



287(g) and Its Impact on Wisconsin Farmers and Rural Communities

1. What is 287(g)?

Origin: Section 287(g) was added to the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) in 1996.
Purpose (according to ICE):

- Allows U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to delegate immigration enforcement powers to state and local law enforcement officers.
- Local and State officers can perform certain immigration functions under ICE supervision.
- Intended to identify and remove “criminal aliens” and enhance community safety.

2. How 287(g) Works:

- A state or local agency can sign an MOA (memorandum of agreement) with ICE. Wisconsin’s current Governor publicly stated he will not enter into a 287(g) agreement at the state level. Wisconsin is seeing these agreements being signed at the county sheriff level, most often by the county sheriff running a local jail.
- Agreements can be terminated at any time by either party.
- Upon a local sheriff or police department signing an agreement, Local officers receive training to act as immigration agents.
- They may be able to investigate immigration status, detain individuals, and begin deportation processes, depending on the type of 287(g) agreement signed in that county.

3. Concerns with 287(g):

- Discrimination & Racial Profiling
 - Officers may target individuals based on appearance, language, or perceived immigration status.
- Family Separation
 - Local traffic stops or minor infractions can lead to deportation proceedings.

- Undermines Public Safety
 - Immigrant families, and those who employ immigrants, may fear reporting crimes or cooperating with law enforcement.

4. Status of 287(g) in Wisconsin:

- First implemented in 2017 under the first Trump administration.
- Local sheriffs' offices in counties with these agreements are empowered to act as ICE agents.
- There are three types of 287(g) agreements:
 - Jail Enforcement Model
 - Local officers can interrogate individuals with criminal charges or pending criminal charges who are housed at the local jail or correctional facility to determine immigration status and can notify ICE before non-citizens are released.
 - Warrant Service Model
 - Local officers may serve and execute administrative warrants issued by ICE within the local jail or correctional facility, but may not interrogate individuals about their immigration status.
 - An administrative warrant is issued by a federal agency and allows for the arrest of the named person, but does not allow for entry onto private property.
 - Task Force Model
 - Local officers have delegated authority to question and arrest people for immigration violations, including in public spaces and at the individual's home.

5. Why Farmers Care:

- Wisconsin agriculture depends heavily on immigrant labor (dairy, produce, processing).
- Fear of deportation harms farmworkers, their families, and rural economies.
- Communities rely on immigrant families as neighbors, church members, and local business supporters.
- 287(g) increases stress and instability for mixed-status families working in agriculture.
- Local law enforcement perform vital services for rural communities, redirecting officers leaves gaps to the resources previously provided.
- 287(g) erodes trust between local officers and the communities they operate in.

6. What Farmers and Community Members Can Do:

- Contact Local Leaders

- Call your county board members and local sheriff to oppose 287(g).
- These agreements are reversible and because Sheriffs are elected positions, public pressure could push them to reverse an active agreement at the county level.
- Sheriffs do not have to obtain County board approval before signing 287(g) agreements, however, County board members can introduce legislation to prevent Sheriffs from collaborating with ICE. Contact your County board to make your stance known on 287(g) agreements and encourage them to take action.
- Connect with immigrant advocacy groups for local events
 - Groups like Voces de la Frontera call 287(g) a discriminatory and harmful program.
 - They demand abolition of 287(g) at the local, state, and federal levels and are hosting a Statewide Tour to Stop 287(g) by partnering with groups and hosting local events.
 - Reach out to Roselyn Pacheco at Voces to get more information about the Statewide Tour and to learn how to get involved: roselyn@vdlf.org.
 - Find information about other immigrant support organizations by visiting WFU's [Immigration Resource Hub](#).
- Support Immigrant Neighbors
 - Speak out against racial profiling and family separation through op-eds and social media.
 - Connect with the WFU Communications department for support on writing or placement of op-eds and other original writing.
 - Contact information: Communications Director, Tommy Enright (tenright@wisconsinfarmersunion.com or (715)-563-2169)
- Know Your Rights
 - Encourage all community members, especially mixed-status families, to learn about their legal rights by hosting a workshop through the county WFU chapter.
 - There are Know Your Rights workshops for immigrant employees and community members available through Worker Justice of WI for free.
 - Reach out to Allison Crook at acrook@wisconsinfarmersunion.com for more information on these training sessions.

In addition to 287(g), there are various other incentives, agreements, and changes that local governments can pass that threaten immigrant families. Learn more from these resources:

- [Jail2deportation report 2025.pdf](#)
- [Disappeared In America Presentation - Google Slides](#)

Advocacy is needed to protect immigrant families and ensure strong, stable rural economies. Connect with WFU Government Relations Director, Michelle Ramirez-White if

you would like to discuss 287(g) further or have questions: email mramirezwhite@wisconsinfarmersunion.com or call (715) 450-9507.

Wisconsin Farmers Union, a member-driven organization, is committed to enhancing the quality of life for family farmers, rural communities, and all people through educational opportunities, cooperative endeavors, and civic engagement. For more information visit www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com.