

February News



Legal Food Hub Supports Local Food System

PROGRAM REFLECTS ON A SECOND SUCCESSFUL YEAR

In January, our team at Vermont Law School's [Center for Agriculture and Food Systems](#) (CAFS) celebrated two years of the [Vermont Legal Food Hub](#). Launched in 2020 in partnership with the Conservation Law Foundation (CLF), the program connects income-eligible farmers, food entrepreneurs, and related organizations with attorneys willing to provide free legal assistance. Visit the [Vermont Law School blog](#) to learn about the hub's progress and some of the successful food entrepreneurs it supported in 2021, from a women-led Latinx food collective, to a nut processing collaborative, to a program to help restaurants during COVID-19.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Guide to "Bioengineered" Label

On January 1, a new law went into effect requiring that some genetically modified foods be labeled "bioengineered." But what does that mean, and how is it different from GMO? A [brief on our Labels Unwrapped site](#) breaks it down.



Barriers to SNAP Access

In some states, individuals with a drug-related felony conviction are barred from accessing SNAP benefits. A [new paper](#) by CAFS' Claire Child and restorative justice professor Stephanie Clark examines the implications.



Seeking Summer Media Fellows

VLS is now accepting applications for 2022 [Summer Media Fellowships](#) in environmental law and animal law! This is a great opportunity for journalists focused on the intersections between food, agriculture, and the environment.



Determining a Farm's PSR Status

Under the FSMA's Produce Safety Rule, many small-scale diversified farms straddle the line between covered and exempt. A [new article](#) from CAFS's Sophia Kruszewski and Samuel Ingraham proposes a test to determine coverage status.



CAFS Year in Review

Our faculty, staff, and students were busy working alongside partners to conduct research and create new law and policy resources throughout the 2020-21 school year. [Read all about it in our annual review](#).



Welcome, Andrew Marchev!

Andrew Marchev recently joined our team as Legal Food Hub Fellow. Andrew earned a JD from VLS in 2018 and has since worked with farmers on a range of legal issues. Over the next year, he'll help CAFS and CLF run the Vermont Legal Food Hub.

Catch Up With CAFS

Hear from our faculty and staff in recent news articles, webinars, and more.

- ▶ "[Farmers Market Legal Toolkit: Managing Risks](#)." CAFS professor [Emily Spiegel](#) gave an online presentation to farmers market managers and direct-to-consumer producers at *From the Land of Kansas: 2022 Farmers' Market Virtual Workshops*.
- ▶ "[After years of injustice, black farmers rise in Spring Lake](#)." *North Carolina Health News* referenced CAFS' Farmland Access Legal Toolkit to explain heirs' property issues.
- ▶ "[Labels Unwrapped: A New Interactive Site Helping Consumers Digest Their Food Labels](#)." *Food Tank* profiled CAFS' Labels Unwrapped project and why it's so important given the proposed Food Labeling Modernization Act.
- ▶ "[The 'humanewashing' of America's meat and dairy, explained](#)." CAFS director [Laurie Beyranevand](#) weighed in for *Vox* about food label regulation for meat and dairy products.
- ▶ "[Pesticides can hurt agricultural communities—so why do farmers fight back against bans?](#)" *Popular Science* spoke with [Laurie Beyranevand](#) about the EPA's ban on chlorpyrifos.
- ▶ "[Biden's Call for Racial Equity Lacks Protections for Marginalized Workers](#)." In an opinion piece for *Truthout*, [Laurie Beyranevand](#) explained how weak safety standards in slaughterhouses cost lives and perpetuate racial injustice—and what the federal government can do about it.

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