



8/19 – 8/21 | CHICAGO



USApple: Your Apple Advocate in DC

Diane Kurrle

USApple Senior Vice President

[USAPPLE.ORG](https://usapple.org)



Big Wins & Significant Progress



- H-2A Regulatory Reforms
- Ag Labor Legislation Introduced
- Bi-Partisan House Farm Bill
- Economic Assistance for Specialty Crops



**USApple CEO Jim Bair with Acting
DOL Secretary Keith Sonderling**

H-2A Regulatory Reforms

- USDA Discontinues Farm Labor Survey
- Recission of Costly Biden-era Rules
- New AEWR methodology
 - Skills-based, two-tier wage structure
 - Recognizes the financial benefit of housing
 - 2026 AEWRs are substantially less than 2024 under the old system

Securing Agriculture's Workforce Act

- Bipartisan Legislation Introduced on June 30
 - Codifies important wage reforms including housing credit
 - No prevailing wage
 - Streamlines the program
 - Allows year-round access and packing houses
- 50+ Co-Sponsors: Strong apple support
- Your help will be needed as process moves forward!





USApple CEO Jim Bair with apple leaders at SAWA introduction



Agriculture Workforce Coalition CEOs, grower representatives and House Ag Chairman GT Thompson



Pennsylvania grower Ben Keim, Chairman Thompson and USApple Board Member Ryan Hess

Specialty Crop Farm Bill Alliance

- USApple Founding Member
 - Steering & Leg Committees
- Focus on Competitiveness
 - Research
 - Marketing
 - Export Promotion
- Equitable Treatment



**Specialty Crop Farm Bill Alliance
Legislative Committee at Congressional Briefing**

Farm Bill Update

House-passed Farm Bill includes:

- Framework for future disaster and economic assistance
- Investments in crop insurance, research, and export promotion
- Improvements to key specialty crop programs

Focus Moves to the Senate:

- Draft legislation builds on House “wins”
- Agriculture Committee to vote in September



Economic & Disaster Assistance

- Marketing Assistance for Specialty Crops (MASC)
 - \$2.2 billion
- Assistance for Specialty Crop Farmers (ASCF)
 - \$1.6 billion
- Supplemental Disaster Assistance 2 (SDRP2)
 - Technical clarifications and deadline extended to **September 30**
- Weather disaster (April 2026 freeze)





**USApple Chairman Steve Smith and
Vice Chairman Philip Glaize at the
Office of the U.S Trade
Representative**

Exports Help Everyone

Ag Coalitions & Apple Specific Focus

- Administration & Congress
- USMCA
- Elimination of tariffs
- Expanding & opening markets

Coalitions Make us Stronger



Agriculture Workforce Coalition at White House



Business Coalition at Speakers Balcony

USApple Resources & Socials

Apple Bites

Member Alerts

Backgrounders

Newton Database

USAppleTracker

Industry Outlook Report

- Twitter: @USapples
- Instagram: @USapples
- LinkedIn: U.S. Apple Association
- Facebook: Usapples
- Vimeo: vimeo.com/usapples

Please Stay in Touch

Dkurrle@usapple.org

202-841-4173

