



CENTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS AT VERMONT LAW AND GRADUATE SCHOOL

# YEAR IN REVIEW

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS | FALL 2022-SUMMER 2023



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## We are using law and policy to build a more sustainable and just food system.

Vermont Law and Graduate School's Center for Agriculture and Food Systems (CAFS) addresses food system challenges related to food justice, food security, farmland access, animal welfare, worker protections, the environment, and public health, among others. CAFS works closely with its local, regional, national, and international partners to provide legal services that respond to their needs and develop resources that empower the communities they serve. Through CAFS's Food and Agriculture Clinic, Research Assistant program, and Summer Honors Intern program, students work directly on projects alongside partners nationwide, engaging in innovative work that spans the food system.

This year, Vermont Law and Graduate School (VLGS) received a \$2.5 million gift from the Maverick Lloyd Foundation. To recognize this transformational gift, VLGS will change the name of the Vermont School for the Environment, where CAFS is housed, to the Maverick Lloyd School for the Environment. The funds will further VLGS's overall non-profit mission to expand its world-renowned environmental law and master's degree programs.

Ahead, read about the new resources CAFS has developed, the fellows and staff who have joined the team, our students' work, and the food system partners we've supported through legal and policy services. Follow us @CAFScenter on social media or visit [vermontlaw.edu/cafs](https://vermontlaw.edu/cafs) to learn more.



# NEW RESOURCES AND REPORTS

## FEATURED REPORT

### Examining the Legal Landscape of On-Farm Slaughter

On-farm slaughter is a central component of a localized, resilient food system for small-scale farmers and their communities. However, despite the rise in on-farm slaughter during the COVID-19 pandemic, existing meat inspection laws have not yet adapted to include these sorts of operations.

In an issue brief, “Building Resilient Local Meat Supply Chains: How On-Farm Slaughter Fits into the Federal Meat Inspection Act,” authors Jenileigh Harris MFALP’18 and Shaune Hickson, CAFS Summer Honors Intern ’22, provide an overview of current federal and state meat inspection laws and how on-farm slaughter exemptions and their interpretations have affected small-scale farmers.

 [READ THE BRIEF](#)



The CAFS team from left to right. Back row: Benjamin Varadi, Laurie Beyranevand, Lihlani Nelson, Claire Hermann, Liz Turner, Christine Ryan, Lindsey Cole. Front row: Susan Cornick, Francine Miller, Erika Duniyak, Wendy Chen. Not pictured: Emily Spiegel, Andrew Marchev.

## FEATURED REPORT

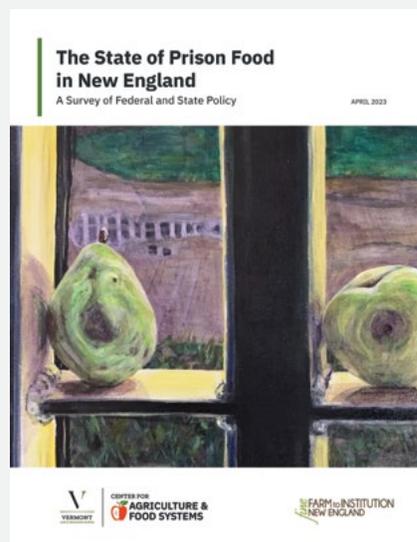
## Scrutinizing the State of New England Prison Food

A report from CAFS and Farm to Institution New England (FINE), “The State of Prison Food in New England: A Survey of Federal and State Policy,” assists policymakers, correctional facility administrators, food service managers, food justice advocates, and the public in understanding the complex set of laws and policies governing New England’s prison food system in order to identify opportunities for reform.

Amid budget cuts and other obstacles facing state-run prisons, food is underprioritized. From sourcing, quality, and safety to dining environments, the correctional food system often fails to provide individuals who are incarcerated with health, safety, and dignity. Yet food has long-term effects on the physical and mental health of individuals who are incarcerated, as well as their eventual reintegration into society and long-term health outcomes.

In recent years, there has been increasing attention paid to food in carceral facilities in New England. Some efforts have increased access to fresh and local foods and/or provided culinary and agricultural skills and training—but the policy landscape and limited budgets still make access to healthy food difficult. The report offers a set of recommendations for advocates and policymakers to consider as they address these issues. This report was researched, written, and edited by Jenileigh Harris MFALP’18; CAFS Director Laurie Beyranevand; Rebecca Bermudez, Summer Honors Intern; Matthew Giguere, former Food and Agriculture Fellow; Sophia Kruszewski, former Assistant Professor and Food and Agriculture Clinic Director; Janine Salameh JD’21; and Emily Whittier JD’20.

 [READ THE REPORT](#)



### CAFS IN THE NEWS

**“ Food has long-term effects on the physical and mental health of individuals who are incarcerated, as well as their eventual reintegration into society. These effects are particularly pronounced among Black and brown communities, who are disproportionately overrepresented in the New England prison population and are more likely to experience food and nutrition insecurity before and after release.”**

– Laurie Beyranevand spoke with *Vermont Business Magazine* about nutrition in prisons.



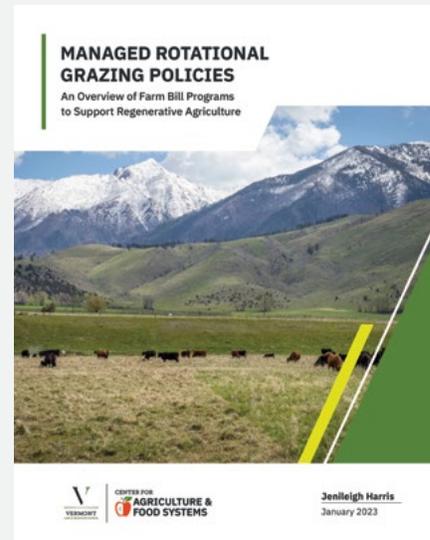
# NEW RESOURCES AND REPORTS

## FEATURED REPORT

### Leveraging Farm Bill Programs to Support Rotational Grazing

“Managed Rotational Grazing Policies: An Overview of Farm Bill Programs to Support Regenerative Agriculture” outlines how Farm Bill programs can be leveraged to support farmers’ and ranchers’ livelihoods while encouraging managed rotational grazing as an adaptive tool for climate resilience.

Federal policies continue to underfund and disincentivize systems incorporating regenerative agricultural principles such as managed rotational grazing—which involves rotating livestock across sections of gridded pastureland—instead supporting Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) and other industrial operations. The 2023 federal Farm Bill includes a number of programs, incentives, and financial supports that can be leveraged to increase the number of farmers, ranchers, and other land managers utilizing managed rotational grazing techniques. This report offers an overview of these programs as well as recommendations for how to improve and expand them to further incentivize managed rotational grazing in U.S. agriculture. The lead author is Jenileigh Harris MFALP’18, Principal, JH Consulting, LLC.



[READ THE REPORT](#)

## CAFS IN THE NEWS

“People have been doing what we’re calling urban ag for a very long time. It’s not some brand new thing, but there has been such a growth in the movement around urban ag and there’s so many benefits that people understand in terms of health, environment and community, that it seems like a no-brainer to try to support it as much as possible through local policy, including zoning.”

– Lihlani Nelson spoke with *Modern Farmer* about urban farming.



## Heirs' Property Factsheets

Now available on our **Farmland Access Legal Toolkit**, this series of factsheets by CAFS Senior Staff Attorney Fran Miller aims to prevent the loss of land owned as heirs' property by breaking down state laws relevant to property owners in specific Southern states.

 [READ THE FACTSHEETS](#)

## Cannabis, Energy, and Equity

A report from the **Farm and Energy Initiative**, a joint project with the VLGS Institute for Energy and the Environment, gives an overview of the high electricity levels indoor cannabis cultivators consume, offers examples of how states are regulating that energy use, and discusses social equity impacts that arise in the context of regulation. Lead author Genevieve Byrne is Professor of Law and Staff Attorney for the Farm and Energy Initiative at VLGS.

 [READ THE REPORT](#)

## New Gleaning Factsheets

The **National Gleaning Project** published three new factsheets in response to needs from the gleaning community: one on employment and liability issues related to volunteers by Rachel Armstrong of Farm Commons, another on the tax incentives and credits that farms can claim when donating produce to gleaning organizations by Olivia Burton MFALP'21, and one on identifying and managing legal risks by Jeff Diamond MFALP'23 and Olivia Burton.

 [READ THE FACTSHEETS](#)

## What is "Healthy" Food?

FDA is revising its definition of the term "healthy" to better align with current nutrition science. This issue brief on the **Labels Unwrapped** site, written by Suzanne Kelley MFALP'22, explores how health claims on food labels have been regulated—and how the new rule could change all of that.

 [READ THE BRIEF](#)

## New Report Calls for Food System Change Through the 2023 Farm Bill

One of six new reports in a series by **The Farm Bill Law Enterprise**, "Equity in Agricultural Production & Governance" identifies six ways the next Farm Bill can promote equity in American agriculture. This report was coauthored by CAFS's Fran Miller and Emily Spiegel alongside colleagues at the Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University and the Food Law and Policy Clinic of Harvard Law School.

 [READ THE REPORT](#)

## CAFS Students Partner with NFFC on Land Grab Resources

CAFS students and interns Samantha Mikolajczyk, Benjamin Wichman JD'22, and Suhasini Ghosh JD'21 partnered with the National Family Farm Coalition to produce four reports for the Stop Land Grabs Campaign, a coalition placing pressure on institutions and investment funds to cease land grabs. The reports detail how corporate and private investors are buying up farmland, thus inhibiting access for young, beginning, and marginalized farmers.

 [READ THE REPORTS](#)

## Issue Brief Outlines Debates Around Cell-Cultured Meat Labeling

This issue brief written by CAFS alums Alex Spring JD'21 and LLM Fellow Cydnee Bence JD'20 as part of the **Labels Unwrapped** project dives into how cell-cultured (also known as "lab-grown") meat might be labeled once it hits grocery shelves. In the absence of overarching federal regulation, the brief examines the controversies over what can be called "meat," who oversees defining the term, and the policy issues these questions raise.

 [READ THE BRIEF](#)

To view all CAFS resources,  
visit [vermontlaw.edu/cafs](http://vermontlaw.edu/cafs)



# NEW RESOURCES AND REPORTS

## FEATURED RESOURCE



## Environmental Justice State by State

In partnership with the Center for Agriculture and Food Systems, the Environmental Justice Clinic at VLGS, alongside nationwide partners, launched a new online resource that highlights the achievements of environmental justice communities in advancing law and policy at the state level. The project was created in collaboration with American University, Taproot Earth, Tishman Environment and Design Center at The New School, UC College of the Law San Francisco, University of Texas School of Law Austin Environmental Clinic, and Lone Star Legal Aid.

Environmental Justice State by State is a comprehensive database that allows community advocates, attorneys, academics, reporters, and policymakers to keep up to date on laws, policies, mapping tools, and state-recognized definitions across the fifty U.S. states and territories. Students considered the role of food and agriculture in environmental justice, including writing a brief on farmworker health in environmental justice policy.

For more information on Environmental Justice State by State and to access the resource, visit [ejstatebystate.org](http://ejstatebystate.org).

 [ACCESS THE RESOURCE](http://ejstatebystate.org)

## CAFS IN THE NEWS

**“ I am positive that BIPOC urban farmers across the country would say they’re treated differently. There’s no question about that.”**

– **Fran Miller** spoke about the challenges facing BIPOC urban farmers and the value of their work with *The Natural Resources Defense Council*.



## FEATURED RESOURCE

## New Healthy Food Policy Project Resources



Available at [healthyfoodpolicyproject.org](https://healthyfoodpolicyproject.org), this project identifies and elevates local laws that seek to promote access to healthy food while also contributing to strong local economies, an improved environment, and health equity, with a focus on socially disadvantaged and marginalized groups.

Led by CAFS Deputy Director and Senior Researcher Lihlani Nelson, the project added the following resources in the past year:

- **Food and Nutrition Policy at the Local Level: Recent Insights and Emerging Trends**, by VLGS Adjunct Professor Amanda Karls of Foodvocate LLC, focuses on new and emerging themes in local-level laws that improve food access, nutrition security, and policy moving forward. Centered on administrative and legislative changes, this resource spotlights the unique role of local governments in shaping their communities' food systems.

[READ THE RESOURCE](#)
- **Moving Beyond Food Deserts in Healthy Food Policy**, by Sally Mancini of the Food Research & Action Center and Dr. Kristen Cooksey, Assistant Professor at the University of Connecticut, dives deep into the history and shortcomings of the term "food desert." This report explores why those working on food access issues might adopt new language, utilizing an approach that focuses on a community's assets.

[READ THE RESOURCE](#)
- **Local Policy to Promote Healthy Food Access: A Food Systems Framework** shows how local laws can promote access to healthy food at various points along the food system and highlights planning documents used to guide their development and evaluation.

[READ THE RESOURCE](#)

### CAFS IN THE NEWS

“Not all foods have standards of identity, but some common ones like milk do. The FDA developed these under its legal authority to prevent false and misleading labeling to ensure consumers aren't misled about the products they're buying and to prevent food producers from economically adulterating products by substituting less expensive ingredients.”

– Laurie Beyranevand spoke with *Fox Business* about the question of whether to label plant-based milk as “milk.”



# PEOPLE

## Welcome, New Staff!

CAFS is thrilled to welcome three new staff members.



### ERIKA DUNYAK

Staff Attorney

Erika Duniak has joined CAFS as Staff Attorney working on the **Vermont**

**Legal Food Hub.** Prior to joining CAFS, Erika worked for a boutique law firm providing business consulting and legal services to start-up and growth-stage social enterprises in the food and agricultural sectors and beyond. Erika completed a fellowship with the Harvard Law School Food Law and Policy Clinic where her work focused on nutrition programs and the farm bill. Erika owns a natural wine store in Middlebury, Vermont.



### LINDSEY COLE

Program Coordinator

Lindsey Cole has joined the CAFS team as

Program Coordinator. She provides administrative, grant, project, and technical support for faculty, staff, and students. Lindsey graduated from VLGS in 2011 with a Master of Environmental Law and Policy (MELP) and holds a BS in Marine Biology from The University of New England. Lindsey is passionate about the environment, animals, food, and water systems.



### CLAIRE HERMANN

Senior Communications Manager

Claire Hermann

has joined the team as Senior Communications Manager, overseeing communications and outreach. She brings extensive experience in nonprofit communications, including at organizations focusing on food and farm policy and environmental law. Claire graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with an MA in Mass Communications and holds a BA in Honors English from Scripps College.

## Summer Visitors

This summer, CAFS welcomed two distinguished food systems visitors as part of the Environmental Law Center's summer program.



### DR. MARSHA A. ECHOLS

Distinguished Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Summer Scholar

Director, The World Food Law Institute and Professor, Howard University School of Law



### LELA NARGI

Food and Agriculture Media Fellow

Author, editor, and freelance journalist, has written for Civil Eats, Foodprint, The Counter, and more

“ [E]xisting laws at both state and federal levels largely fail to protect those most in need of intervention: the (likely under-)estimated 524,000 children, some as young as 10, many of whom are migrants, laboring every year on U.S. farms.”

– **Lela Nargi** wrote about how pesticide laws fail to protect children in *The Counter*, referencing CAFS's “*Essentially Unprotected*” report.

## CAFS Weighs In

Faculty and staff wrote opinion pieces for major outlets on pressing issues in food and agriculture.

“As cell-cultured meat gains popularity and moves quickly to market, the interagency regulatory aspects of these products will be an interesting experiment.”

– **Laurie Beyranevand** wrote an op-ed for *Law 360* on the regulatory questions that arise as lab-grown meat hits the market.

“Pension funds, Wall Street investors, and other well-funded entities and individuals looking for good investments have been buying up domestic farmland. Their goal is profit, not food production or stewardship of natural resources. This speculation is contributing to making farmland unaffordable for many independent producers.”

– **Fran Miller** wrote in *The Hill* about corporate land grabs and their implications for farmers.

# PEOPLE

## Welcome, Fellows!

CAFS welcomes two fellows in food and agriculture law.



### WENDY CHEN

Food and Agriculture Fellow

Wendy Chen joined CAFS as a Food and Agriculture Fellow in January 2023. Wendy practiced employment law in Seattle for more than a decade before moving to Vermont to work at the Department of Labor, most recently as an administrative law judge. She joins our team following a stint working on a farm in western Massachusetts.

[VIEW WENDY'S BIO](#)



### LIZ TURNER

Food and Agriculture Fellow

Liz Turner joined CAFS as a Food and Agriculture Fellow in August 2023. Liz, originally from Dummerston, Vermont, graduated from Harvard Law School in 2023. At HLS, she worked as a student attorney in the Food Law and Policy Clinic, the Animal Law and Policy Clinic, and the Transactional Law Clinic. She spent summers at the Conservation Law Foundation's Food & Farm Initiative and the Natural Resources Defense Council. Before law school, Liz spent more than a decade working in the food system, including as a farmhand, a line cook, and many roles in the specialty coffee industry (from barista to roaster to marketer). She holds a BA in Comparative Literature and Film Studies from Haverford College.

[VIEW LIZ'S BIO](#)

## Featured Alumni



### LAUREN WUSTENBERG

A 2021 joint degree graduate from the Juris Doctor and Master of Food and Agriculture Law and Policy (MFALP) programs, Wustenberg now serves as Counsel on the Majority Staff for the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry under Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow (D-MI).

[MEET LAUREN](#)



### GORDON MERRICK

Gordon N. Merrick JD'20 currently serves as Policy & Programs Manager for the nonprofit Organic Farming Research Foundation, an organization focused on advancing organic agriculture through scientific research.

[MEET GORDON](#)



### MCKENNA HAYES

One of the first students to enroll in the Master of Food and Agriculture Law and Policy degree at VLGS, McKenna Hayes MFALP'16 now directs the Food Hub at Food Connects, a nonprofit delivering food, educational programs, and consulting services to the local Vermont food system.

[MEET MCKENNA](#)



## CAFS IN THE NEWS

“Seafood is an industry where we really see the problem of food fraud occurring on a wide scale.”

– [Emily Spiegel](#) spoke with [Salon](#) about the findings of a report on seafood fraud.



# STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES



*Students and faculty meet with Senator Debbie Stabenow*

## Students and Faculty Advocate for Food System Change in DC

As part of a spring semester Food Regulation and Policy course taught by Laurie Beyranevand, CAFS students and faculty joined a coalition of farm and food organizations in Washington, DC, for the Food Not Feed Summit, an event focused on changing America's agriculture policies.

Led by Farm Action, the summit educated policymakers and advocated for agricultural policy that shifts away from industrial livestock feed and toward an equitable food system focusing on fiber-rich foods and regeneratively raised livestock and poultry.

VLGS students Ema Makas MERL'23, Travis Rosenbluth, Inés Hubaut, and Sierra Gold joined CAFS Director Laurie Beyranevand and Senior Staff Attorney Fran Miller on a visit to the Capitol event, participating in meetings with Congressional representatives and networking with food and policy professionals. The group also attended a panel moderated by CAFS alumna and ASPCA Director of Farm Animal Welfare Policy Kara Shannon JD'15.

The two-day event, held the week of President Biden's 2023 State of the Union address and in advance of the 2023 Farm Bill reauthorization, convened representatives from food, farming, academia, health, conservation, and many more. Among the organizations in attendance was Farm Bill Law Enterprise, a national partnership of law schools that includes VLGS and works toward farm bill reform.

Featuring panel discussions and a keynote address from Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ), the Summit also offered CAFS students the opportunity to meet directly with Congressional leaders. One notable meeting was with Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), Chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, & Forestry, and CAFS alumna Lauren Wustenberg MFALP/JD'21, who currently serves as Counsel on the Committee's Majority staff. These visits allowed students, faculty, and partners to discuss the impact of farm bill policies on America's food supply directly with policymakers and their staff.

### SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

#### Summer Honors Internship Program

This summer, **eight summer honors interns** joined CAFS from across the country to work alongside faculty, staff, and project partners. Each focused on a facet of the work done by CAFS faculty and project partners, bringing in their perspectives to further law and policy goals. They undertook a variety of projects, from improving land access to investigating how USDA definitions consider the impact of racial or ethnic prejudice. The interns collaborated alongside partner organizations such as the Rural Coalition, Agrarian Trust, and Migrant Justice.

[READ MORE](#)



*A group of Summer Honors Interns volunteered at Hurricane Flats, a local farm affected by flooding.*

## Research Assistant Program

VLGS students hold work-study positions with CAFS each year, helping with data entry and management, communications, research, Blue Booking, and writing. For example, Brooke Christy, CAFS RA and student at University of Pittsburgh School of Law, worked with CAFS Senior Staff Attorney Fran Miller to draft the Farmland for Farmers Act, which was introduced by Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ) in summer 2023, and MFALP student Samantha Ellis worked on a memo for the Organic Farmers Association to determine whether members of the National Organic Standards Board could receive funding for their work given the limitations on certain federal advisory committees and taking into account their substantial workloads.



**“I have been super fortunate to work with some of the kindest and smartest people while here at CAFS. I also really appreciate being able to learn about a bunch of different topics that I was previously unfamiliar with.”**

– Luis González JD’23, RA

## Independent Research Projects

Each year, CAFS faculty supervise students conducting independent research projects. For example, two Master of Food and Agriculture Law and Policy (MFALP) students, Carissa Brewton MFALP’23 and Emma Bliss MFALP’23, conducted a Farm and Food System Assessment for the Town of Brattleboro. They researched and summarized key local, state, and federal laws and policies to understand the impact of policy on the functions of this system in Brattleboro.

Working with stakeholders, they also aggregated data to understand the status of the local system. Themes and key findings emerged from analysis of the collected data and policies, which will inform the next phase of their research over this summer and fall. After conducting interviews and focus groups, they plan to publish their findings and recommendations to address gaps and opportunities for building long-term resilience in the Brattleboro food and farm system.



**“This has been one of the most challenging, interesting, and meaningful projects of my life. Getting to dig deep into understanding the food system of a small community I have grown to love through several years of living and working in Brattleboro has been such a privilege.”**

Working with Emma is only a delight, and Fran and Lihlani were incredibly supportive of not just the project, but also our philosophy and values that shaped the process.”

– Carissa Brewton MFALP’23

## New Summer Courses



**Protecting Family Land (Heirs’ Property)** was taught by **Mavis Gragg**, Director, Sustainable Forestry and African American Land Retention Network, and CEO of HeirShares.



**Racial Equity in Land, Farms, and Food Systems** was taught by **Dānia Davy**, Director of Land Retention and Advocacy, Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund.

### FEATURED SUMMER COURSE



**The Farm Bill** was taught by **Chris Adamo JD’04**, Vice President at Danone North America for federal and industry affairs, and **Jonathan Coppess**, Associate Professor of Agricultural Policy and Law at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Director of the Gardner Agriculture Policy Program.

# VERMONT LEGAL FOOD HUB

The Vermont Legal Food Hub, a partnership between CAFS and the Conservation Law Foundation, entered its third year this January. The hub connects income-eligible farmers, food entrepreneurs, and related organizations with attorneys, who provide free legal assistance. Hub staff field requests from clients and connect cases with participating attorneys. In its first three years, the Vermont Legal Food Hub has served 58 clients.

## Client Spotlight



### Milk with Dignity Standards Council

The Milk with Dignity Standards Council is a Vermont nonprofit that monitors, implements, and enforces the Milk with Dignity Code of Conduct. Through the program, buyers pay a premium for milk from farms that uphold labor standards, which were developed by migrant dairy workers.

**“ We had a complex project addressing a complex need involving multiple parties. Our lawyer stepped up and supported us. He quickly came up with a legal solution, going above and beyond to help not only with what we asked for but what we should be asking for.”**

– *Kate Paarlberg-Kvam, Executive Director*



### Larson Family Creamery

Larson Farm Creamery is an organic grass-based dairy farm producing raw milk and value-added dairy products like yogurt and gelato. In addition to selling through local distributors and a farm store, the farm runs a raw-milk CSA.

**“ The Legal Food Hub is doing good work helping small farmers navigate a very complex regulatory world.”**

– *Rich Larson*



### New Traditions Farm

Farmer Stoni Tomson produces sustainably grown vegetables for sale at local farmers markets and through a CSA.

**“ My issue was swiftly dealt with and resolved. It put my mind at ease. Having a place to get legal support is incredibly valuable, and I’m grateful.”**

– *Stoni Tomson*

## Attorney Spotlight



### Dave Gurtman

Dave Gurtman is an attorney with Dinse in Burlington, Vermont, working on business transactions, renewable energy transactions, entrepreneurship and investing, and nonprofits.

**“ My clients are often people who aren’t used to being able to access legal services. One of the biggest benefits for me is that I not only get to help my clients, I get to help them understand how a lawyer can be helpful for them.”**

**To learn more, contact [legalfoodhub@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:legalfoodhub@vermontlaw.edu)**

# TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

In addition to the assistance provided by the Legal Food Hub, CAFS provides direct law and policy assistance to organizations and entities in the food system in Vermont and beyond.

## Northeast Farmers of Color Land Trust

Northeast Farmers of Color Land Trust (NEFOC) acts for a future of food and land sovereignty in the Northeast region through permanent and secure land tenure for Indigenous, Black, Latinx, and Asian farmers. The organization's Every Town project has the goal of placing at least one parcel of land in every town in Vermont permanently in trust for stewardship and access for Black, Indigenous, and all People of Color.

Earlier this year, the United Church of Thetford donated its building to the project. The building is becoming a community center, complete with a tool lending library, a home for Sunday night soul food dinners, and a barter market. The congregation continues to use the sanctuary for services. CAFS facilitated the transfer of the property.

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**“ Fran was more than a lawyer. She was a relationship partner, translating our needs into legal language and making legal requirements clear and understandable.”**

*– Kenya Lazuli, Vermont Land Network Organizer, NEFOC*



# EVENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

September 2022

Laurie Beyranevand was a panelist on the Food Justice panel at the Environmental and Climate Justice Conference at Michigan Law.

October 2022

Laurie Beyranevand and 2022 summer intern Olivia Guarna were panelists, and Lihlani Nelson moderated “Few Protections and Unenforced Laws: Impacts of Pesticide Regulation on Farmworker Health” at the National Farmworker Law Conference, National Legal Aid and Defender Association.



*Laurie Beyranevand and Lihlani Nelson with CAFS Summer Honors Interns Olivia Guana and Tessa Pulaski and Maya Reiter from Farmworker Justice at the National Farmworker Law Conference.*

Fran Miller presented “Urban Agriculture Policy: Research, Findings, and Listening Session” at the Black Farmers and Urban Gardeners National Conference (BUGS).

November 2022

Fran Miller presented “Understanding Heirs’ Property at the Community Level” as part of a three-part training for land-grant university extension agents by the Southern Rural Development Center and the Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers Policy Research Center at Alcorn State University. The training repeated in February and July 2023 in various locations.

December 2022

Fran Miller presented and co-hosted the webinar “Expanding Ownership: Shared Ownership Models to Increase Access to Housing and Farmland” at Vital Communities.

Fran Miller presented “Heirs’ Property and the Legal Impact Upon American Farmers” with Mavis Gragg, Kirstin Nelson, and Lynn Kaiser to the USDA Office of General Counsel.

Andrew Marchev presented “Employment Law for VT Maple Producers” at the Vermont Maple Conference.

February 2023

Andrew Marchev presented “Hosting a Food Focused Event: The Legal Side of a Delicious Activity” at the Legal Food Hub Webinar Series.

March 2023

Fran Miller presented “Review of Farmland Access Legal Toolkit” to the Land Ethic Mentorship Program for Historically Underserved Farmers & Ranchers at Sand County Foundation.

Laurie Beyranevand joined an Association of Gleaning Organizations coffee chat to speak about managing liability, employee/volunteer designation, and tax law regarding deductions.

Genevieve Byrne presented “Energy Regulation and Consumption in the Cannabis Industry” at the Cannabis and the Law Conference. Andrew Marchev moderated panels. Ben Varadi moderated panels and gave closing remarks.

Lihlani Nelson and Wendy Chen presented “Market Rules and Procedures as a Risk Management Tool” at the Market Manager Certification Training Program hosted by the Virginia Farmers Market Association (VAFMA).

April 2023

Andrew Marchev presented “Helping Vermont Clients Choose a Business Entity” for the Vermont Bar Association’s continuing legal education.

Andrew Marchev presented “The Basics of Business Entities for Farmers, Legal and Practical Considerations” at a University of Vermont Agricultural Extension event.

Andrew Marchev presented “Food Safety Law Basics for Craft Malt” at Craft Maltsters Guild Monthly.

# EVENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

## CAFS ALUMNI NEWSFEED

### During the past year...

**JEFF DIAMOND MFALP'23** began a position as Operations Coordinator at Minnesota Farmers Union.

**BECCA GREDONE JD'22** is now Legal Analyst at Nourish Colorado, where she started as a legal extern while at VLGS.

**MICHAELA KOKE MELP'18** is now Manager of Candidates and Partnerships at Climate Breakthrough.

**EMILY SUTTON HICKEY MFALP'22** is now Associate Director of Food Systems at Pasa Sustainable Agriculture.

**TIA SCHWAB MFALP'22** began a position as Policy Advisor in the New York City Mayor's Office of Food Policy.

**MAX DE FARIA MFALP'22** has a new position as the Rhode Island Food Policy Council's Senior Program Associate, Food Access & Nutrition Security.

## FEATURED PRESENTATION

**“Despite the many moves in the right direction, the failure to coordinate across government hampers our ability to make significant progress, address and plan for challenges, disasters, and national security events before they occur. These disparate strategies add to an already fragmented set of laws and policies administered by agencies across government that are both impacted by and impact the food system.”**

– **Laurie Beyranevand** gave a keynote address at the Hunger as a Weapon Policy Dialogue, held by the [Global and National Security Institute](#).



May 2023

Laurie Beyranevand presented “The State of Prison Food in New England: A Survey of Federal and State Policy” at Northeast Farm to Institution Summit.

Laurie Beyranevand presented a keynote speech, “The Need to Address Hunger and Nutrition Security Holistically for Safety, Resilience, and Prosperity,” at the Hunger as a Weapon of War Summit hosted by the Global and National Security Institute at the University of South Florida.

Claire Child presented “Honing Your Skills: Updates to Legal and Policy Resources for Gleaners” at the International Gleaning Symposium.

June 2023

Lihlani Nelson was a panelist at “Knowing Our Food System: Resources, Lessons Learned, and Equity Considerations for Building Food System Resilience” at Knowing Food: 2023 Conference of the Association for the Study of Food and Society (ASFS) and the Agriculture, Food & Human Values Society (AFHVS).



*Lihlani Nelson and fellow panelists at Knowing Food*

July 2023

Fran Miller participated in the “Land and Water Roundtable” hosted by the Rural Reconciliation Project.

Summer Honors Intern Callum LaFrance attended the 1890 University Strategy Meeting with USDA. CAFS and the Food Law and Policy Clinic at Harvard Law School together played a supporting role for the Policy Center for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers at Alcorn State University, helping facilitate breakout sessions.

August 2023

Fran Miller was a panelist on “Translating Research into Action and Policy” and “Engaging with Law and Policy” at the Rural Sociological Society 2023 Conference.



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