



The National Agricultural Law Center

Quarterly Newsletter

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First Quarter 2026



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

NationalAgLawCenter.org

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Greetings,

Hope everyone is doing well and geared up for a terrific Spring 2026! Thanks for your continued interest in the National Agricultural Law Center, as well as this opportunity to update on several recent and upcoming activities. Additionally, thanks to all of you who subscribe to The Feed and our webinar mailing list as well as have connected with us on LinkedIn, Facebook, and Twitter/X!



On May 6, NALC and the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) Foundation will host the inaugural **"Ag & Food Law Policy Briefing"** in the USDA Jefferson Auditorium. This is a half-day program, featuring a terrific lineup of speakers and panelists, including NASDA CEO Ted McKinney, USDA Deputy Secretary Judge Stephen Alexander Vaden (keynote), the "four corners" of Senate and House Ag Committee staff, a "State of Play" from key government affairs experts, and more.

On June 4-5, NALC and the NASDA Foundation host the **13th Annual Mid-South Agricultural & Environmental Law Conference** June 4-5 at the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law. Livestream option is available. Remember, for those who register by May 12, three hours of bonus "Early Bird" online CLE is available on May 13. Finally, for students interested in ag and food law, we will host a first-ever "Next Generation of Ag & Food Law: Roundtable for Students" on the afternoon of June 4.

We're also very proud to co-host with the American Agricultural Law Association the **47th Annual Agricultural Law Symposium**, November 5-7 in Dallas, Texas. If you're a student or attorney interested in ag law, we hope you'll consider becoming a member if you haven't already and, of course, attending the annual symposium in November.

Several folks have reached out asking about the next Western Water, Ag, & Environmental Law Conference. For logistical reasons, we will host the next "Western" in 2027. We'll have updates on that in the next few weeks. Stay tuned!

Our April webinar is **"International Ag Trade Update: Tariffs, IEEPA, Refunds, & Related Issues"**, presented by Leslie Alan "Les" Glick. Les is Director, International Trade, Business and Finance Practice Group, Fennemore Law. On May 20, NALC Staff Attorney Brigit Rollins will present

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Thanks to USDA Deputy Secretary Judge Stephen Vaden for presenting our first webinar of 2026, **“A Conversation with USDA Deputy Secretary Stephen Vaden”**. We covered a lot of territory – right to repair, antitrust, ag trade, USDA reorganization, and more. Additionally, thanks for Misty Wilson Borkowski for presenting on ag employer readiness for ICE and DHS actions, NALC Staff Attorney Emily Stone on community supported agriculture, and Audry Thompson of the Penn State Center for Agricultural and Shale Law on the latest on H-2A.

That's just a few updates for this quarter, and I hope you'll take a moment to read below about other NALC research and outreach activities. Until next time!

Respectfully,

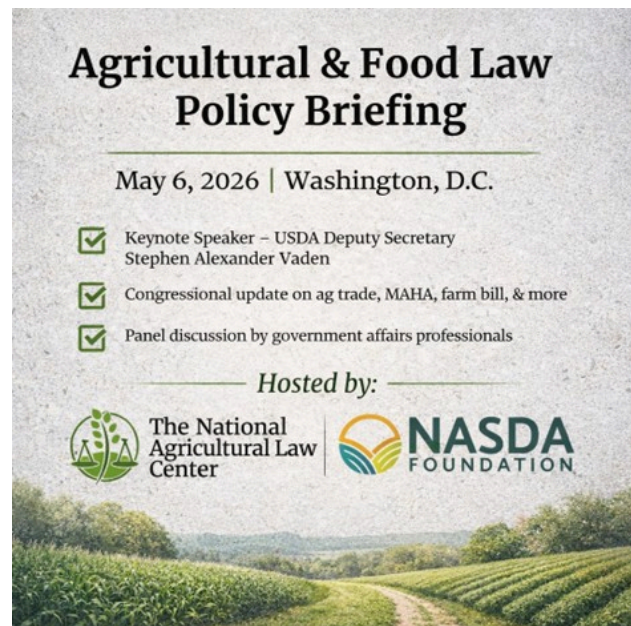
Harrison M. Pittman, NALC Director

NALC, NASDA to co-host Policy Briefing in D.C.

The Agricultural & Food Law Policy Briefing is set for May 6 in Washington, D.C., bringing together public and private sector subject matter experts from across the agricultural and food law space for a timely, half-day program. The program is hosted by the National Agricultural Law Center (NALC) and the **National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) Foundation** as part of the **NASDA - NALC MOU** signed in September 2025.

Designed for attorneys, policymakers, industry professionals, and others engaged in ag and food law, the briefing will feature expert-led sessions on key issues including congressional developments, regulatory updates, and current litigation impacting the industry. The program will take place at the USDA Jefferson Auditorium, with a reception to follow, offering additional opportunities to connect with colleagues and leaders in the field. USDA Deputy Secretary Stephen Vaden will deliver a keynote address.

Attendees can expect four hours of in-depth programming, with continuing education credit anticipated. Whether joining in person in Washington, D.C., or tracking updates as more details are released, this inaugural Policy Briefing underscores the shared commitment of NALC and the NASDA Foundation to provide meaningful, up-to-date legal and policy insights for the agricultural community.



[Registration and Info for Agriculture & Food Law Policy Briefing](#)

Registration now open: 2026 Mid-South (June 4-5)

The 13th Annual Mid-South Ag & Environmental Law Conference is June 5 in Memphis, Tennessee, with livestream options available. Designed for attorneys and non-attorneys alike, the Mid-South features timely presentations on key agricultural and environmental law issues impacting the region and beyond. The main program will be held at the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law.

We hope you will join us on the evening of June 4 for the annual “Beer & BBQ” networking reception at Charlie Vergos Rendezvous. New this year, students are invited to participate in the “Next Generation of Ag & Food Law: Roundtable for Students” on the afternoon of June 4 at the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law.

The conference offers 6 hours of continuing education, including 1 hour of ethics. For those who register by May 12, three bonus hours of online CLE will be offered May 13. We look forward to seeing you in person or online for another outstanding Mid-South Conference!



Registration and Info for the 2026 Mid-South

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

While in Washington, D.C., NALC Director and Senior Staff Attorneys also held a roundtable discussion on a range of ag law and policy issues with diplomatic and ag staff at the **British Embassy**.



NALC "FAQs & Resources"

NALC provides several FAQs to provide resources and answers to some frequently asked questions concerning the below topics.

Eminent domain has an outsized impact on agriculture due to the fact that large amounts of privately owned property are used for agricultural purposes; as a result, questions from rural landowners often result from proposed federal, state, or local projects near their property. Access the Eminent Domain: FAQs [here](#).

In 2016, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved the herbicide dicamba for direct use on dicamba-resistant soybean and cotton crops for the very first time. The move ultimately resulted in a series of lawsuits, reregistration decisions, and two court orders to overturn decisions authorizing over-the-top use of dicamba. Access the Dicamba FAQ & Resources [here](#).

Over the past decade, foreign ownership of agricultural land has grown. As a result, an interest in restricting and monitoring foreign ownership of U.S. agricultural land is growing significantly among federal and state lawmakers. Access the Foreign Ownership FAQ & Resources [here](#).



Agricultural Law Contact List

At the NALC, we receive frequent requests for the names of attorneys with experience in various areas of agricultural law. Year over year, those requests continue to increase. While we often refer people to bar associations or other similar organizations, we recognize those resources don't fully reflect the range of legal professionals working in agriculture.

To better serve stakeholders, we are beginning to compile a contact list of private practice attorneys who have professional experience or a practice focus in areas of law affecting agriculture. Attorneys or firms who wish to be included can enter their information [here](#).

We hope that this resource will make it easier for producers, landowners, and industry professionals to connect with legal professionals who understand the unique challenges of agriculture. Please note that inclusion on the list does not constitute endorsement or referral. It is intended solely as a resource for the agricultural community.

THE NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL LAW CENTER



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

A Conversation with USDA Deputy Secretary

Stephen Vaden:

Update on Ag Trade, Financial Assistance, USDA Reorganization & Related Issues

In our first webinar of 2026, **Judge Stephen Vaden**, USDA Deputy Secretary, shared insights on U.S. agricultural trade, including market access and trade agreements, along with updates on USDA financial assistance, reorganization, and regulatory and litigation priorities. Drawing on his experience as a former USDA General Counsel and federal judge, he discussed USDA's trade strategy and the key ag law and policy issues expected to shape the agricultural sector in 2026 and beyond.



[Watch the Recording](#)



Guarding the Gates:

Ag Employer Readiness for ICE and DHS Actions

During our February 4 webinar, **Misty Wilson Borkowski**, Partner at **Hall Booth Smith, P.C.**, provided practical guidance for agricultural employers on preparing for and responding to immigration enforcement actions, including understanding ICE authority, employer and worker rights, and differences between inspections and raids. Participants learned concrete steps to reduce risk, strengthen I-9 compliance, establish response protocols, and protect their workforce while maintaining operations.

[Watch the Recording](#)

Community Supported Agriculture:

A Field Guide for Producers and Consumers

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is a business model where consumers support local farms by purchasing memberships in advance and receiving a share of the harvest throughout the season. This webinar, presented by NALC Staff Attorney Emily Stone, explored the legal considerations of operating a CSA, including formation, contracts, liability, labor, add-ons, and participation in federal programs.



[Watch the Recording](#)



Homing in on H-2A:

An Overview of the Temporary Agricultural Program

Our March 18 webinar provides an overview of the H-2A temporary agricultural program, which allows employers to hire foreign workers for seasonal farm labor, and explains key requirements, processes, and legal issues, including the adverse effect wage rate (AEWR). Presented by **Audry Thompson** of the **Penn State Center for Agricultural and Shale Law**, it also highlights the program's rapid growth in recent years.

Watch the Recording

Upcoming Webinars

International Ag Trade Update:

Tariffs, IEEPA, Refunds, & Related Issues

Our April 15 webinar explores key developments shaping international agricultural trade, including the U.S. Supreme Court's recent IEEPA tariff decision and its impact on the ag industry. Presented by **Leslie Alan Glick**, Les is a Director within the **International Trade, Business and Finance Practice Group** of **Fennemore Law**, the program will cover ongoing refund litigation, recent activity in strawberry and tomato antidumping cases, and other emerging trade issues affecting agriculture. The session will also provide insight into how these legal and policy changes may influence producers, importers, and agribusinesses navigating global markets, as well as practical considerations for managing risk in an evolving trade environment.

Leslie Alan "Les" Glick
*Director, International Trade, Business and Finance Practice Group,
Fennemore Law*

International Ag Trade Update:
Tariffs, IEEPA, Refunds, & Related Issues

- ✓ April 15, 2026
- ✓ Noon - 1 p.m. ET
- ✓ No cost to register

Failure to Warn:



Brigit Rollins

Staff Attorney, NALC

A Look at Recent State and Federal Action on Pesticide Labeling

Failure to Warn:

A Look at Recent State and Federal Action on Pesticide Labeling

Our May 20 webinar examines state legislative efforts to limit liability for pesticide manufacturers facing failure-to-warn claims related to potential health risks. Presented by Brigit Rollins of the National Agricultural Law Center, the program will review legislation introduced in several states since 2024 that would make compliance with federally approved pesticide labels a complete defense to certain state-law claims, and discuss the potential implications of the Supreme Court of the United States case *Durnell v. Monsanto* involving alleged cancer risks associated with Roundup.



May 20, 2026



Noon - 1 p.m. ET



No cost to 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 2026

- *Looking Ahead: As Guidelines on the Colorado River Set to Expire, Attention Turns to What Comes Next*
- *Top Environmental Law Topics to Watch in 2026*
- *Rain or Shine: An Overview of Federal Disaster Relief Programs*
- *HHS and USDA release "The Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2025-2030"*
- *Supreme Court Agrees to Hear Pesticide Preemption Lawsuit*

February 2026

- *Preliminary Injunction Halts Enforcement of West Virginia's Food Dye Ban*
- *Procedures: Exhaustion*
- *DOJ & EPA Clarify Stance on Diesel Vehicles Under the CAA*
- *2026 Update on State Pesticide Liability Limitation Bills*
- *Texas Food Law Litigation Updates: Part 1*

March 2026

- *Texas Food Law Litigation Updates: Part 2*
- *Supreme Court Vacates IEEPA Tariffs*
- *The Deal with Dicamba: Products Registered, Lawsuit Filed*
- *Procedures: Injunctions*
- *Ninth Circuit addresses "Natural Grocers v. Rollins"*
- *Department of Interior Seeks to Convene the Endangered Species Committee*
- *Indiana Expands Foreign Ownership Restrictions Through Newly Enacted State Law*
- *Eleventh Circuit takes up Florida's Ban on Cell-Cultured Meat*

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 2026

- *Harrison Pittman, NALC Director*
 - January 3 – In-person joint participation in a “Speed Dating” session on ‘Grain Indemnity Funds’ at the State Ag and Rural Leaders 2026 Legislative Agriculture Chairs Summit in New Orleans, LA
 - January 13 – In-person panel presentation on “Hot Topics in Land & Agribusiness: Financial Distress, Foreign Ownership, Immigration, and What’s Coming Next” and the 19th Annual Land Investment Expo in Des Moines, IA
 - January 29-30 – In-person meetings with ag stakeholders in Washington, DC.
- *Elizabeth Rumley, Senior Staff Attorney*
 - January 3 – In-person joint participation in a “Speed Dating” session on ‘Animal Standards of Care Laws’ at the State Ag and Rural Leaders 2026 Legislative Agriculture Chairs Summit in New Orleans, LA
 - January 4 – In-person panel presentation on ‘Changes to Food Regulations and Labeling’ at the State Ag and Rural Leaders 2026 Legislative Agriculture Chairs Summit in New Orleans, LA
- *Rusty Rumley, Senior Staff Attorney*
 - January 3 – In-person joint participation in a “Speed Dating” session on ‘Endangered Species Act Impact on Ag’ at the State Ag and Rural Leaders 2026 Legislative Agriculture Chairs Summit in New Orleans, LA
 - January 4 – In-person panel presentation on ‘Changing Landscape of Renewable Energy’ at the State Ag and Rural Leaders 2026 Legislative Agriculture Chairs Summit in New Orleans, LA
 - January 9 – In-person presentation on property rights and county/parish property taxing for solar at the 69th Tri-State Soybean Forum in Dumas, AR
 - January 23 – In-person presentation on “Liability Issues in Berry Agritourism” at the Mid-South Berry Conference in Fayetteville, AR
- *Emily Stone, Staff Attorney*
 - January 3 – In-person participation in a “Speed Dating” session on ‘Truth in Labeling’ at the State Ag and Rural Leaders 2026 Legislative Agriculture Chairs Summit in New Orleans, LA

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

February 2026

- *Harrison Pittman, NALC Director*
 - February 2 – In-person roundtable discussion on a range of ag law and policy issues with diplomatic and ag staff at the British Embassy in Washington, DC.
 - February 4 – In-person presentation on current legislation and regulations in the ag sector at the closing plenary session of the 2026 NASDA Winter Policy Conference in Washington, DC.
 - February 9 – In-person presentation on current legislation and regulations in the ag sector at the rescheduled Arkansas Soybean 2026 meeting in Brinkley, AR
 - February 11 – In-person presentation on “The Regulatory and Legal Issues Shaping Agricultural Policy” at the 32nd Annual Agribusiness Conference at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, AR
- *Elizabeth Rumley, Senior Staff Attorney*
 - February 1 – In-person joint Q&A session for NextGen at the NASDA Winter Policy Conference in Washington, DC
 - February 2 – In-person roundtable discussion on a range of ag law and policy issues with diplomatic and ag staff at the British Embassy in Washington, DC.
 - February 24 – Guest lecturer in Dr. Shawna Weimer’s Animal Welfare class at the University of Arkansas Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences in Fayetteville, AR
- *Rusty Rumley, Senior Staff Attorney*
 - February 1 – In-person joint Q&A session for NextGen at the NASDA Winter Policy Conference in Washington, DC

- February 2 – In-person roundtable discussion on a range of ag law and policy issues with diplomatic and ag staff at the British Embassy in Washington, DC.
 - February 5 – In-person presentation on the latest ag law updates at the 2026 West Tennessee Grain & Soybean Producers Conference in Dyersburg, TN
 - February 5 & 6 – In-person presentations on Ag Law & Litigation Industry Update at the National Conservation Systems Cotton & Rice Conference in Jonesboro, AR
 - February 17 – In-person joint presentation on 'Private Property Rights' at the Arkansas Farm Bureau Forestry Winter Division Meeting in Little Rock, AR
 - February 20 – In-person presentation on 'Arkansas Agriculture Laws and Regulations' at the Arkansas Vegetable Growers Conference in Little Rock, AR
- *Brigit Rollins, Staff Attorney*
 - February 5 – In-person presentation on Legal Developments in Pesticide Strategy at The Pesticide Stewardship Alliance's 2026 Annual Conference in Charleston, SC.
 - February 10 – Assisted in hosting an Ag Law & Policy Workshop for local northwest Arkansas high school students where they learned about the intersection of agriculture, law, and policy; "hot topics" in ag law; and effective communication at the Washington County Extension office in Fayetteville, AR
 - February 17 – In-person joint presentation on 'Private Property Rights' at the Arkansas Farm Bureau Forestry Winter Division Meeting in Little Rock, AR
- *Emily Stone, Staff Attorney*
 - February 10 – Hosted an Ag Law & Policy Workshop for local northwest Arkansas high school students where they learned about the intersection of agriculture, law, and policy; "hot topics" in ag law; and effective communication at the Washington County Extension office in Fayetteville, AR
- *Will Scobey, Staff Attorney*
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For the full February Monthly Roundup, click [here](#).

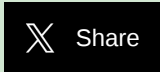
March 2026

- *Harrison Pittman, NALC Director*
 - March 2 – Joint presentation online on the Farm Bill and MAHA to UAMS' Master of Public Health's Food and Nutrition Policy class via Zoom
 - March 3 – In-person presentation on litigation updates pertaining to pesticides at the Association of American Pesticide Control Officials, Inc. Annual Spring Meeting and Conference in Alexandria, VA
 - March 13 – In-person "Fireside Chat" discussion on 'Interpreting Change: Realities of the Road Ahead' at the Arizona Department of Agriculture's Arizona Agribusiness Roundtable in Tempe, AZ
 - March 20 – In-person presentation on "Update on Federal Farm Issues from the National Agricultural Law Center" to the State Bar of Georgia's Institute of Continuing Legal Education's Agriculture Law session in Macon, GA.
- *Elizabeth Rumley, Senior Staff Attorney*
 - March 2 – In-person guest lecture on criminal law as it relates to the Food, Drug & Cosmetic Act for Dr. Kristen Gibson's Intro to Food Law class at the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR
 - March 30 – Online guest lecturer for Professor Gregory Archer's Animal Welfare class at Texas A&M University
- *Rusty Rumley, Senior Staff Attorney*
 - March 5 – In-person presentation on business structures and liabilities to new veteran farmers at NCAT's Armed to Farm program in Sacramento, CA
- *Brigit Rollins, Staff Attorney*
 - March 25 – Online presentation on water law in the Western United States with a focus on securing water rights in Arizona to **Land at Home Project** via Zoom
- *Emily Stone, Staff Attorney*
 - March 2 – Joint presentation online on the Farm Bill and MAHA to UAMS' Master of Public Health's Food and Nutrition Policy class via Zoom

- March 9-10 – In-person presentation on “Make America Healthy Again: Moment vs Movement” at NYFEA’s Agriculture’s Promise conference in Washington, D.C. Also led a delegation of six Arkansas students who attended the conference.

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

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