



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

# YEAR IN REVIEW

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS | FALL 2021–SUMMER 2022



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

Based at Vermont Law and Graduate School (VLGS), the Center for Agriculture and Food Systems (CAFS) addresses food system challenges related to food justice, food security, farmland access, farmworkers' rights, animal welfare, worker protections, the environment, and public health, among others. CAFS works closely with local, regional, national, and international partners to provide legal services that respond to their needs and develops resources that empower the communities they serve. Students at VLGS work directly on CAFS projects alongside partners nationwide, engaging in innovative work that spans the food system.

The past year brought exciting changes to our community. Vermont Law School expanded to become Vermont Law and Graduate School, introducing a new Vermont School for the Environment (VSE): home to an interdisciplinary graduate curriculum that brings climate change and environmental justice to the forefront. As part of this new school, CAFS has continued to expand our work in food and agricultural law and policy, emphasizing its intersectionality with climate and social justice issues. Ahead, read about the new resources we've developed, the faculty and fellows who have joined the team, our students' work, and the food system partners we've supported through legal and policy services. As always, be sure to follow us @CAFScenter on social media or visit [vermontlaw.edu/cafs](https://vermontlaw.edu/cafs) to learn more.



# NEW RESOURCES & REPORTS

## FEATURED REPORT

### Exposed and at Risk

#### OPPORTUNITIES TO STRENGTHEN ENFORCEMENT OF PESTICIDE REGULATION FOR FARMWORKER SAFETY

CAFS launched the Food System Worker Law and Policy Project in 2021 with research focused on farmworkers, who—despite forming the backbone of a trillion-dollar industry in the US—face a level of occupational risk unrivaled by most workers. From repeated exposure to pesticides and extreme heat, to injuries from machinery and repetitive motion, American farms are some of the most dangerous places to work. Meanwhile, a lack of access to healthcare and legal services, low wages, wage theft, marginalization, language barriers, racism, and the threat of deportation among these largely immigrant communities compound their many challenges.

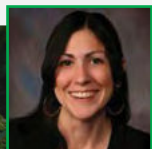
This latest report from the project team—authored by CAFS Summer Honors Intern Olivia Guarna and released in partnership with national advocacy organization [Farmworker Justice](#) in summer 2022—analyzes the regulatory structure currently being used to protect farmworkers from pesticides in agriculture through extensive research, interviews, and stories from the field. It documents an extremely complex system of pesticide enforcement and illustrates how the cooperative agreement between federal and state agencies makes it nearly impossible to ensure implementation of the federal Worker Protection Standard. View the report at [vermontlaw.edu/pesticide-enforcement](https://vermontlaw.edu/pesticide-enforcement).



## CAFS IN THE NEWS

“While many suggest that the food system will suffer dire consequences if farmers are limited in their ability to use pesticides, that represents a false narrative.”

- Director **Laurie Beyranevand** spoke with *Popular Science* about dangerous gaps in pesticide protections for farmworkers.





## FEATURED REPORT

## Rethinking Manure Biogas

### POLICY CONSIDERATIONS TO PROMOTE EQUITY AND PROTECT THE CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT

Anaerobic digesters can capture greenhouse gas emissions from livestock manure and transform it into biogas. But is this technology the win-win climate solution it's cracked up to be? A joint report from CAFS and the VLGS Environmental Justice Clinic grapples with the unaddressed effects of manure biogas: from direct environmental justice impacts, to the proliferation of an industrial animal agriculture system that is dependent on manure production. Author and Environmental Justice Clinic Staff Attorney Ruthie Lazenby critiques the existing policy structure that incentivizes manure biogas operations, highlights alternative methods of capturing livestock emissions, and makes recommendations for policymakers. View the report at [vermontlaw.edu/biogas](https://vermontlaw.edu/biogas).



### CAFS IN THE NEWS

**“We’re at a moment that demands bold action on climate. When you dig into the details, it’s far less clear that biogas is actually a win for the climate.”**

Staff attorney **Ruthie Lazenby** weighed in for *Reuters* about the debate over the climate benefits of biogas.



### FEATURED REPORT

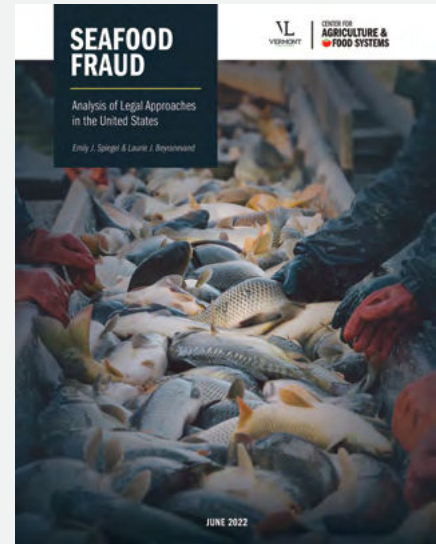
## Seafood Fraud

### ANALYSIS OF LEGAL APPROACHES IN THE UNITED STATES

The seafood you're eating may not be what you think. Studies have shown that in the United States, between 16 and 75 percent of all seafood is mislabeled. But who's actually responsible for regulating it?

There is no one overarching authority regulating the seafood industry in the U.S. Instead, a patchwork of laws, regulations, and government bodies attempt to stem the flow of fraudulent seafood. This piecemeal approach combines measures of transparency and traceability, food safety, and consumer protection together, leaving significant gaps in oversight.

Authored by CAFS Professor Emily J. Spiegel and Director Laurie J. Beyranevand, this new report provides a comprehensive review of how seafood authenticity is regulated in the United States, analyzing key laws, regulations, and programs that inform seafood policy. Examining both the benefits and drawbacks of a piecemeal approach to regulation, it offers recommendations for domestic and international policymakers to improve prevention and detection, enforcement, and supply chain management. View the report at [vermontlaw.edu/seafood-fraud](https://vermontlaw.edu/seafood-fraud).



### CAFS IN THE NEWS

**“ Technological advances have made increased traceability and better testing of seafood products more enriched than they have been for a long time. In the next few years, we might see some really meaningful action.”**

- Professor **Emily Spiegel** spoke with *Food Print* for an article about the findings of the Seafood Fraud report.



## ADDRESSING CONSOLIDATION IN AGRICULTURE

In 2021, Biden issued an Executive Order directing federal agencies including USDA to review rules and establish policies to advance competition within US industries—including agriculture. This issue brief by Hannah Andrew JD'22 outlines how USDA has responded to the order a year later, what's changed for American farmers, and what further changes could be coming.

» [Read the report](#)

## A WORKING GUIDE TO CURRENT USE TAXATION FOR AGRICULTURAL LANDS

“Current use” programs—which allow farmers to pay taxes on land at agricultural value rather than the value assessed for other uses—are an important tool for farmland preservation. But the concept of current use can be tricky to understand, and policies are not consistent across the country. This guide, written by VLGS Adjunct Professor Jess Phelps, explains current use and includes a handy chart outlining how rules vary between states.

» [View the guide](#)

## DEFINING LOCAL FOOD: AN ANALYSIS OF STATE APPROACHES AND CHALLENGES

“Local” is often used to describe food in both the law and the marketplace, but the term remains largely undefined—and that vagueness can make it difficult to meet local food-related policy goals and evaluate impacts. This report, written by Lisa McKeag MFALP'20 and Sophia Kruszewski JD'13, examines the term “local” from a legal perspective, drawing from a nationwide scan of state policies to compare definitions.

» [Read the report](#)

## FARMERS MARKET LEGAL TOOLKIT: FAQ ABOUT INSURANCE AND LIABILITY

In partnership with the [Farmers Market Coalition](#) and the [Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont](#), CAFS created [farmersmarketlegaltoolkit.org](#)—a site that supports farmers market managers with open-source legal tools. A new FAQ developed by Food and Agriculture Clinic student clinician Jasmine Armstrong JD'21 outlines liability and insurance issues for farmers markets that shifted their operations during COVID-19.

» [Read the FAQ](#)

## FOOD AND AGRICULTURE LAW AND POLICY RESEARCH GUIDE

This new online research guide by Environmental Law Librarian Christine Ryan features free, open-access resources related to food and agriculture law and policy. Students, attorneys, farmers, extension professionals, and others conducting food and agriculture research can use it to find helpful sources.

» [View the resource](#)

## NATIONAL GLEANING PROJECT (NGP): GLEANING CENSUS AND COMMUNITY RESOURCE LIBRARY

The National Gleaning Project—available at [nationalgleaningproject.org](#)—offers information on national and state laws and regulations pertaining to food gleaning, food recovery, and food donation; an interactive map of gleaning and food recovery organizations across the country; and other resources. Led by CAFS Assistant Director Claire Child, NGP published the 2020 Gleaning Census in partnership with the [Association of Gleaning Organizations](#) in fall 2021. In spring 2022, the project added a [Community Resource Library](#) for gleaners and others to access resources shared by members of the community, such as sample handbooks, waivers, and more.





FEATURED RESOURCE

## Healthy Food Policy Project



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.

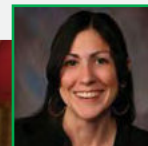
Led by CAFS Associate Director Lihlani Nelson, the project added the following resources to the site in the past year:

- [Growing Food Where You Live](#), which focuses on opportunities for—and challenges to—growing food for people who rent their homes, lease the land they live on, or live in common interest communities.
- [Towards Equitable and Just Food Systems: Exploring Food Justice, Food Sovereignty, and Ending Food Apartheid Policy & Practice](#), which delves into terms and frameworks for discussing equitable food systems. Designed for anyone from consumers to policymakers, it aims to encourage reflection, wider understanding, and discussion on the ways in which food equity terms are used in policy.
- [Local Planning and the Food System](#), which discusses how planners can use existing and innovative tools to support and build local and regional food systems with a goal of increasing access to healthy food, while presenting potential gaps and opportunities for improvement.
- [Policy Drafting Companion Guide to Promote Equity and Healthy Food](#), which includes an introduction to common elements of laws and policy drafting, shares examples of how these elements can be used to support local healthy food access, and recommends policy drafting practices. It also highlights the importance of advancing racial and health equity in all policies and gives examples of racial equity policy tools from across the country.

### CAFS IN THE NEWS

“Proactive zoning measures are going to be the thing that moves the needle going forward, so you don’t have these sprawling cities where people are just throwing up big retail centers all over the place and then in five years abandoning them...and suddenly you have all these empty storefronts.”

- Director **Laurie Beyranevand** discussed restrictive grocery covenants and their implications for healthy food access in [\*The Counter\*](#).



## FEATURED RESOURCE

## Labels Unwrapped

### ISSUE BRIEFS

Led by CAFS Director Laurie Beyranevand and available at [labelsunwrapped.org](https://labelsunwrapped.org), CAFS's user-friendly online resource breaks down the law of food labels using a series of interactive illustrated labels spanning different product categories. The site also includes a series of issue briefs related to pressing and controversial labeling topics. New briefs from this past year include [“Is ‘Organic’ Humane?: The Relationship Between Animal Welfare and USDA Organic”](#) (authored by Ashely Monti JD’22), which grapples with the limits of existing federal laws around animal welfare; and [“What is Local Food?”](#) (authored by Margaret Rossano JD’22), which focuses on the current legal and policy context of the term “local.”



### CAFS IN THE NEWS

“If we have students in law school who feel like it’s absurd that they are taking this class to learn about food labels, then maybe we should make the laws more accessible.”



- Director **Laurie Beyranevand** spoke with *Vox* about the motivation behind Labels Unwrapped.



### REORGANIZING A FARM BUSINESS WITH CHAPTER 12 OF THE BANKRUPTCY CODE

Chapter 12 bankruptcy is intended to keep farms in operation. It allows farms to restructure burdensome debt, change production models, or even transfer to a new generation. This guide by Gordon Merrick JD'20 outlines how it works, with the aim of helping farmers—and attorneys working with them—understand Chapter 12's potential to save and transform a business.

» [View the guide](#)

### STATE FARM TO SCHOOL POLICY HANDBOOK

In 2021, CAFS and the [National Farm to School Network](#) released this policy handbook summarizing and analyzing farm to school policies across the country. Users can search bills by both jurisdiction and topic, read case studies on successful farm to school advocacy efforts, explore legislation that can advance racial equity, and more.

» [Read the handbook](#)

### CAFS IN THE NEWS

**“Farm to school has grown and grown, and it's become a big presence on Capitol Hill.”**

- Associate Director **Lihlani Nelson** spoke with [Civil Eats](#) about the State Farm to School Policy Handbook.



### UNDERSTANDING FSMA'S PREVENTIVE CONTROLS RULE: A GUIDE FOR GRAIN BUSINESSES

CAFS's Food and Agriculture Clinic partnered with the Artisan Grain Collaborative to publish this guide breaking down complicated federal food safety regulations related to the Food Safety Modernization Act's (FSMA's) Preventive Controls for Human Food Rule. The guide can help grain businesses determine if and how the rule applies to them.

» [View the guide](#)

## CAFS Weighs In

Faculty, staff, and students penned opinion pieces in major outlets on some of the past year's most pressing issues in food and agriculture.

**“Decades of research shows that the collateral consequences of felony drug convictions, including lack of access to nutrition assistance, make it much harder for people to reenter society and therefore contribute to systemic inequity.”**

- CAFS Assistant Director **Claire Child** and VLGS Professor **Stephanie Clark** co-wrote a piece in [Civil Eats](#) highlighting the harms of a lifetime ban on SNAP for felony drug convictions, based on their article “SNAP Judgments,” published in January in the *Berkeley Journal of Criminal Law*.

**“By implementing workplace protections in key industries like meatpacking, OSHA now has the chance to address the disproportionate impact of health hazards and promote racial equity in industries employing BIPOC workers long left unprotected due to the nonexistence of binding regulatory standards.”**

- CAFS Director **Laurie Beyranevand** penned an op-ed in [Truthout](#) about how the most marginalized food system workers face disproportionate hazards in the workplace.

**“From backing policies that strengthen slaughterhouse access, to carefully choosing how and where to spend money on meat, support for small-scale and organic meat producers is crucial.”**

- CAFS Food and Agriculture Clinic student **Carrie Pezzuti** co-wrote an op-ed for [Food Tank](#)—with **Laetitia Benador** of California Certified Organic Farmers—based on her Food and Agriculture Clinic work bolstering slaughterhouse access for small farmers.

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





# PEOPLE

## Welcome, New Faculty!

CAFS IS THRILLED TO WELCOME TWO NEW FACULTY MEMBERS CONTRIBUTING TO OUR CURRICULUM.



**CHRISTINE RYAN**

Associate Professor of Law

As an associate professor of law and the environmental law librarian at VLGS,

**Christine Ryan** teaches Advanced Environmental Legal Research as well as individualized environmental and food and agriculture law research sessions and workshops. Christine created—and continues to expand—the VLGS Environmental Law Research Sources database, as well as the Food and Agriculture Law and Policy Research Guide. Prior to her years at VLGS, Christine was a librarian at Dartmouth College and at Yale University, where she also taught research classes.



**BENJAMIN VARADI**

Assistant Professor of Law

**Benjamin Varadi** joined the faculty of Vermont Law and Graduate School as an assistant professor, and will teach Cannabis Law and Local Farm and Food Law as part of the food and agricultural law and policy curriculum. His research focuses on social equity regulation in the cannabis industry. Prior to joining VLGS, he was an attorney in private practice, primarily representing cannabis entrepreneurs as well as leaders in other emerging industries, regulated vices, and cultural outskirts. He holds a JD from Tulane University Law School and a BA in social technology from Burlington College.

## Welcome, Fellows!

CAFS SUPPORTS FELLOWS ACROSS SEVERAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS AT VLGS. THEIR WORK HIGHLIGHTS THE INTERSECTIONALITY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES.



**ANDREW MARCHEV**

Legal Food Hub Fellow

Hailing from Oaxaca, Mexico, by way of Brattleboro, Vermont, Andrew Marchev JD'18 has worked both as a farmer and as a practicing attorney. He earned a JD from VLGS in 2018 and has since assisted farmers in lease negotiations, farm transitions, estate planning, business entity formation, and more. He is helping to run and develop resources for attorneys in the Legal Food Hub, a joint project of CAFS and Conservation Law Foundation.



**MARNIE AVILA ALVAREZ**

Institute for Energy and the Environment (IEE) LLM Fellow

Originally from Cuba, Marnie Avila Alvarez earned her law degree from the Havana University Faculty of Law in 2014. Since graduating, she has focused on international commercial law and foreign investment. While earning her LLM at VLGS she is working on CAFS and the IEE's [Farm and Energy Initiative](#), authoring a forthcoming report entitled "Encouraging Beneficial Electrification in Agriculture."



**FREDRICK OLE IKAYO**

Environmental Justice LLM Fellow

Fredrick holds a Bachelor of Laws degree from Tumaini University Makumira (Tanzania) and a Diploma of Law from Mount Kenya University (Kenya). He previously worked with a law firm in Arusha, and ALAPA, an NGO advocating for indigenous pastoralist rights and hunter-gatherer communities. While earning his LLM at VLGS he is focusing on a project related to the right to food, comparing international frameworks to those in the United States.



## Summer Visitors



### EMILY M. BROAD LEIB

Distinguished Summer Scholar in Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems

As a clinical professor and director of the Food Law and Policy Clinic of the Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation at Harvard Law School, Professor Broad Leib founded the first law school clinic in the nation devoted to providing clients with legal and policy solutions to address the health, economic, and environmental challenges facing our food system. During her visit to VLGS she delivered “A Recipe for Sustainability: Global Best Practices to Combat Food Waste and Food Insecurity” as part of VLGS’s Hot Topics in Environmental Law lecture series; a recording is available on [VLGS’s YouTube page](#).



### LEAH DOUGLAS

Environmental Law Media Fellow

The agriculture and energy policy reporter at Reuters, Leah Douglas attended VLGS’s 2022 Summer Session as a media fellow. Leah specializes in data and investigative reporting into the business and politics of the food system. Leah was previously a reporter and associate editor at the Food and Environment Reporting Network, where they won multiple awards for in-depth reporting of big issues in U.S. agriculture, including COVID’s outsized impact on U.S. food workers. During two weeks at VLGS, they attended the course Environmental Crimes and delivered a lecture to the community titled, “From RFS to CCS: Can Ethanol Become More Climate-Friendly?” Watch a recording of the lecture on [VLGS’s YouTube page](#).

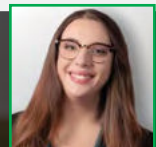
## Cydnee Bence Joins PETA

After two years working as CAFS’s LLM fellow, Cydnee Bence JD’20/LLM’22 has moved on to a legal fellowship in the Animal Law Division of the PETA Foundation. During her time at CAFS she worked on several projects, including extensive contributions to Labels Unwrapped; a partnership with the [Socially Responsible Agriculture Project](#) analyzing how state legislatures have either expanded or limited communities’ abilities to protect themselves from the negative consequences of Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs); and an article on animal “pseudo-sanctuaries” published in the Vermont Law Review. Now, she’ll be providing legal research and support for PETA’s various legal challenges and regulatory efforts. She has also joined the adjunct faculty at VLGS to teach Introduction to Agriculture and Food Law and Policy.

### CAFS IN THE NEWS

“People expect that a sanctuary is a nonprofit and is actually operating responsibly and for the animals’ benefit, [but] animal exhibition is very much not transparent.”

- LLM Fellow **Cydnee Bence** spoke with [Sentient Media](#) about the rise of pseudo-sanctuaries.





# STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

## SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

### Meet the Summer Honors Interns

Six law students from across the US joined CAFS for the Summer Honors Internship in 2022. As part of this competitive annual program, interns contribute to CAFS projects while attending seminars on research, ethics, and legal design; networking with food system practitioners; and attending stakeholder interviews and meetings. Learn more about the work they completed with organizations such as [Farmworker Justice](#) and [Farm Aid](#) at [vermontlaw.edu/blog/food-and-agriculture/meet-the-2022-interns](https://vermontlaw.edu/blog/food-and-agriculture/meet-the-2022-interns).



Clockwise, from top left: Elena Chang of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa; Emily Lovell of the University of California Irvine School of Law; Olivia Guarna of New York University School of Law; Molly Carey of Vermont Law and Graduate School; Shaune Hickson of the Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University; Veronica Gassert of Vermont Law and Graduate School

## Food and Agriculture Clinic

At one of the few law school clinics in the US exclusively devoted to the food system, Vermont Law and Graduate School JD, LLM, and master's students work under the close supervision of licensed attorneys on practical projects with real-world implications. During the 2021–2022 academic year, seven students worked in the clinic alongside CAFS partners such as the [National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition](#), [Socially Disadvantaged Farmer and Rancher Policy Center](#) at Alcorn State University, and [Farm Aid](#).



**“As a clinician I worked with urban farmers and gardeners throughout the country to develop policy recommendations. I appreciate that this project’s process created room for conversations with—and input from—those who will be directly impacted by this policy. I feel grateful for the opportunity to be a **mouthpiece for those working to create a more resilient food system.**”**

- Shelby Kalm MFALP '22



### Research Assistant Program

More than twenty Vermont Law and Graduate School students held work-study positions with CAFS throughout the year, helping with data entry and management, communications, research, and writing. For example, Emily Sutton Hickey MFALP'22 helped CAFS with project outreach and beta testing.

“As an online Master of Food and Agriculture Law and Policy student, working with CAFS staff and projects helped me hone in on how I can **make a difference in food and agriculture**. I can't wait to keep connected with CAFS throughout my career and see what change we can accomplish.”

- Emily Sutton Hickey MFALP '22

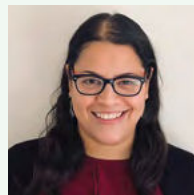
### Independent Research Projects

Students who are interested in diving into a specific area of research can work on an independent project under CAFS faculty supervision. In many cases, they are able to publish their work. For example, this spring, Suzanne Kelley MFALP'22 researched the federal definition of the word “healthy” on food labels and packaging for an upcoming Labels Unwrapped brief.

“It was enlightening to learn about the multi-layered way federal agencies define and regulate the use of certain terms, and how those terms then influence industry and consumers. Doing this IRP was a great way to **put into practice many of the skills and concepts** I was learning in my Master of Food and Agriculture Law and Policy classes.”

- Suzanne Kelley MFALP '22

### New Summer Courses



This summer CAFS hosted **Iris Figueroa**, former director of economic and environmental justice at advocacy organization Farmworker Justice, who taught a new course on **Farmworkers and the Law**. The course focused on farmworkers' current living and working conditions and the history of their exclusion from key laws and regulations, as well as tools and strategies used by farmworker advocates at both the state and federal level.



Another new course on **Cannabis Law**, taught by Professor **Benjamin Varadi**, surveyed historical and policy considerations related to cannabis regulation and enforcement, explored the current and anticipated regulatory landscapes, and integrated considerations of note to practitioners in the rapidly developing field.





# VT LEGAL FOOD HUB

## Strengthening Vermont's Food System Through Pro Bono Legal Aid

In January, CAFS celebrated two years of running the [Vermont Legal Food Hub](#) in partnership with the [Conservation Law Foundation](#). The hub connects income-eligible farmers, food entrepreneurs, and related organizations with attorneys willing to provide free legal assistance. Students, faculty, and staff in CAFS's [Food and Agriculture Clinic](#) field requests from Vermont's farm and food community and place cases with local attorneys in the network. In its first two years, the hub helped participants save more than \$100,000 in legal fees, leveraging more than 470 hours of pro bono legal services.

### HUB HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PAST YEAR INCLUDE:



#### Supporting a women-led, Latinx food collective

Viva El Sabor is a Vermont-based collective founded by cooks from Mexico and Guatemala. As the group started getting requests for catering gigs, members contacted the Vermont Legal Food Hub for an attorney's guidance. They received help with several legal aspects of business development—from filing an LLC with the Secretary of State, to drafting an operating agreement outlining the roles of the owner and others involved in operating the business.



#### Building a local tree nut value chain

Vermont Tree Nut Processors, LLC aims to grow the market for locally produced tree nut products by providing shared processing equipment for producers—and ultimately, to build food sovereignty in the state. The company consulted the Vermont Legal Food Hub for help gathering information about the best business structure to form, and then creating the legal documents needed to implement it. The hub placed the case in CAFS's Food and Agriculture Clinic, where a student worked on it under close supervision of licensed attorneys.



#### Boosting restaurant resilience during COVID-19

As the pandemic forced restaurant closures in late 2021, local nonprofit Vital Communities sought to support food purveyors by organizing a cooperative delivery system. One of their biggest obstacles was figuring out what type of legal entity to form, so the organization reached out to the Legal Food Hub for help setting up an LLC so they could quickly launch. Now a consumer cooperative, Upper Valley Eateries and Retail is connecting locals with delivery from nearby restaurants.

### GET INVOLVED

The hub is currently recruiting additional attorneys and accepting applications for legal assistance. For more information, visit [legalfoodhub.org](https://legalfoodhub.org) or contact Whitney Shields, program coordinator, at [legalhub@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:legalhub@vermontlaw.edu).



# PRESENTATIONS AND EVENTS

October 2021

Director Laurie Beyranevand presented on the panel **“Protecting Farmworkers from Climate-Related Illness Through State Policy and Market Based Initiatives”** at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting.

November 2021

Senior Staff Attorney and Adjunct Professor Francine Miller presented at the Women, Food and Agriculture Network 2021 Conference, **“Radical Collaborations for Land Access.”**

Legal Food Hub Fellow Gordon Merrick organized the panel **“Payment for Ecosystem Services: The Next Revolution in Conservation and Economics?”** at the Agricultural Law Educational Symposium, American Agricultural Law Association, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Francine Miller presented at the Network Gathering **“Land Access Collaborations,”** hosted by Vermont Farm to Plate.

Laurie Beyranevand presented on the panel **“From Essentially Unprotected to Essential and Protected: How the Law Can Prioritize Farmworker Health”** at the It Takes a Region Conference, hosted by the Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Working Group.

Laurie Beyranevand moderated a panel entitled **“The War on Abortion Drugs: Unequal Access to Medical Abortion”** at The Path Forward: Seeking Racial Equity in Food and Drug Law event, hosted by the Food and Drug Law Journal.

January 2022

Laurie Beyranevand presented at **“Advancing Equity Through Food and Nutrition,”** a USDA National Agricultural Library virtual event.

Project Manager Whitney Shields co-facilitated **“The Role of Racial Equity in SNAP-Ed Part 2: Authentic Resident Engagement as a Model to Advance Equity,”** hosted by SNAP-Ed Toolkit.

February 2022

Alumni Alyssa Hartman MFALP’19 and Margaret Rossano MFALP’21 presented on the new CAFS resource **“Understanding FSMA’s Preventative Controls Rule: A Guide for Grain Businesses”** at the Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service (MOSES) conference.

Whitney Shields moderated **“Labeling Your Food Product,”** a virtual webinar organized by the Legal Food Hub.

Professor Emily Spiegel presented **“Farmers Market Legal Toolkit: Managing Risks”** during the Farmers’ Market Virtual Workshops, “From the Land of Kansas.”

March 2022

Francine Miller presented **“White River Land Collaborative: One Case Study of an Alternative Land Access Model”** at the NOFA-VT Winter Conference.

Francine Miller presented **“Consideraciones Legales y Comerciales para Acceso a Tierras de Cultivo”/“Legal and Commercial Considerations for Access to Farmland,”** at the EcoFarm Conference.

Associate Director Lihlani Nelson presented **“Policy Tools to Increase Access to Healthy Food”** during “Birth & Beyond: Advancing Equity, Nutrition, and Food Security,” a National Agricultural Library virtual event.

Lihlani Nelson and Legal Food Hub Fellow Andrew Marchev presented **“The Farmers Market Legal Toolkit”** at the Vermont Farmers Market Association Conference.

Laurie Beyranevand spoke on the panel **“Technology and Innovation: Can it Improve Both Food Safety and Food Access?”** at the Food and Dietary Supplement Safety and Regulation Conference, hosted by the Food and Drug Law Institute.





## PRESENTATIONS AND EVENTS

April 2022

CAFS co-sponsored a **Pollinator Protection Conference** with VLGS's student-run Food and Agriculture Law Society. The three-day event included panels on pollinator science; government, policy and law; issues impacting pollinators in Vermont; and a keynote speech from Vermont beekeeper James Key.

Laurie Beyranevand spoke on the panel **"Addressing Food, Water, & Air Pollution Through Health Law,"** at the Health Law & Policy Brief Symposium - Health Law and Environmental Justice, hosted by the American University Washington College of Law.

May 2022

Lihlani Nelson presented **"Pesticide Exposure and Farmworker Health"** at the Environmental Justice Symposium, hosted by Farmworker Justice.

Professor Ben Varadi presented **"Potential Structures to Create Social Equity in the Cannabis Industry"** at a Food and Drug Law Institute virtual event.

July 2022

Francine Miller presented (with Mavis Gragg and Kirstin Nelson moderating) **"Black Land Matters: Advancing Justice by Mitigating Generational Land Loss"** at AALL 2022: Advancing Justice for All, hosted by the American Association of Law Libraries.

Francine Miller attended a **strategy meeting** between 1980 Land Grant Universities and USDA Officials, hosted by the Policy Research Center for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers at Alcorn State University and Southern University. With others (including staff from the Harvard Law School Food Law and Policy Clinic), she provided support to the Policy Center, facilitating breakout groups and drafting documents.

August 2022

Francine Miller was a panelist at **"From Soil Test to Grave: Farmland Access, Ownership, Easements, and Estate Planning"** during the Southern Family Farmers and Food Systems Conference, hosted by the Farm & Ranch Freedom Alliance.



### CAFS ALUMNI NEWSFEED

#### During the past year...

**ESTHER AKWII LLM'20** joined the Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment as legal researcher. **CYDNEE BENCE JD'20/LLM'22** started a legal fellowship in the Animal Law Division of the PETA Foundation. **SUHASINI GHOSH JD'21** was hired by Conservation Law Foundation as the Charlotte E. Ray Fellow. **MAX DE FARIA MFALP'22** completed a summer internship at Harvard Law School's Food Law and Policy Clinic and was appointed to the Congressional Hunger Center's Alumni Council. **SOPHIA KRUSZEWSKI JD'13** joined the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition as deputy director of policy. **GORDON MERRICK JD'20** is the new policy and programs manager at the Organic Farming Research Foundation. **RENEE SMITH NICKELSON MFALP'17** is now a policy associate at the Plant Based Foods Association. **CARRIE PEZZUTI MFALP'21** joined Environmental Working Group as a business development associate. **MARGARET ROSSANO MFALP'21** was hired by California Land Link as senior program associate. **LAUREN WUSTENBERG JD/MFALP'21** joined Senator Debbie Stabenow's staff as full counsel with the US Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

### CONNECT

Want to stay in touch and network with CAFS alumni?

Join the Food and Agriculture Law and Policy Network on [LinkedIn](#).





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