

AGRICULTURE LAW EDUCATION INITIATIVE ADVISORY PANEL:

Valerie T. Connelly
Executive Director
Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc

Robert J. Etgen
Executive Director
Eastern Shore Land Conservancy

Doug Green
Irrigation Manager and Farmer

Lynne Hoot
Executive Director
Maryland Grain Growers Utilization Board

Gary F. Kelman
AFO Program Manager
Nutrient Resources Division
Maryland Department of the Environment

Mary Ellen Setting
Deputy Secretary
Maryland Department of Agriculture

Stephen Weber, Jr.
Farmer



Providing legal education resources to Maryland farmers

AGRICULTURE LAW EDUCATION INITIATIVE PARTNERS

The Agriculture Law Education Initiative is a collaboration between the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law and the College of Agriculture & Natural Resources, University of Maryland, College Park. Through the University of Maryland Extension – the statewide, non-formal agriculture education system – the collaboration partners with the School of Agricultural and Natural Sciences, University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

Mr. Paul Goeringer, MS, JD, LL.M.
Extension Legal Specialist
Department of Agricultural and Resource
Economics

Associate Dean Barbara Gontrum MLS, JD
Carey School of Law

Dean Moses T. Kairo, PhD
School of Agricultural & Natural Sciences

Assistant Dean Dan Kugler, PhD
College of Agriculture & Natural Resources

Ms. Teresa K. LaMaster, MA, JD
University of Maryland

Professor Michael Pappas, MA, JD
Carey School of Law

Mr. William Pons, MA, JD
Carey School of Law

Professor Jurgen Schwarz, PhD
School of Agricultural & Natural Sciences

Professor Stephan Tubene, PhD
School of Agricultural & Natural Sciences

Dean Cheng-i Wei, PhD
College of Agriculture & Natural Resources



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Almost one-third of Maryland's land use is agriculture—

from dairy, grain, and livestock production to seafood, poultry, and turf production. Agriculture employs more than 45,000 Marylanders and contributes more than \$8.5 billion in economic impact annually.

Just as it is extraordinarily productive, Maryland's agricultural sector uses more of our state's natural resources, including land and water, than any other single industry. Consumer interest in food safety and animal welfare is on the rise. And, in an increasingly global marketplace, food production beyond our borders can impact agriculture at home.

Maryland farmers stand at the intersection of many competing interests and demands. Agriculture law is the network of laws and policies that apply to the food system and seek to balance these competing interests. The more Maryland farmers know about these laws, the better it is for Maryland agriculture.

The Agriculture Law Education Initiative provides information and resources to Maryland agriculture—helping Maryland farmers and allied industries understand the law.

Agriculture Law Education Initiative Activities

PUBLICATIONS

Understanding Agricultural Liability: Maryland's Right-to-Farm Law

Agricultural Leasing in Maryland

Estate Planning for Farm Families

Estate Planning and Conservation Easements

RESOURCES

www.umaglaw.org

Developing a network of attorneys with expertise in agriculture law

UM Ag Law Infoline - a six month pilot project referring callers to legal resources

TRAINING

Passing on the Farm—Estate Planning

Lease & Landlord Tenant Relationship Workshop

Leasing Your Land: Landowner-Tenant Communication/Relationship

FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

410-706-7377 (Infoline)

umaglaw@umd.edu

www.umaglaw.org

RESEARCH AND OUTREACH

The Agriculture Law Education Initiative surveyed University of Maryland Extension (UME) educators and found that Environmental Compliance and Land Use are the two most important issues facing Maryland farmers. UME is a state-wide collaboration between UM College Park and UMES.

Structured interviews were conducted with 21 agricultural stakeholders across the state. Regulatory Compliance, Land Use, and Right-to-Farm laws were identified as some of the most prominent legal issues.

The Initiative will host a six month pilot call-in service slated to begin in Summer 2014. This service will allow Maryland farmers to ask questions and be directed to helpful sources of information regarding their specific matter. The pilot program will be evaluated at the conclusion of the six month period to determine how best to service the need.

The Carey School of Law at Baltimore is supporting the establishment of the first-ever Agriculture Law Section of the Maryland State Bar Association. It is anticipated to be in place during 2014.