



**KEEPING THE  
COWS IN WISCONSIN™**

### **Rights of a Producer When Dealing with a Visit by an Immigration Officer**

Ask the officer for identification. Ask for a business card.

Review the document presented by the officer. Generally, the immigration officer will present a letter seeking a copy of I-9s, any copies of the documentation used to establish identity or authorization and payroll records to confirm who is an employee of the operation. On the other hand, the officer could present a warrant. The producer's rights are different under these two scenarios.

If a letter is presented by the officer:

- i. The producer should tell the officer that the information will be made available within the requested time.
- ii. The officer is not authorized to enter the premises. You have the right to say no if the officer asks to enter the premises, review the files requested or go beyond delivering the letter.
- iii. The producer has the right not to answer any questions by the officer, however, please be polite.

If the officer presents a warrant:

- i. Review the warrant carefully to see what areas of the premises are covered by the warrant and what items may be sought and seized.
- ii. The producer has the right to and should follow the agents around the premises.
- iii. The producer should call an attorney as soon as the warrant is presented. The producer should ask the officer to wait until the producer has been able to consult an attorney, but the officer may proceed with the search before the producer talks to the attorney.
- iv. The producer has the right to take notes on what is being taken from the premises.
- v. The producer has the right to ask to copy documents that are being seized by the officer pursuant to the warrant. The officer may deny such a request.
- vi. The producer must not interfere with the officer's search pursuant to the warrant.
- vii. The producer presented with a warrant must not warn employees that the officers are present and may not hide or assist any employee in hiding from the officer who is acting on a warrant.
- viii. The producer may refuse to answer any questions asked by the officer during the search of the premises.
- ix. The producer has the right to request an inventory of the items taken in the search.