this unduly punishes a sector of agriculture which has made enormous sacrifices to keep the dairy industry going in the time of COVID. They were declared to be "essential", let us treat them as such.

The dairy workers that I know personally often work 11 hours a day, usually 6 days a week (or in 10-day periods without a break). There is no doubt that they can qualify based on their hours worked in the past 5 years. However, to deny them adjustment because they are NOT temporary or seasonal workers is inequitable.

I would invite you to consider the benefit to the dairy industry of normalizing the status of the large number of workers who live in the shadows, isolated on dairy farms far from public view. Let them become active in their communities and freely participate in daily life in the same manner as the worker in the vineyard, the apple orchard, the tobacco field or the orange grove.

Sincerely your,
Dorothy Hoskins

Sec. 245F(a).—Requirements for Adjustment of Status Under This Section. Permits the Secretary to adjust to LPR status a noncitizen who meets the eligibility criteria set forth in new INA section 245G(b), including criminal and national security background checks and payment of applicable fees, submits an application pursuant to procedures set forth in section 245G(c) and **has performed agricultural labor or services for at least 2,300 work hours (or 400 work days) in the five-year period immediately preceding the date on which such noncitizen file the application.**

*Sec. 245F(b).—*Defines "agricultural labor or services" to include **seasonal or temporary** agricultural work.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Office of the Director
Camp Springs, MD 20588-0009



**U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services**

March 16, 2021

Dorothy Hoskins
dhoskins@villanova.edu

Dear Ms. Hoskins:

Thank you for your February 26, 2021 letter regarding the proposed provision on temporary and seasonal workers that has been included in the “U.S. Citizenship Act,” a bill that has been introduced in the U.S. Congress.

In your letter, you emphasize the importance of the work that dairy workers perform in the United States, and you express your support for including such workers in a proposed legislative provision relating to certain noncitizens performing agricultural labor or services. While U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) appreciates the concerns you express, we are unable to answer questions on this topic as proposed legislation with Congress is outside of our purview. You may wish to contact your Congressional representatives with any questions or concerns on this issue.

Thank you again for your letter and interest in this important issue. Should you require any additional assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tracy L. Renaud".

Tracy L. Renaud
Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Director