



The National Agricultural Law Center
Quarterly Newsletter
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Fourth Quarter 2025



The Nation's Leading Source of
Agricultural and Food Law
Research and Information

NationalAgLawCenter.org

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Greetings,

Happy New Year and hope you're off to a great start to 2026! Thanks for taking a few minutes to keep up with recent and upcoming activities of the National Agricultural Law Center.

The January NALC webinar will feature Judge Stephen Vaden, USDA Deputy Secretary. We're honored that Judge Vaden will take some time out of his very hectic schedule to discuss ag trade, USDA financial assistance, USDA reorganization, and more. You can read more about the webinar below and register.



We are hiring for two positions – one for NALC Staff Attorney for Ag Finance & Credit and the other for Communications & Public Relations Coordinator. Be sure to share with anyone you think may be interested!

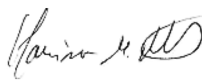
The 13th Annual Mid-South Agricultural & Environmental Law Conference will be held June 4-5 at the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law. We'll co-host the conference with the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) Foundation. This will be an exceptional program, and I hope you'll consider attending in Memphis or via livestream.

Another part of our new **MOU** with NASDA and the NASDA Foundation is the launch of the Scott E. Fancher Agricultural Law NALC-NASDA Fellowship. We are thrilled to announce that Madison Mills has been selected as the inaugural recipient of this Fellowship! You can read more about Madison below.

Be sure to check out our other upcoming webinars – topics covered include an overview of the H-2A program, ag employer preparedness for ICE and DHS actions, and community supported agriculture.

We've got some new initiatives to announce in the coming weeks as well. Be sure watch our X, Facebook, and LinkedIn pages for those announcements. If you haven't already, be sure to sign up for other NALC direct communications **here**.

Respectfully,



**Want the latest from
the NALC?**

Harrison M. Pittman, NALC Director

Follow us on social:



NALC Director Pittman wins AALA Distinguished Service Award

During the 2025 Annual Educational Symposium for the American Agricultural Law Association on November 5-7, 2025, NALC Director Harrison Pittman was honored with the 2025 Distinguished Service Award.

"Since 2007, Harrison has transformed the NALC into the nation's premier source for agricultural law research and education. From testifying before the U.S. Senate to mentoring the next generation of ag law professionals, his impact is immeasurable," - *AALA Facebook page*.

Congrats to our fearless leader, Harrison!!



Agricultural Law Contact List

At the NALC, we receive frequent requests for the names of attorneys with experience in various areas of agricultural law. Year over year, those requests continue to increase. While we often refer people to bar associations or other similar organizations, we recognize those resources don't fully reflect the range of legal professionals working in agriculture.

To better serve stakeholders, we are beginning to compile a contact list of private practice attorneys who have professional experience or a practice focus in areas of law affecting agriculture. Attorneys or firms who wish to be included can enter their information [here](#).

We hope that this resource will make it easier for producers, landowners, and industry professionals to connect with legal professionals who understand the unique challenges of agriculture. Please note that inclusion on the list does not constitute endorsement or referral. It is intended solely as a resource for the agricultural community.

THE NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL LAW CENTER



2025 "Top 10" blog posts

As the end of 2025 approached, NALC staffers published a pair of articles summarizing the "Top Ten" legal developments that producers, policymakers, attorneys, and ag professionals needed to know.

Top Ten Ag & Env Law Issues in 2025



From state actions on foreign ownership of farmland to major federal proposals under the Clean Water Act and Endangered Species Act, key environmental topics in this article included foreign ownership restrictions, water law, ESA reforms, hemp regulation, pesticide cases, H-2A wage litigation, tariffs, supply chain competition, and more. Read it [here](#).

2025 was an impactful year in the world of food law. NALC published an article summarizing the "top ten" legal issues that impacted food law and policy in 2025; additionally, the

summary identified areas of law and policy that will likely continue to develop in the coming year. Read more [here](#).

Save the Date: 2026 Mid-South (June 4-5)

Join us June 4-5 for the 13th Annual Mid-South Agricultural & Environmental Law Conference at the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law. This year's conference is co-hosted with the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture Foundation. We will host the annual "Beer & BBQ" dinner on the evening of June 4 and the conference will be held June 5. We hope you can join us in Memphis to listen to practical insights from experts in the ag, environmental and water law arenas, as well as plenty of networking opportunities with others in the field. Conference will have both in-person and livestream option and CLE/CE credit as well.

We'll have more details, including speakers and topics, available in the near future. For information on NALC conferences, including both past and upcoming events, click [here](#).



Job postings

Staff Attorney, Ag Finance & Credit

The NALC is hiring!

We are seeking to hire a staff attorney, focused on ag finance and credit, to help fulfill our mission as the nation's leading source of ag and food law research and information. Position based in Fayetteville, AR. Deadline to apply: February 13, 2026.

Learn more and apply here: bit.ly/nalcjobs



OPEN POSITION:

**Staff Attorney,
Ag Finance & Credit**

Apply here: bit.ly/nalcjobs



Application Deadline:
February 13, 2026



OPEN POSITION:

**Communications & Public
Relations Coordinator**

Apply here: bit.ly/nalcjobs



Application Deadline:
January 30, 2026



Communications & Public Relations Coordinator

The National Agricultural Law Center is seeking a Communications & Public Relations Coordinator to help share our work with national audiences. This role focuses on digital content, media outreach, and social media, and is ideal for a strong writer with an interest in agriculture, law, or public policy communications. Position based in Fayetteville, AR. Deadline to apply: January 30, 2026.

Link for more information & to apply: bit.ly/nalcjobs

Fancher Fellowship inaugural winner Madison Mills

As part of our new **MOU** with NASDA and the NASDA Foundation is the launch of the Scott E. Fancher Agricultural Law NALC-NASDA Fellowship. We are thrilled to announce that Madison Mills has been selected as the inaugural recipient of this Fellowship!

Madison is a student at California Western School of Law, where she expects to graduate in May 2027. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Communications from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo in 2024.

Madison became interested in agricultural and water law after growing up in California's Imperial Valley, where she saw how legal issues around water and land directly affect farmers and rural communities. She hopes to pursue a career in agricultural or water law with a focus on policy, access, and environmental impact, working to support agriculturalists and strengthen rural communities.



"I am truly honored to receive the Scott E. Fancher Agricultural Law Fellowship. Growing up in the Imperial Valley, agriculture has always been at the center of my life, and it is the reason I am pursuing a career in agricultural law. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with NASDA in Washington, D.C., engage with key agricultural policy issues, and contribute research that supports state departments of agriculture and the producers they serve."

Webinar Series

Our webinar series offers a variety of presentations relating to agricultural law and policy. All webinars are recorded and archived on **our website**. See below for a list of recent and upcoming webinars.

Recent Webinars

Redefining Responsibility Over Packaging:

An Overview of U.S. Extended Producer Responsibility Laws

During our November 20 webinar, Kyla Kaplan, Associate Attorney at OFW Law, and John Dillard, Principal at OFW Law, provided an overview of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) laws, covering their origins, key terms, enacted state laws, compliance deadlines, and pending legislation, with a focus on what food and packaging producers needed to know to navigate rapidly evolving regulatory requirements.



Watch the Recording



So Now You Own a Farm:

A Beginner's Guide to Farmland Ownership

During our October 15 webinar, Peggy Kirk Hall, Associate Professor, and Robert Moore, Research Attorney, with OSU Extension's Agricultural & Resource Law Program, shared practical insights for new farmland owners, including land valuation, leasing or selling options, preservation strategies, and managing legal and economic risks.

[Watch the Recording](#)

Upcoming Webinars

A Conversation with USDA Deputy Secretary Stephen Vaden:

*Update on Ag Trade, Financial Assistance, USDA
Reorganization & Related Issues*

In our first webinar of 2026, Judge Stephen Vaden, USDA Deputy Secretary, will share insights on U.S. agricultural trade, including market access and trade agreements, along with updates on USDA financial assistance, reorganization, and regulatory and litigation priorities. Drawing on his experience as a former USDA General Counsel and federal judge, he will discuss USDA's trade strategy and the key ag law and policy issues expected to shape the agricultural sector in 2026 and beyond.



[Register](#)



Guarding the Gates:

Ag Employer Readiness for ICE and DHS Actions

During our February 4 webinar, Misty Wilson Borkowski, Partner at Hall Booth Smith, P.C., will provide practical guidance for agricultural employers on preparing for and responding to immigration enforcement actions, including understanding ICE authority, employer and worker rights, and differences between inspections and raids. Participants will learn concrete steps to reduce risk, strengthen I-9 compliance, establish response protocols, and protect their workforce while maintaining operations.

[Register](#)

Community Supported Agriculture:

A Field Guide for Producers and Consumers

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is a business model where consumers support local farms by purchasing memberships in advance and receiving a share of the harvest throughout the season. This webinar, presented by NALC Staff Attorney Emily Stone, explores the legal considerations of operating a CSA, including formation, contracts, liability, labor, add-ons, and participation in federal programs.



Register



Homing in on H-2A:

An Overview of the Temporary Agricultural Program

Our March 18 webinar provides an overview of the H-2A temporary agricultural program, which allows employers to hire foreign workers for seasonal farm labor, and explains key requirements, processes, and legal issues, including the adverse effect wage rate (AEWR). Presented by Audry Thompson of the Penn State Center for Agricultural and Shale Law, it also highlights the program's rapid growth in recent years.

Register

Publication Highlights

As part of its mission, the NALC continues to deliver webinars, articles, fact sheets, and state compilations on numerous agricultural and food law topics. These resources are free to the public and serve as a research tool for both attorneys and non-attorneys.

The NALC publishes weekly posts about current issues in agricultural and environmental law. Posts from the past quarter are outlined below.

**October
2025**

- **Alternative Proteins: 2025 Legislative Update**
- **2025 Legislative Recap: Continued Expansion of State-Level Foreign Ownership Restrictions**
- **Court Dismisses PFAS Case Brought by Farmers Against EPA**
- **IEEPA Tariffs Challenged in Supreme Court**
- **'MAHA' Movement: Defining Ultra-processed Foods**
- **Environmental Groups Challenge Forest Plan**

**November
2025**

- **Procedures: Filing**
- **Environmental Group Seeks EPA Response on Petition to Revoke Tolerances for Neonics**
- **Food Foundations: Regulation of Eggs**
- **Overview of Recent Ag Trade Announcements**

- **WOTUS Update: EPA & Corps Propose New Definition**
- **Considerations for Seeking Grain Indemnity Funds**
- **FWS & NMFS Propose New ESA Rules**
- **Eleventh Circuit Upholds Florida's Foreign Ownership Law**
- **"Top Ten" Issues in Ag & Env Law: 2025 Edition**
- **Food Law's 2025 "Top Ten"**
- **United Farm Workers Challenges H-2A Rule**

Outreach

NALC attorneys speak and present at events in order to provide agricultural and food law research and information to the public. If you are interested in having an attorney from the NALC speak to a group, either in person or virtually, please do not hesitate to contact us. Learn more about the NALC staff and find our contact information [here](#).

Below are some outreach activities from the past quarter.

October 2025

- Harrison Pittman, NALC Director
 - October 7 - In-person presentation on the latest developments in farm policy for the Tennessee State Soybean executive meeting in Franklin, TN
 - October 7 - In-person presentation as keynote speaker at the Woodruff County Farm Bureau's Annual Meeting and Dinner in McCrory, AR
 - October 10 - Online presentation on 'SCOTUS Update and Other Related Issues' for the KBA and Kansas Farm Bureau Ag Law CLE Conference via Zoom
- Elizabeth Rumley, Senior Staff Attorney
 - October 15 - In-person presentation on 'Hot Topics in Ag Law: Prop 12, Slaughter and More' for the Poultry Breeder's Roundtable & National Swine Improvement Federation (NSIF) Joint Meeting in Kansas City, MO
 - October 28 - In-person presentation on 'Legal Issues in Dairy Producers' for Professor Looper's Dairy Class at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR
 - October 30 - In-person presentation on 'FDA Standards of Identity' for Professor Looper's Dairy Class at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR
- Rusty Rumley, Senior Staff Attorney
 - October 14 - In-person joint presentation 'Legal Issues in Forest Management' with Staff Attorney Brigit Rollins at the Arkansas Forestry Association's Annual Meeting in Hot Springs, AR
 - October 22 - In-person presentation on 'Organic Certification at the Center for Arkansas Farms and Food at the University of Arkansas Agricultural Extension in Fayetteville, AR
 - October 28 - In-person presentation on landowner liability, farm policy, industrial hemp, and solar leasing at the 2025 Farmer Veteran Coalition Stakeholders Conference in Waco, TX
- Brigit Rollins, Staff Attorney
 - October 14 - In-person joint presentation on 'Legal Issues in Forest Management' with Senior Staff Attorney Rusty Rumley at the Arkansas Forestry Association's Annual Meeting in Hot Springs, AR
 - October 30 - In-person presentation on environmental law with a focus on pesticides and the Clean Water Act for the Oregonians for Food & Shelter Conference in Salem, OR

For the full October Monthly Roundup, click [here](#).

November 2025

- Harrison Pittman, NALC Director
 - November 4 - In-person presentation on latest legal updates in agricultural law for Southern Crop Production Association's 71st Annual Meeting in Jacksonville, FL
 - November 18 - In-person presentation to/Q&A with law school audience on NALC, agricultural law issues at the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law at the University of Memphis, Memphis, TN
- Rusty Rumley, Senior Staff Attorney
 - November 4 - In-person presentation on "Hot Topics in Ag Law and Policy" at the American Society of Agricultural Consultants 2025 Annual Conference in Indianapolis, IN
 - November 5 – Two-hour in-person presentation on business entities, zoning, and landowner liability at the Armed to Farm conference for Northeast Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) in Berea, KY
 - November 12 – Phone interview with John Izzo of Snopes.com to discuss the recent restrictions on certain hemp/cannabis products.
 - November 13 – Online presentation on landowner liability and estate planning at the Landowner Outreach Meeting with Louisiana State University in Amite, LA via Zoom

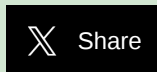
For the full November Monthly Roundup, click [here](#).

December 2025

- Harrison Pittman, NALC Director
 - December 4 – In-person presentation on the Farm Bill and tax provision in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act at the Arkansas Farm Bureau Annual Convention in Hot Springs, AR
 - December 11 – Attended Arkansas Agricultural Council's Annual Board meeting in Little Rock, AR
- Rusty Rumley, Senior Staff Attorney
 - December 2 – In-person presentation on estate planning at an event hosted by Farm Credit of Western Arkansas in Lewisville, AR
- Emily Stone, Staff Attorney
 - December 9-12 – National Young Farmers Educational Association Institute 2025 in Nashville, TN

For the full December Monthly Roundup, click [here](#).

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Agricultural Library, Agricultural Research Service,
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