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CENTER FOR  
AGRICULTURE &  
FOOD SYSTEMS



## May News

### New Reports Call for Urgent Action to Protect Farmworkers

In early May, the [Center for Agriculture and Food Systems](#) (CAFS) and our partners at the Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future (CLF) released two new companion reports on farmworker health. CLF's report, "[Essential and in Crisis](#)," examines the longstanding public health risks farmworkers face our report, "[Essentially Unprotected](#)," uses a legal lens to expose dangerous in gaps in laws and policies that leave workers vulnerable to pesticide exposure and heat-related illness. CAFS's report is accompanied by a [searchable database](#) of selected state policies related to pesticide exposure and heat-related illness, which users can filter by policy type, category, state, and more.



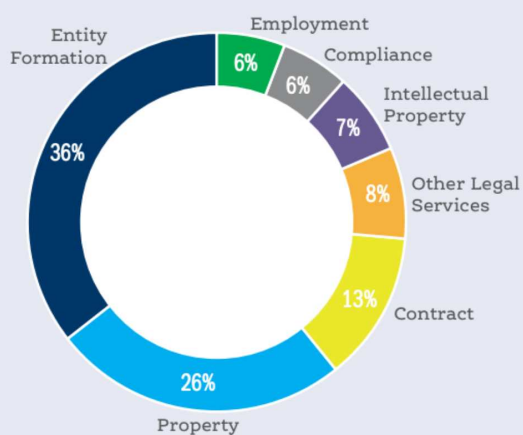
[Learn more »](#)

Creating an Agrarian Commons



The [Agrarian Commons](#) is a new model of land stewardship and access that allows for community ownership of farmland. In partnership with the nonprofit Agrarian Trust, we've published a [legal guide](#) for anyone interested in creating one. Available in our Farmland Access Legal Toolkit, the guide outlines bylaws, land stewardship standards, equitable lease-building, and more. While focused on Agrarian Commons, we hope it will be useful to those looking to establish similar community-based ownership/stewardship structures and equitable leases based on long-term tenure and regenerative practices. (Photo by Southeast Minnesota Agrarian Commons.)

### Legal Food Hub Cases, by Issue Area



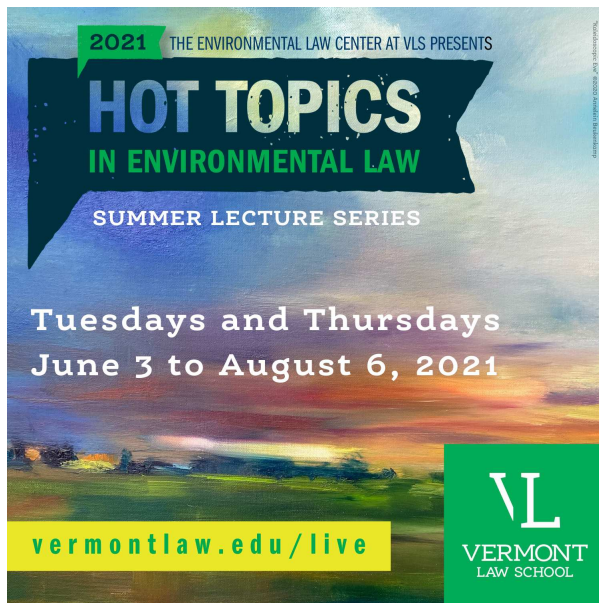
### Understanding Legal Challenges in the Food System

We know that farmers and food producers face unique legal needs and often struggle to access legal services—but research on these issues is scant. A new report from the [Legal Food Hub](#) (a joint project of CAFS and Conservation Law Foundation) draws from our experience providing pro bono legal services to food system stakeholders in New England to identify legal trends. What are the most common legal issues? What types of entities are seeking assistance? And what can we learn from these trends to better support attorneys and stakeholders throughout the New England food system? [View the report](#) to learn more.



### New Policy Brief: Defining and Regulating Agritourism

While agritourism is a vital component of many farm operations, there's no standard definition of the term—and policies are evolving quickly. That's why CAFS created a [new policy brief](#) that compares state agritourism laws across the country from 2019 and 2020, identifies legislative trends, and offers considerations for legislative drafters. We hope it will help policymakers draft agritourism-related legislation that effectively addresses key areas like liability, zoning, funding, taxation, and licensing.



## Virtual Food Law Lectures in June

Vermont Law School's annual summer lecture series, Hot Topics in Environmental Law, will be offered virtually again this summer. The series includes three food- and agriculture-related lectures in June: "**Why the US Needs a National Food Strategy**" with CAFS Director Laurie Beyranevand, "**Intimidation and Bearing Witness: 'Ag-Gag' Laws Criminalizing Animal Interactions**" with LLM Fellow Cydnee Bence, and "**The CAFO, Version 2.0: Alternate Realities in Administrative Law**" with Professor Pamela Vesilind. View the whole schedule and streaming details at [vermontlaw.edu/hot-topics](https://vermontlaw.edu/hot-topics).

## Catch Up With CAFS

Hear from our faculty and staff via news, podcasts, webinars, and more.

- ▶ "[Embedded Racism on the Farm: Labor Law, Immigration, and the Fight for Farmworkers' Rights.](#)" Watch or re-watch our April panel event moderated by CAFS Director **Laurie Beyranevand** and featuring **Iris Figueroa** of Farmworker Justice, **Abel Luna** of Migrant Justice, and **Juan Perea** of Loyola University Chicago (April 22).
- ▶ "[Could a simple database prevent massive ag companies from patenting and guarding seed varieties?](#)" Professor **Emily Spiegel**'s work on defensive publication and seed IP is profiled in *The Counter* (May 13).
- ▶ "[Are Biden's carbon markets as good as they look? No, say smaller farms.](#)" **Laurie Beyranevand** tells *The Guardian* why biogas raises equity and environmental justice concerns (May 13).
- ▶ "[Stronger protections needed for farmworkers as pandemic stretches into second year, argue researchers.](#)" **Laurie Beyranevand** talked to the *Food and Environment Reporting Network* about her new report on farmworker health (May 13).
- ▶ "[Farmworker Health and Climate Change.](#)" An opinion piece in *The Hill* from Center for Agriculture and Food Systems Director **Laurie Beyranevand** called for urgent action to protect farmworker health in the face of a warming planet (May 17).
- ▶ "[Biden Should Bet the Farm.](#)" **Abigail E. André** of VLS's Environmental Advocacy Clinic wrote about CAFOs, climate change, and environmental justice for the **ABA Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources** (May 19).
- ▶ "[Pesticide laws fail to protect the most vulnerable people in agriculture: children.](#)" CAFS Director **Laurie Beyranevand** spoke with *The Counter* about child farm labor and pesticide poisoning (May 20).
- ▶ Food and Agriculture Clinic Director **Sophia Kruszewski** is speaking in a [Produce Safety Alliance panel](#) on key legal questions associated with the Food Safety Modernization Act's Produce Safety Rule (May 25).



View Vermont Law School's environmental law summer [course catalog](#) to find out what food and agricultural law and policy classes we'll be offering in summer 2021. The annual Summer Session draws students, scholars, practitioners, and lifelong learners from across the country and the world; visit [vermontlaw.edu/summer-session](http://vermontlaw.edu/summer-session) to learn more.



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