

Ag Law Weekly



Top Headlines in Agricultural & Food Law News

August 10 - August 16, 2020

CFAP deadline extended, eligible commodities modified

Last week the U.S. Department of Agriculture extended the application deadline for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program and made changes to eligible commodities. The deadline has been extended from August 28 to September 11. Several specialty crops and one category of meat were added to the list of eligible commodities, while other meat categories such as bison and turkey were denied eligibility. Read more about the program and eligible commodities [here](#). Read more about the recent changes [here](#).



Federal judge rejects changes to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act

On August 12, U.S. District Judge Valerie Caproni of the Southern District of New York blocked the Trump Administration's changes to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The century-old act offers protections for migratory birds from both intentional and accidental harm. However, were the changes to be upheld, only intentional harm would be considered unlawful. Judge Caproni rejected these changes, stating that they were "contrary to the plain meaning of the MBTA and therefore must be vacated." Read more [here](#).



Chesapeake Bay Foundation to sue EPA

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation announced last week that a lawsuit against the EPA will be filed soon over the agency's alleged failure to enforce Clean Water Act Requirements. The suit comes after the EPA claimed that Total Maximum Daily Load, or the "pollution diet" for the bay, is not enforceable, and the state of Pennsylvania announced it is not on track to meet its 2025 goals. CBF stated that although pollution has been reduced, "it is not enough to make up for the massive need to reduce pollution from agriculture, which accounts for roughly 93 percent of the total remaining nitrogen reduction necessary." Read more [here](#).

From the NALC

Facing Farm Financial Stress: An Overview of the Bankruptcy Option: Down markets, weather impacts, and other stressors can lead farm families to consider filing for bankruptcy. This publication, written in partnership with Peggy Kirk Hall, Chris Zoller, David Marrison and Hannah Scott from Ohio State University Extension, walks producers through the life-cycle of a farm bankruptcy; from first considerations, through the formal court preparation and process, to the subsequent recovery and avoiding a return to financial hardship. Find the series [here](#).

