

Ag Law Weekly



Top Headlines in Agricultural & Food Law News

September 8 - September 13, 2020

USDA AMS opens comment period for interim final hemp rule

The United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service reopened the comment period for the [interim final hemp rule published October 31, 2019](#). The interim final rule established the Domestic Hemp Production Program and outlined rules and regulations regarding the production of hemp in the U.S. The comment period for this rule is open until October 8, 2020. Read more about the October 2019 interim final rule [here](#). Read more about AMS reopening the comment period [here](#).

Trump orders EPA to reject pending biofuel waivers

President Donald Trump has directed the Environmental Protection Agency to deny oil refineries' requests for retroactive waivers from U.S. renewable fuel standards (RFS). The RFS program requires a certain volume of renewable fuel, typically biofuel, to either replace or reduce the amount of non-renewable petroleum-based fuel in use. Refineries must have a waiver from the EPA to be exempt from this program. Because of this, many refineries have applied for retroactive waivers. Read more [here](#). Read about previous challenges to the waiver program [here](#).

USDA changes egg products inspections

The United States Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service announced changes to inspection methods for egg products. The changes require federally inspected egg product plants to develop and implement Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) systems and Sanitation Standard Operating Procedures (SSOPs). The USDA states that the HACCP system will allow plants to "tailor a food safety system that best fits their particular facility and equipment." Read more [here](#). Find the final rule [here](#).

From the NALC

Conservation Clarified: USDA Issues New Rules for Conservation Provisions: On August 28 the United States Department of Agriculture issued a final rule updating conservation provisions for highly erodible land and wetlands. Eligibility for many USDA programs is linked to compliance with these provisions. Because of this, it is important for producers to understand when their actions may result in ineligibility for USDA benefits. In last week's blog post Staff Attorney Brigit Rollins discusses the provisions, changes made, and why those changes matter. Read the blog post [here](#).