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From the Immigration Interest Group

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Immigration and Rural America

America's rural population is decreasing and aging more quickly than the rest of the United States. The best solution for rural areas is to attract working age immigrants. If 100 immigrants were brought into every rural community, that would be just 1% or less of their current population.

Changes to our immigration system required to achieve this:

- * decrease the time required for immigrants to go to work.
- * many immigrant agriculture workers would love to come to the U.S. to work and then go home when not planting or harvesting. However present H2A and H2B visas do not provide for this kind of fluidity.
- * Training takes time and ag workers who work with animals are needed year-around. So, there is a need for more temporary work permits and permanent work visas. *Click here to read the entire article.*

Immigration and Rural America

America's rural population is decreasing and aging more quickly than the rest of the United States. Additional factors in rural areas include lack of jobs for young people, slow broadband connectivity (modern farming requires more and more tech), and a decrease in schools, hospitals and other community services as young people move to urban areas. Possible impacts include: scarcities, increases in food prices and consequently greater inflation.

The best solution for rural areas is to attract working age immigrants. If 100 immigrants were brought into every rural community, that would be just 1% or less of their current population.

How could this help? For example, bag salads could be made in rural counties where ingredients are grown. This would require better transportation by road and rail - creating construction jobs that could also be filled by immigrants.

Immigrants will need work force development, and citizenship and English language classes to help integrate the newcomers. Their children will bring new growth to the school system helping to further integrate and revitalize the community through their sports teams, spiritual and social activities.

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- * Training takes time and ag workers who work with animals are needed year-around. So, there is a need for more temporary work permits and permanent work visas.

Local, regional and state governments need to advocate at the federal level for these changes.