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**Stuck in the Swamp: Webinar to explain the “Swampbuster” conservation program**

By Sarah Cato

U of A System Division of Agriculture

**Fast facts:**

* Webinar hosted by the National Agricultural Law Center will discuss the Swampbuster program
* Webinar is Feb. 3 at noon to 1 p.m. EST
* Register online at: <https://bit.ly/354LqA9>

(264 words with art at <https://flic.kr/p/2h4geR3>)

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — Though the goal of many federal conservation programs may be simple, the implementation and compliance can often be difficult to navigate. The National Agricultural Law Center will attempt to clear up confusion surrounding one particular program in a free webinar February 3.

The Highly Erodible Lands and Wetlands program was put in place by Congress with the 1985 Farm Bill and aims to conserve highly erodible lands and wetlands in agricultural areas. The idea was to make eligibility for many U.S. Department of Agriculture benefits for producers contingent on not converting these lands for agricultural use. However, it has proven difficult to execute.

The portion of the Highly Erodible Lands and Wetlands program that targets wetlands, commonly known as Swampbuster, has been a particularly challenging program to implement.

“Although the premise of Swampbuster sounds simple enough, the program contains multiple exemptions and exceptions which can be difficult to navigate,” said NALC Staff Attorney Brigit Rollins. “Not only can Swampbuster and its regulations be difficult to navigate, but Swampbuster cases can take years to resolve and can require a significant amount of resources to complete.”

In this NALC webinar, Rollins will provide some clarity on the nuts and bolts of Swampbuster. She will walk attendees through the basics of the program, some of its exemptions and a handful of recent cases that offer insight into how Swampbuster is implemented.

The webinar is scheduled for noon EST/11 a.m. CST. Those interested can register free of charge here: <https://bit.ly/354LqA9>

For more information on the National Agricultural Law Center, visit <https://nationalaglawcenter.org/> or follow [@Nataglaw](https://twitter.com/nataglaw) on Twitter.

**About the National Agricultural Law Center**

**The National Agricultural Law Center**serves as the nation’s leading source of agricultural and food law research and information. The Center works with producers, state and federal policymakers, Congressional staffers, attorneys, land grant universities, and many others to provide objective, nonpartisan agricultural and food law research and information to the nation’s agricultural community.

The Center is a unit of the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture and works in close partnership with the USDA Agricultural Research Service, National Agricultural Library.

**About the Division of Agriculture**

The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture’s mission is to strengthen agriculture, communities, and families by connecting trusted research to the adoption of best practices. Through the Agricultural Experiment Station and the Cooperative Extension Service, the Division of Agriculture conducts research and extension work within the nation’s historic land grant education system.

The Division of Agriculture is one of 20 entities within the University of Arkansas System. It has offices in all 75 counties in Arkansas and faculty on five system campuses.

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