

EENR Mini-Course: Food, Agriculture, and the Environment

Text: Food, Agriculture, and Environmental Law by Mary Jane Angelo, Jason J. Czarnecki, and William S. Eubanks II (Environmental Law Institute 2013). ISBN 978-1-58576-160-9

Course Overview: This course offers an overview of the historical, legal, and policy framework for food and agriculture in the United States. Agricultural and food laws and regulations play a vital role in determining health outcomes for our nation and the level of environmental impact to shared natural resources such as air, water, soil, and biodiversity. The course discusses federal environmental statutes in the context of food and agricultural production and provides an introduction to the U.S. Farm Bill, pesticides, farmed animal welfare, genetically modified foods, food access, food safety, and labeling schemes.

Class Topics and Readings:

May 14-Course Overview and Introduction to the Farm Bill

Readings: Chapters 1 and 2

May 15- Environmental Impacts of Fertilizers and Pesticides

Readings: Chapters 3 and 8

May 16- Agriculture and the Clean Water Act

Readings: Chapters 4 and 9

May 17- Agriculture, Climate Impacts, and the Clean Air Act

Readings: Chapters 7 and 10

May 18- Documentary: King Corn

Readings: Mary Jane Angelo, *Corn, Carbon, and Conservation: Rethinking U.S. Agricultural Policy in a Changing Global Environment*, 17 Geo. Mason L. Rev. 593 (2010).

May 21- Agriculture, the Endangered Species Act, and the National Environmental Protection Act

Readings: Chapters 11 and 12

May 22- Animal Agriculture and GMOs

Readings: Chapters 5

May 23-Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)

Readings: Chapter 6

May 24-Food Justice Issues: Nutrition, Access, and Safety

Readings: Chapter 13

May 25-Documentary (Food Inc. (<http://watchdocumentaries.com/food-inc/>) or Food Chains (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6vw-qTCW8fo>))

May 28-Memorial Day; No Class

May 29 Food Labeling Schemes

Readings: Chapter 17

May 30-Field Trip to Plant-it-forward (Tentative)

May 31- Sustainable Agriculture and the Future of Farming
Readings: Chapters 14, 15, and 18

June 1-Exam Review

June 2-24 Hour Take-Home Exam