

SYLLABUS – PART 1
Agriculture Law – Fall 2008
Morgan Holcomb, Visiting Assistant Professor
Hamline University School of Law

Office Hours:

Except on Tuesdays, I am in my office until 3:30, and you are welcome to drop by. You may also e-mail me to set up an appointment.

Readings:

There is no text for this course. I will assign readings that will be available on Lexis, or Westlaw, or otherwise available on-line.

Grading:

Grades will be based on a final exam, class participation and completion of any assignments. Class participation will impact your grade.

I anticipate that the exam will be a 2-hour, in-class exam. The exam will be “open book.” You will be permitted to use your class notes, any materials assigned for the class, and any materials you prepared individually or as a group. No commercial outlines or study guides will be permitted. No electronic research will be permitted during the final exam. This prohibition includes but is not limited to Westlaw, Lexis, and the Internet.

Format of the class, and class participation:

The class meets Thursdays from 9:00 – 10:50 a.m. All class members are expected to have done the reading and to be prepared to participate. This class will also use cooperative learning (group work) during class. All class members are expected to participate. Your grade will be impacted by class participation.

Assignments and topics to be covered:

This course will focus on the public law applicable to agriculture. The topics that we will cover are subject to change based on the interests of the class members, but likely will include forms of farming and farm ownership; organics, sustainability, and the ideal of the family farm; agriculture cooperatives and federal antitrust law; contract farming and vertical integration; and labor issues facing agriculture.

First class reading and assignment:

For our class meeting on August 21, we will discuss what agriculture is, and whether agriculture should and/or is treated differently than other industries.

Please complete the following before our class meeting:

- Read *Farmegg Prods., Inc. v. Humboldt Co.*, 190 N.W.2d 454 (Iowa 1971);
- Read *Nat’l Broiler Marketing Ass’n v. U.S.*, 436 U.S. 816 (1978);

- Read [The Relevance of Family Farms Today](http://www.flaginc.org/topics/pubs/arts/CLE_SC.pdf), by Stephen Carpenter, educational material from FLAG CLE seminar (June 2006), available at http://www.flaginc.org/topics/pubs/arts/CLE_SC.pdf.
- Explore the website for the National Agricultural Law Center (<http://www.nationalaglawcenter.org/>) focusing especially on the “Reading Rooms.”
- Prepare a short (1-2 paragraphs) statement of how you would define farming. What would you include, and what would you explicitly exclude.

Subsequent assignments and readings will be announced at least one week prior to the class meetings.