

# It Has Been a Great Nine Years

By Frank Gasperini

National Council of Ag Employers

This will be my second to last NCAE Agricultural Labor column for The Core Report®.

As they say, 'all good things come to an end,' and writing for this publication each month has certainly been one of the good things in my life. I am more than a little sad to leave you because writing to you each month has been among the most rewarding aspects of my work these past several years; and, I believe we have made a difference for our industry.

I will retire from NCAE at the end of 2017. NCAE has been working for the past 6 months to find a successor, and I am pleased to announce that by the time you read this column, Michael Marsh will have joined us. Michael and I will work together for the rest of 2017 to assure a smooth transition. Those of you who attend the NCAE Ag Employer's Labor Forum in Las Vegas November 29 through December 1, 2017 will get to meet Michael there. You can read the full press release on Michael in NCAE's website, he has a strong background finance, in agricultural leadership having served on the California Almond Board and as President & CEO of Western United Dairymen. Michael is originally from Wyoming, and will be relocating to Washington, D.C., from California to join NCAE.

The labor issues and other legal, regulatory, and legislative issues we must battle every day just to assure that our businesses and our industry survive, are a never-ending struggle. I am increasingly drawn to the words of an Emmy Lou Harris song, "All The



**Gasperini**

Roadrunning" that talks about whether endlessly repeating the daily show is worth it or not. The lyric is: "There's no pretending I'm not a fool, For riding around and around--- But if it's all for nothing--- all the roadrunning's, been in vain."

I know that advocacy work on labor, and other issues critical to your businesses must seem like endlessly riding in circles, and that there is always a temptation to step aside and just let the chips fall as they may. After spending most of the past 25 years focused primarily on regulatory and legislative advocacy and education, for crop protection products and agricultural employers at both state and federal levels, I know that all the roadrunning is not in vain. We may not chalk up big wins, but we are still in business. Without constant advocacy, constant vigilance, and constant effort and support on your part, I do not believe we would still have the ability to farm and harvest on the individual independent business scale that we currently pursue.

Long story short. All the battles, all the roadrunning involved, have been worth it, are worth it, and I cannot imagine a better group of partners to have walked the path with than each and every one of you in this readership.

You will still see my byline, here or

## NCAE Names New President

By Tom Karst

The Packer

The National Council of Agricultural Employers has named Michael Marsh as the group's new president and CEO.

Marsh succeeds Frank Gasperini, who has led NCAE since September 2008 and will retire at the end of the year after working with Marsh in the leadership transition.

"Finding an outstanding individual to steer the organization forward to follow in Frank's footsteps was a daunting task," NCAE chair Joe Young of Goffstown, N.H., said in a news release "The Selection Committee was faced with a group of tremendous candidates from all over the country but, after interviewing the top tier of those candidates, they identified Michael as possessing the talents to drive NCAE forward through a very tough environment for agricultural

employers."

Marsh was CEO of Western United Dairymen for 15 years, according to the release, and since December 2014 has been consulting in the areas of complex financial transactions, litigation support, media, and public relations. Earlier in his career, he was director of finance and administration with the Almond Board of California.

"We recognized that to lead effectively on issues impacting people who employ agricultural workers, the Council needed someone who has a sterling results-oriented reputation as well as the vision and collaborative approach necessary to effectively communicate the needs and concerns of these growers in the U.S. Capitol," NCAE vice chairman Jon DeVaney, president of the Washington State Tree Fruit Association, said in the release. "Michael fit that bill."

in other publications, occasionally under the banner of the Agricultural Safety and Health Council of America (ASHCA.) I will work part-time as their President & CEO. I hope to see some, many, of you in Scottsdale, Arizona at the end of February 2018 at ASHCA's North America Ag Safety Summit. See "Raising Safety" at [www.ASHCA.org](http://www.ASHCA.org).

For more information on Michael Marsh, as well as the 2017 Las Vegas Ag Employer's Labor Forum agenda & registration, and the 2018 NCAE Annual Meeting in Washington, DC visit NCAE's website now. Michael's

e-mail is [Michael@NCAEonline.org](mailto:Michael@NCAEonline.org). The office address and phone number will remain unchanged: NCAE, 525 9th Street NW, Suite 800, Washington, DC 20004. 202-629-9370.

*The author is Executive Vice President of the National Council of Agricultural Employers (NCAE.) NCAE is the national trade association representing Agricultural Employers in Washington, DC. Visit NCAE's website at [www.NCAEonline.org](http://www.NCAEonline.org) for more information and continuing updates.*