

LL.M. Program in Agricultural & Food Law

University of Arkansas School of Law
REVISED 2025 Fall Curriculum: June 16, 2025

Reflections on the Law of Food & Agriculture

Neil Hamilton

1 credit half-semester course

LAWW 7511

Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Central Time

Synchronous course taught remotely

Five sessions: August 28; September 4, 18, 25; and October 2, 2025



This special condensed course taught by visiting professor Neil Hamilton helps to kick off our semester. It's taught in 5 remote sessions during the first half of the semester. Recognized internationally for his insightful analysis of food and farms, Professor Hamilton is an Emeritus Professor of Law at Drake University Law School and is the author of the recent books, *THE LAND REMAINS: A MIDWESTERN PERSPECTIVE ON OUR PAST AND FUTURE* (2022) and *THE RIVER KNOWS: HOW WATER AND LAND WILL SHAPE OUR FUTURE* (2023). This course considers the complex policy issues within agriculture and their impact on our food system.



Food, Farming & Sustainability (Survey of Agricultural Law)

Susan Schneider

2 credit full-semester course

LAWW 7412

Friday, 10:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Central Time

Synchronous course

August 22 - November 21, 2025

This course provides a survey of the legal topics that make up the body of agricultural law with a critical analysis of how and why agriculture is treated differently than other industries. The course covers many of the substantive

areas of agricultural law with a focus on current issues of significance. It is taught by LL.M. Program Director and W.H. Enfield Professor of Law Susan Schneider using her book, *FOOD, FARMING & SUSTAINABILITY*.

Food Law & Policy (required for LL.M.)

Susan Schneider

2 credit full-semester course

LAWW 7862

Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Central Time

Synchronous course

August 19 - November 25, 2025 (class dates will be modified to accommodate condensed courses on Sept. 16 and Oct. 7)

This course, taught by Susan Schneider provides a holistic look at our food system. It explores the network of laws that frame that system and impact us all. An overview of regulation by both the Food & Drug Administration and the USDA is provided, using current events and emerging issues to address wide ranging law and policy considerations.

Agriculture & the Environment (required for LL.M.)

Christopher Kelley

2 credit full-semester course

LAWW 7962

Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. – 12:10 p.m. Central Time

Synchronous course

August 20 - November 19, 2025 (class dates will be modified to accommodate condensed courses on Sept. 17 and Oct. 8)



One of Professor Kelley's signature LL.M. courses, Agriculture and the Environment examines the impact that agricultural production has on the environment. This policy-oriented course examines the tensions between the need to produce food and fiber efficiently and the concern for sustainability and the protection of natural resources. A global perspective is included. Professor Kelley is a tenured professor at the University of Arkansas School of Law and a Fulbright Scholar with international connections with Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, and the surrounding region.

Effective Legal Writing

Professor Christopher Kelley

1 credit full-semester, Pass/Fail

LAWW 7231

Wednesday, 9:00 -9:50 a.m. Central Time

Synchronous course

August 20 - November 19, 2025 (class dates will be modified to accommodate condensed courses on Sept. 17 and Oct. 8)

Professor Kelley explores effective legal writing strategies, exposes problems with legalese, and helps students to improve their writing skills. Using a format that he has used to offer instruction to hundreds of lawyers and law students worldwide; students discuss examples in class and explore bad habits to avoid. The course does not involve writing exercises and is offered for ungraded credit.

The Right to Food

Uche Ewelukwa Ofodile

2 credit full semester course; online

LAWW 714V

Hybrid (Asynchronous with 2 online meetings)

August 18 - November 25, 2025



Taught by Professor Uche Ewelukwa Ofodile, E.J. Ball Professor of Law, this course provides an overview of the historical development of the right to food; evaluates the rights, obligations and responsibilities of rights-holders and duty-bearers of the right to food; and examines the legal and non-legal mechanisms that are increasingly used to adjudicate the right to food. Professor Ewelukwa is internationally recognized for her work in human rights, international law, and intellectual property law. This course is primarily an online, asynchronous course, but includes 2 synchronous meetings to allow class discussion and Q&A with the professor. These are tentatively scheduled for Tuesday afternoon from 1:30 - 2:30, August 19 and November 4.

Business, Human Rights and Corporate Social Responsibility in the Food/Ag Sector

Uche Ewelukwa Ofodile

2 credit full semester course; online

LAWW 794V

Hybrid (Asynchronous with 2 online meetings)

August 18 - November 25, 2025

Professor Ewelukwa Ofodile explores the business-human rights nexus within the food and agricultural sector using relevant case studies. The course introduces students to the linkages between business and human rights from a variety of legal, regulatory, and policy perspectives. This course is primarily an online, asynchronous course, but includes 2 synchronous meetings to allow class discussion and Q&A with the professor. These are tentatively scheduled for Tuesday afternoon from 3:00-4:00 p.m. Central Time, August 19 and November 4.



Agricultural Water Law

Lauren Bernadett
2 credit full semester course; online
LAWW 713V
Hybrid (Asynchronous with 4 online meetings)
August 18 - November 25, 2025

This course, taught by California water law attorney and professor Lauren Bernadett provides a study of the basic legal principles applicable to water rights through a consideration of water rights for agricultural use.

Professor Bernadett brings years of rich practice experience to her teaching. This course is primarily an online, asynchronous course, but includes 4 synchronous meetings on Thursday afternoons to allow class discussion and Q&A with the professor. These meetings will be remote and are tentatively scheduled for 3:00 - 4:15 p.m. Central Time, August 21, September 11, October 16, and November 13.

What a Disaster! Unpacking the Farm Bill in the Face of Mounting Risk

Ben Thomas
1 credit condensed course
LAWW 708V
September 15-17, 2025
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.; 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Monday and Tuesday
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Wednesday (all Central Time)

The next Farm Bill - if there is one - is an opportunity to revisit the latest attempts to offer meaningful support to farmers dealing with production and market risks. This course will introduce federal policy tools for addressing climate change, conservation, markets, and risk management including crop insurance. What's this going to cost? Who benefits, and who is left out? The course will attempt to put together the various pieces of the Federal farm safety net and identify gaps and vulnerabilities that lawmakers may wish to consider.



Agricultural Policy and the Federal Budget

David Grahn
1 credit condensed course
LAWW 7321
October 6-8, 2025
Synchronous delivery
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.; 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Monday and Tuesday
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Wednesday (all Central Time)

This unique course provides the back-story to policy development in Congress. Developed and taught by David Grahn and based on his decades of experience in D.C. working at high levels of the federal government, this fast-paced course introduces the impact of the Office of Management and Budget and the cost scoring system on federal agricultural policy making. Current farm policy issues are discussed within the context of budgetary constraints and



pressures. Professor Grahn will teach this course on-campus and while students can participate live via video conference, it will *not* be recorded.



Agricultural Labor Law

Amy Lowenthal

1 credit

LAWW 778V

7 weeks (October 15 - November 25)

Half-semester asynchronous course

Amy Lowenthal

This course is a study of the legal, social, and economic issues that arise from the extensive use of migrant labor in U.S. agricultural operations. Topics include agricultural exemptions from labor laws, the Migrant & Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act, and agriculture's reliance on

undocumented alien workers. Professor Lowenthal is an LL.M. alumna and serves as Assistant Counsel to the Inspector General at the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Independently Conducted Courses with Faculty Support

Advanced Legal Research & Writing (required for LL.M.)

LL.M. Faculty

1 credit full semester course

LAWW 770V

Fridays, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Synchronous, with students permitted to watch recordings instead of live participation

Class sessions August 22 - September 26, 2025

This required course includes research in a specialized area of agricultural or food law and the development of a paper that demonstrates rigorous legal analysis and quality legal writing. A variety of different article formats are acceptable, from practice-oriented to scholarly. Professors Schneider, Nuckolls, and Kelley will conduct six class sessions designed to assist students and then provide individual review and assistance. All class sessions will be recorded for students who prefer to watch the recording. LL.M. candidates typically take this course during their second full-time semester or after several semesters of part-time course work.



Practicum in Advocacy (candidates must generally have completed at least one semester to participate)

Kelly Nuckolls

1-4 credit full semester course

LAWW 764V

This course provides experiential learning opportunities involving practice, regulatory, or policy work in agricultural or food law under the supervision of an experienced professional and Assistant Professor Kelly Nuckolls. Professor Nuckolls uses her prior work in D.C. as Policy Analyst for the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition to advise and mentor students on their Practicum experiences. Placements include work with Professor Nuckolls on the Food and Agriculture Impact Project.

Independent Research in Agricultural & Food Law

LL.M. Faculty

1 credit full semester course

LAWW 771V

This course provides an opportunity for independent research in agricultural and food law conducted under the supervision of a faculty member. This can involve the drafting of a research article or undertaking a project outside of the scope of the classes offered. Professor Schneider approves the initial proposal and works with the student to assign a faculty advisor.

Important dates for Fall Semester 2025

Semester begins: August 18

Holidays: September 1 (Labor Day); October 13-14 (Fall Break); November 26-28 (Thanksgiving)

Final exam period: December 1-12