



The National Agricultural Law Center

# Quarterly Newsletter

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## First Quarter 2025



The Nation's Leading Source of  
Agricultural and Food Law  
Research and Information

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the NALC?  
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Greetings,

The first quarter of 2025 is already behind us, and we appreciate your continued interest in the National Agricultural Law Center. As always, it's a privilege to share recent and upcoming developments with you.

Happy Birthday to the National Agricultural Law Center! Congress created the NALC in late 1987, appropriating funding for "an independent national center for agricultural law research and information". In April 1988, the very first USDA Cooperative Agreement that provided funding for the NALC was officially executed. Today, the NALC is the only institution of its kind in the nation, serving as the nation's leading source of objective, nonpartisan agricultural and food law research and information. We proudly serve producers, agribusinesses, policymakers, attorneys, and industry groups (among others!) across the country.

A huge thank you to Frank Howell and the **Delta Council** team for organizing the first annual "Squirrel Hunting Event in the Mississippi Delta" fundraiser "in honor of the National Agricultural Law Center and the work they do on behalf of rural America." The event raised over \$25,000 and was a fantastic experience for all involved — including "Bo" the squirrel dog, who's already eager for a return trip! We'll recognize the generous supporters at the 12th Annual Mid-South Agricultural & Environmental Law Conference in June.

We are grateful to the **National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA)** and the **NASDA Foundation** for their ongoing collaboration. Together, we're co-hosting two major events this summer:

- **12th Annual Mid-South Agricultural & Environmental Law Conference** | June 5-6 | Memphis, TN ("Early Bird" online event May 14)
- **3rd Annual Western Water, Ag, & Environmental Law Conference** | June 19-20 | Reno, NV (Hotel block deadline: May 28)

Special thanks to **Peoples Company** and **Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation** for generously sponsoring the "12th Annual Mid-South". Peoples Company is sponsoring the "Beer & BBQ" at **Charlie Vergos Rendezvous** on the evening of June 5, and MSFB is sponsoring breakfast and lunch on June 6. More details are available on our **Educational Opportunities & Conferences** page.

A special note: The **2025 NASDA Annual Meeting** will be held in Arkansas this September, thanks to **Arkansas Department of Agriculture** Secretary Wes Ward serving as NASDA President. It's always a top-tier event, and we encourage your participation.

Our next webinar is on April 16, featuring Bob Mikell, Executive Vice-President & General Counsel of **AgSouth Farm Credit**. He will discuss "**Distressed Loan Servicing and Borrower Rights in the Farm Credit System**." This is especially valuable for Farm Credit borrowers and those working in the sector. Additionally, I hope you'll take a moment to read about the other outstanding webinars we held in the first quarter, all of which are archived and freely available.

Our **National Stakeholder Survey** closes April 30 — please take a moment to share your input. Sign up for **NALC communications**, including **The Feed**, and follow us on **X**, **Facebook**, and **LinkedIn** to stay informed.

Thank you for your support!

Respectfully,

Harrison M. Pittman, NALC Director



## 2025 NALC and NASDA Foundation Conferences



The banner features the logos for the National Agricultural Law Center and the NASDA Foundation. It is titled "Ag. Env. Water. Law. 2025 CONFERENCES". It lists two events: "JUNE 5-6 MID-SOUTH Memphis, Tennessee" and "JUNE 19-20 WESTERN Reno, Nevada". Below the event details, there are four checkmarks indicating benefits: "CLE/CE Approved", "Ethics Sessions", "Practical Resources", and "Networking". At the bottom, a green button with a white arrow and the text "REGISTER NOW" is centered.

Our annual conferences are right around the corner! We are proud and excited to be co-hosting our **12th Annual Mid-South Agricultural & Environmental Law Conference** and the **3rd Annual Western Water, Agricultural, and Environmental Law Conference** with our friends at the NASDA Foundation. Join us in Memphis or Reno for valuable insight from top experts in agricultural, environmental, and water law — along with plenty of opportunities to network with industry professionals. Both conferences offer in-person and livestream options, as well as continuing legal education credit and credit from the **American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers**. For information on all NALC educational opportunities and past conferences, click [here](#).

### 12th Annual Mid-South Ag & Environmental Law Conference

The 12th Annual Mid-South Ag & Environmental Law Conference is June 5-6 in Memphis, Tennessee. Designed for attorneys and non-attorneys alike, the Mid-South features a variety of presentations on a wide range of issues affecting the Mid-South and beyond. We hope you will join us on the evening of June 5 for the annual "Beer & BBQ" networking dinner at **Charlie Vergos Rendezvous**. The main conference program is at the **University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law** on June 6. For those who register by May 13, an online "Early Bird" event featuring bonus CLE will be held on May 14. Arkansas Secretary of Agriculture and NASDA President (2024-2025) **Wes Ward** will present the conference **keynote address**, "Perspectives on State Ag Departments, Trade, & Ag Industry," during the "Early Bird."

We're looking forward to great sessions for this year's Mid-South, featuring key issues such as agricultural lands and transactions, an update from Washington, D.C., solar leasing, **groundwater competition, state and federal agency authority post-Chevron**, and handling **agricultural debt and bankruptcy**. Former Arkansas Governor **Asa Hutchinson** will lead the **legal ethics session**. We hope to see you in person or online!

Registration and Info for the 2025 Mid-South

### 3rd Annual Western Water, Ag, & Environmental Law Conference

Following the Mid-South, the 3rd Annual Western Water, Ag, and Environmental Law Conference will be held on June 19-20 at the **Peppermill Resort Spa Casino** in Reno, Nevada. The Western focuses on legal and policy issues directly relevant to the agriculture and food industry in Western states. It is designed for both attorneys and non-attorney ag professionals. We hope you can join us in person or online to hear sessions on key issues shaping the Western agricultural landscape.

This two-day conference features a strong lineup of speakers discussing topics central to Western agriculture and beyond. Sessions will explore topics such as the **Fourth Amendment and warrantless search of land, insights from state departments of agriculture** (in a panel moderated by Wes Ward), **waters of the U.S.** ("WOTUS") in a post-*Sackett* world, ag law developments from Washington, D.C., **federal-private split estates**, water banking and leasing in the West, and more.

Registration and Info for the 2025 Western

## NALC Staff speak at NASDA Winter Policy Conference



In January, NALC staff attended the annual **NASDA Winter Policy Conference** in Washington, D.C. At the event, Director **Harrison Pittman** (left) spoke to the entire NASDA membership, providing an agricultural and food law update on current issues.

Senior Staff Attorneys **Rusty Rumley** and **Elizabeth Rumley** met with **NASDA Next Generation** students. They discussed agricultural law and policy issues, and also highlighted career opportunities and paths related to agricultural law.

## Rusty Rumley speaks at Arkansas Grown Conference

Senior Staff Attorney Rusty Rumley spoke at the **Arkansas Grown** conference in Little Rock, Arkansas in January. He participated in two panels: one on agritourism and another on landowner liability. The landowner liability panel was a keynote session and featured Dr. Lisa Chase, extension professor at the University of Vermont.



"Arkansas Grown is a great program year-after-year, offering sessions and resources that benefit stakeholders across the state," Rumley said. "The NALC is proud to be a part of it."

## Pittman speaks at Texas Seed Trade Association and AgExcellence conferences



In February, Director Pittman addressed key agricultural law topics at two events: the **Texas Seed Trade Association** conference in Horseshoe Bay, Texas, and the AgExcellence conference in Phoenix, Arizona.

At both events, Pittman addressed the latest agricultural issues at state and federal levels, including current federal budget and reconciliation processes, state pesticide proposals, the latest development on foreign ownership of agricultural land, and noteworthy ag-related litigation and court decisions.

## Webinar Series

Our webinar series offers a variety of presentations relating to agricultural law and policy. All webinars are recorded and archived on [our website](#). See below for a list of recent and upcoming webinars.

### Recent Webinars

#### Looking Ahead: Impact of the 2024 Elections on Ag Law and Policy

Our Jan. 15 webinar was presented by **Hunt Shipman**, Principal and Director, Cornerstone Government Affairs. Hunt discussed the impact of the 2024 elections and the people who have and may join the Trump Administration, the path forward for farm bill reauthorization, and other changes across government that will influence food, agricultural and environmental law for years to come.



[Watch the Recording](#)



#### Western Water Law in Action: A Primer on Basic Concepts of the Prior Appropriation Doctrine and How Utah is Modifying Water Law to Meet Modern Demands

Our Feb. 12 webinar was an installment in our "Western Water" Webinar Series. Presented by **Emily Lewis**, Parter at Culp & Kelly LLP, the presentation provided an overview of the development and basic concepts of the Prior Appropriation Doctrine, which governs western water law. It also took a look at the state of Utah, which has made widespread modifications to its water law to meet the state's pressing and critical water needs.

[Watch the Recording](#)

#### Proposed for Listing: Overview of Proposed Decision to List the Monarch Butterfly Under the ESA

Late last year, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed listing the monarch butterfly as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. On Feb. 19, NALC Staff Attorney **Brigit Rollins** covered the proposed listing decision for the monarch butterfly and the aspects of the proposal that are expected to impact agriculture.



[Watch the Recording](#)

#### The Road Ahead: Agriculture, Trade, and Policy in a Changing



## World

Our March 19 webinar, co-presented with Agri-Pulse, discussed what the future holds for international trade. **Oliver Ward**, International Trade Editor at Agri-Pulse, moderated the panel, which featured **Peter Friedmann**, Executive Director of the Agriculture Transportation Coalition, and **Kenneth Isley**, Partner at Barnes & Thornburg LLP.

[Watch the Recording](#)

## Upcoming Webinars

### Distressed Loan Servicing and Borrower Rights in the Farm Credit System

**Bob Mikell**, Executive Vice President and General Counsel at AgSouth Farm Credit, will present our April 16 webinar. The presentation will delve into critical aspects of Farm Credit System borrower rights, including the right to restructuring, related notices, least cost analysis, credit review hearings, and the right of first refusal.

[Register](#)



### Navigating ADA Compliance for Agritourism Guests

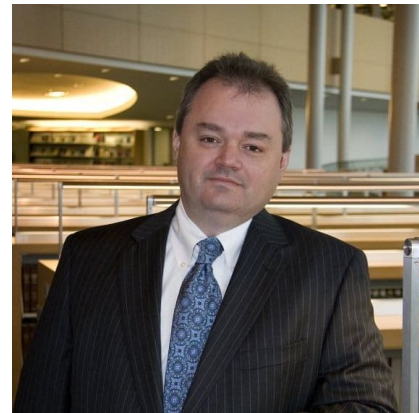
During our May 21 webinar, **Jackie Schweichler**, Staff Attorney at Penn State Center for Agricultural and Shale Law, will provide an overview of the Americans with Disabilities Act within the context of agritourism operations and on-farm guests.

[Register](#)

### An Overview of State Grain Dealer Statutes in the United States

On June 18, **Ross Pifer**, Director of the Penn State Center for Agricultural and Shale Law, will provide an overview of grain dealer statutes and then review the specific provisions included within many of these statutes such as bonding, indemnity funds, licensing, auditing, failure, liens, and penalties. The webinar will also provide an overview of grain warehouse statutes, which often operate in conjunction with grain dealer statutes at the state level.

[Register](#)



## Publication Highlights

As part of its mission, the NALC continues to deliver webinars, articles, fact sheets, and state compilations on numerous agricultural and food law topics. These resources are free to the public and serve as a research tool for both attorneys and non-attorneys.

The NALC publishes weekly posts about current issues in agricultural and environmental law. Posts from the past quarter are outlined below.

### January 2025

- **FWS Proposes Listing the Monarch Butterfly as "Threatened" Under the ESA**
- **FDA Releases Final "Healthy" Rule**
- **Equine Activity State Compilation**
- **Soil for Sale? State Legislative Efforts to Restrict Foreign Investments — Part One**
- **Soil for Sale? State Legislative Efforts to Restrict Foreign Investments — Part Two**
- **States Introduce Pesticide Liability Limitation Bills in 2025 Legislative Session**

### February 2025

- **FDA bans Red Dye No. 3**
- **Foreign Ownership of Agricultural Land: FAQs & Resource Library (Update)**
- **Soil for Sale? State Legislative Efforts to Restrict Foreign Investments — Part Three**
- **Second Federal Court Rules CEQ Lacks Rulemaking Authority**
- **Soil for Sale? State Legislative Efforts to Restrict Foreign Investments — Part Four**
- **Community Supported Agriculture: A Field Guide for Producers and Consumers (Add-ons)**

## March 2025

- **CEQ Rescinds All NEPA Implementing Regulations**
- **Farmer's Guide to Carbon Market Contracts**
- **States' Wetlands Permitting Statutes State Compilation**
- **Excluding "Junk" Food from SNAP Benefits**
- **Pesticide Registration Improvement Act Factsheet**
- **Soil for Sale? State Legislative Efforts to Restrict Foreign Investments — Part Five**
- **The Beginner's Guide to Farmland Ownership**
- **Who Gets to Say? Agency Deference in a Post-Chevron World — Skidmore v. Swift**
- **Soil for Sale? State Legislative Efforts to Restrict Foreign Investments — Part Six**
- **Community Supported Agriculture: A Field Guide for Producers and Consumers (Participation in Federal Programs)**

## Outreach

NALC attorneys speak and present at events in order to provide agricultural and food law research and information to the public. If you are interested in having an attorney from the NALC speak to a group, either in person or virtually, please do not hesitate to contact us. Learn more about the NALC staff and find our contact information [here](#).

Below are some outreach activities from the past quarter.

### January 2025

- **Harrison Pittman, NALC Director**

- January 5 – Participated in a series of meetings with legislators interested in foreign ownership of agricultural land at SARL's 2025 Legislative Ag Chairs Summit in Des Moines, IA
- January 16-17 – In-person presentation on legal issues impacting the seed dealer industry at the Arkansas Seed Dealers Association meeting in Hot Springs, AR
- January 21-22 – In-person presentation on the Endangered Species Act, pesticides, and a federal regulatory update at the Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association Convention in Peoria, IL
- January 29-31 – In-person meetings with various stakeholders to provide updates on the Center in Washington, D.C.

- **Elizabeth Rumley, Senior Staff Attorney**

- January 5 – Participated in a series of meetings with legislators interested in laws and proposals regarding food additives at SARL's 2025 Legislative Ag Chairs Summit in Des Moines, IA
- January 28 – Participated in television interview over Zoom on cell-cultured meat for RFD-TV ([video](#))

- **Rusty Rumley, Senior Staff Attorney**

- January 3 – Participated in panel on Carbon Farming discussing carbon sequestration at SARL's 2025 Legislative Ag Chairs Summit in Des Moines, IA
- January 3 – Participated in panel on Solar and Agriculture discussing solar and agriculture at SARL's 2025 Legislative Ag Chairs Summit in Des Moines, IA
- January 23 – Online interview with Chrissy Wozniak on ag policy for North American Ag Spotlight: [audio](#) / [video](#)
- January 30 – Participated in keynote panel on agritourism liability at AR Grown Conference in Hot Springs, AR
- January 31 – Participated in keynote panel on landowner liability at AR Grown Conference in Hot Springs, AR

- **Brigit Rollins, Staff Attorney**

- January 4 – Participated in panel about state efforts on water quality at SARL's 2025 Legislative Ag Chairs Summit in Des Moines, IA
- January 21 – In-person presentation on legal issues in pesticides, focused heavily on EPA's new policy on ESA compliance for FIFRA actions for the Arkansas Crop Management Conference in North Little Rock, AR

For the full January Monthly Roundup, click [here](#).

### February 2025

- **Harrison Pittman, NALC Director**

- February 10 – In-person presentation on "The Lawyer in the Room: Agriculture Law Update" at the 2025 Texas Seed Trade Association Annual Conference in Horseshoe Bay, TX
- February 12 – In-person presentation on NALC legal update followed by Q&A on federal & state issues impacting ag retail industry at AgExcellence in Phoenix, AZ
- February 25 – In-person joint presentation giving a regulatory overview of current ag law issues at the 2025 Arkansas Rice Annual Meeting in Stuttgart, AR

- **Elizabeth Rumley, Senior Staff Attorney**

- February 18 – Online presentation discussing agricultural law, NALC, and research fellowship program with University of North Dakota School of Law Rural Practice Association via Zoom
- February 24 – In-person presentation with students on agricultural law issues at NASDA 2025 Winter Policy Conference in Washington, D.C.
- February 27 – Guest lecturer in Asst. Prof. Shawna Weimer's Poultry Science class at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, AR

- **Rusty Rumley, Senior Staff Attorney**

- February 4 – In-person presentation on landowner liability and trespassing at the Polk County Extension Service in Mena, AR
- February 24 – In-person presentation with students at on agricultural law issues at NASDA 2025 Winter Policy Conference in Washington, D.C.

- February 26 – In-person presentation on business entities at the Center for Arkansas Farms and Food at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, AR

- **Brigit Rollins, Staff Attorney**

- February 11 - In-person joint presentation on "Pesticide Policy in Practice: Agronomic Strategies and Policy Implications" at the 2025 Soybean Summit for Illinois Soybean Association in Champaign, IL

For the full February Monthly Roundup, click [here](#).

## March 2025

- **Harrison Pittman, NALC Director**

- March 10 – In-person presentation on post-Chevron and agriculture at National Farmers Union 2025 Convention in Oklahoma City, OK
- March 14 – In-person presentation on tariffs, freezing of federal funds, and potential 2025 Farm Bill process for Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts in North Little Rock, AR
- March 19-20 – In-person presentation on federal issues affecting agriculture, including budget and reconciliation, agency deference, and recent court decisions for Georgia Law Association Agricultural Law section in Atlanta, GA

- **Elizabeth Rumley, Senior Staff Attorney**

- March 5 – Guest lecture in Dr Kristen Gibson’s class on Criminal Law and FFDCA violations at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, AR
- March 31 – Online presentation on animal welfare for Professor Gregory Archer’s class at Texas A&M University via Zoom

- **Rusty Rumley, Senior Staff Attorney**

- March 3 – In-person presentation on estate planning at Randolph County Cooperative Extension in Pocahontas, AR
- March 5 – In-person presentation on carbon credits and contracts for the Cooperative Extension at the Green County Extension Center in Paragould, AR
- March 10 – In-person presentation on agricultural leasing at the Center for Arkansas Farms and Food at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, AR
- March 11 – In-person presentation on leasing land and environmental issues at Polk County Cooperative Extension in Mena, AR

- **Emily Stone, Staff Attorney**

- March 10 & 11 – In-person presentations on agricultural law and policy to high school and college students at Agriculture’s Promise in Washington, D.C.

For the full March Monthly Roundup, click [here](#).

### Share This Quarterly Newsletter:



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This material is based upon work supported by the National Agricultural Library, Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture

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