AN AGENCY JUST SHOWED UP

Now What?

Dan Fazio
Director
An Inspector Shows Up at the Field.
Where are they from?

**Likely to make prior contact**
- State L&I*
- State ESD*
- State WSDA*
- State Fish and Wildlife*

**Likely to just show up**
- Federal DOL
- Federal EPA
- Federal ICE
- State Ecology*
- Private Outreach workers**
- State DOH**

* State agencies are required to obtain permission (or have a search warrant) prior to entering private property.
** These are housing audits.
What do they want?

• Fed DOL: wage and hour audits.
• Fed ICE: deliver I-9 subpoena, execute warrant.
• Fed EPA or State Ecology: most likely a spill, complaint, or similar.
• State L&I: You should ask.
• ESD: U/I or H-2A worker visit.
• DOH/Outreach workers: Housing, worker rights.
How do you respond?

How you respond depends on how prepared you are:

- Do you have signs asking visitors to report to the office?
- Do you have a visitor policy?
- Do your employees know what the policy is?
Recommendations

Take the temperature of the inspector.
Can you establish rapport?
Ask for an opening conference.
Prepare a letter to the inspector and for the file.
Do you have any idea what laws or regulations are being inspected or enforced?
Suggest a meeting with workers.
Recognize state vs. federal differences.
Final Thoughts

Carefully weigh the cost vs. benefit. Be professional – and expect it in return.
If inspectors are not professional, it is your right to stop the inspection, contact the agency, and ask for another inspector.
If you are a wafla member, we will absolutely support you in this. And so will your elected officials.
Farming is easy when your plow is a pencil and you are sitting a thousand miles from the corn field.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower.
Thank you.

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