

LL.M. Program in Agricultural & Food Law

University of Arkansas School of Law
2022 Spring Curriculum

Synchronous Courses



The Future of Food

Susan Schneider
(1 credit)
LAWW 7081
Wednesday, 10:00 - 11:40 A.M. CST
January 19 - March 2
Half-Semester synchronous course

This new “selected topics” course explores a series of questions regarding the future of our food system, discussing what we might anticipate a decade from now. Each week raises a new question, exploring answers from science and then discussing the appropriate role of government to encourage, discourage, or regulate change. It explores new technologies and innovations, examining the regulation of these new products and processes. It also considers scientific research that may influence our future diet. And it explores food and agricultural system innovations to mitigate the impact of climate change.

Current Legal Issues in Agricultural & Food Law

Selected LL.M. Alumni
(1 credit)
LAWW 7081
Thursday, 1:00 - 1:50 P.M.
January 20 - April 28
Full semester synchronous course

This special course celebrates 40+ years of LL.M. graduates by asking some of our most distinguished alumni to teach about a substantive area of law from their current practice/teaching experience. Each week will feature a different alumnus and a new topic. The course will not only explore new areas of agricultural and food law, but also showcase career opportunities and connect current students with alumni. It will target current areas of law, including water Law, hemp production, heirs property, international agricultural law work through USDA Foreign Agriculture Service, and carbon credits.

Agricultural Perspectives

Christopher Kelley
2 credits (required for the LL.M. degree)
LAWW 7312
Tuesday, 10:00 - 11:40 A.M. CST
January 18 - April 26
Full-semester synchronous course

Agricultural Perspectives, as the name implies, examines a wide range of social and economic issues, considering their origin and how history is reflected today. The course includes



a series of documentaries and provocative readings on food and agricultural subjects, historic and current.

Federal Nutrition Law & Policy

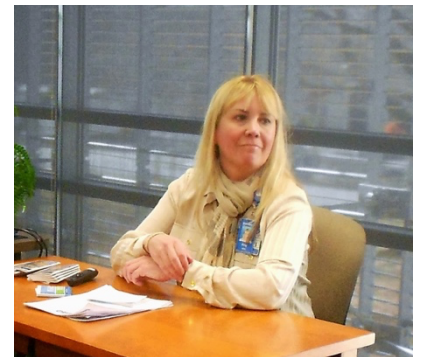
Erin Parker
2 credits
LAWW 7852
Friday, 10:00 - 11:40 A.M. CST
January 21 - April 29
Full-semester synchronous course

This course offers an introduction to federal nutrition policy, including the development of the federal nutrition standards, the framework for the food assistance programs, the federal school lunch program, and the government's efforts to encourage healthy eating.



Federal Regulation of Food Labeling & Safety

Susan Schneider & Amy White (Walmart)
2 credits
LAWW 7862
Thursday, 10:00 - 11:40 A.M. CST
January 20 - April 28
Full-semester synchronous course



This study of the federal laws regarding the labeling of food and food safety explores current topics through the lens of consumer interest and from the perspective of industry. Students will research an area of food labeling/safety that they select and present to the class in lieu of a final exam.

Introduction to Agricultural Taxation

Poppy Davis
1 credit
LAWW 7111
Friday, 1:00 - 2:40 P.M. CST
January 28 - March 11
Half-semester synchronous course with remote delivery

This course provides an introduction and a broad-based overview of federal income tax law as applied to agricultural operations. Prior experience with tax law is not required.



Special Condensed Courses

These courses are taught over several days, offering an opportunity to immerse in the study of one particular subject. Other classes will be cancelled during the special condensed course instruction.



Legal Issues in Land Tenure and Sustainability

Neil Hamilton

1 credit

LAWW 708V

In-person condensed course, Fayetteville, AR

March 30 - April 1

Students may join in-person or by video conference

This course focuses on the role landownership and use plays in the operation of American agriculture. It examines the history of federal land policy in the U.S. such as the Homestead Act and other land grants in forming our land ownership structure and examines the current reality of land tenure in the U.S. looking at who owns farmland.

Food Safety Litigation

Bill Marler and Denis Stearns

1 credit

LAWW 727V

Monday - Thursday, March 14 -17

2:00 - 3:40 P.M. CST

Four 100-minute synchronous sessions with remote delivery



This course, taught by two of the most widely respected food safety advocates and litigators in the U.S., examines food borne illness litigation with an initial introduction to food product liability followed by the study of actual cases brought against food manufacturers and a discussion of current issues in food safety regulation.

The book, *POISONED: THE TRUE STORY OF THE DEADLY E. COLI OUTBREAK THAT CHANGED THE WAY AMERICANS EAT* (2013) is an interesting reading that is assigned before the course begins. Copies are available for students enrolled.

Asynchronous Courses

We have two course offerings that do not provide for any scheduled meetings. These courses allow students to proceed through the course on their own, with weekly assigned readings and assessments, communicating with the professor and other students online.



Agricultural Cooperatives

Lauren Manning

1 credit

LAWW

January 18 – March 4

Asynchronous half-semester course; no synchronous sessions

This course introduces the legal structure of a cooperative and provides an examination of the recent use of the cooperative model in encouraging local and regional food systems.



Farm Succession Planning

Kelly Nuckolls

1 credit

LAWW

March 7 – April 29

Asynchronous half-semester course; no synchronous sessions

This course introduces farm estate and succession planning. It explores the special aspects of farm succession planning and the tools available to farm families and to beginning farmers who seek to work with a retiring farmer.

Independently Conducted Courses with Faculty Support

Advanced Legal Research & Writing (1 credit independent writing project; this is a required LL.M. course that satisfies the legal writing requirement; grade based on final written product)

Lauren Manning

LAWW 770V

This required course includes research in a specialized area of agricultural or food law and development of a paper that demonstrates rigorous legal analysis and quality legal writing. A variety of different

article formats are available, from practice-oriented to scholarly. Lauren Stine monitors student progress and provides assistance as needed, including the opportunity to workshop works-in-progress.

Independent Research in Agricultural & Food Law

LAWW 771V

(1-2 credits)

This course allows for independent research in agricultural and food law conducted under the supervision of a faculty member. It can involve either an area of law not covered by our curriculum or the opportunity for guided study through a course that has been developed but is not offered in a particular semester.

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

LAWW 764V

(1-2 credits)

This course provides an experiential learning opportunity involving practice, regulatory, or policy work in agricultural or food law under the supervision of an experienced professional and the Director of the LL.M Program.

We anticipate a new USDA Office of General Counsel practicum placement that can be performed on site (in D.C. or in one of the regional offices) or performed remotely. Contact Professor Schneider if interested.

Important dates for Spring Semester 2022

Classes begin: January 18, 2022

Spring Break: March 21- 25, 2022

Final day of class: April 29, 2022

Final exam period: May 2 - May 13