Introduction to Agricultural Law  
AGEC 3503

Instructor:  Rusty Rumley, J.D. LL.M. (Agricultural Law)  
AFLS – B106C and Food Science – B1  
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Meeting:  Tuesday & Thursday – 8:00-9:15am (Fall Semester 2015)  
Plant Science Auditorium 0009

Office hours:  9:30 – 11:00 am on Tuesdays and Thursdays or as requested

Materials:  All reading materials and assignments shall be posted on Blackboard or handed out in class.  
There is no textbook for this class, but you will need up to 13 scantrons (the skinny green ones)  
which you will be required to bring this semester.

I.  Catalog Description:

Examination of those areas of law especially applicable to agriculture. Fundamentals of contract law, torts law,  
and property law will accompany discussion of major areas of agricultural law; acquisition and disposal of  
farmland; farm tenancies; rights and limitations in the use and ownership of farmland; animal law;  
environmental protection; protection of the productivity of agricultural land; and the law of sales and secured  
transactions in an agricultural context.

II.  Course Objectives:

Each student who successfully completes this course will have enhanced their skills in recognizing legal issues  
applicable to agriculture. Students will be able to identify areas in need of additional legal study, areas  
undergoing policy shifts at the local, state, regional and national levels, and areas in which close scrutiny of legal  
and policy matters can result in impacts to a wide range of agricultural activities.

Each student who successfully completes this course will be able to  
• A general understanding of the U.S. legal system  
• Identify a variety of laws and regulations important to agriculture  
• Explain, generally, the legal concerns discussed in the course  
• Define legal terminology important to the area of discussion  
• Discuss the policy arguments on each side of the issue  
• Apply concepts learned to real-world examples of legal questions

III.  Academic Integrity:

Plagiarism and other forms of cheating will not be tolerated. University rules provide severe penalties for  
academic dishonesty, ranging from course failure to dismissal from the University. Signing a classmate’s name  
to the attendance roster is considered academic dishonesty.

IV.  Students with Disabilities:

If you have special needs of which the instructor should be aware, please make arrangements as soon as  
possible.
V. Class Attendance:

Class attendance is required and critical to success in AGEC 3503. Students can have up to four absences. Five or more absences will result in a deduction in the student’s grade (see Grading and Exams below).

“Excused” absences will ONLY be given in the following situations:
1. For University events: A faculty member must provide an email or letter before the missed class; or
2. For Illness or Death in the family: University administration must contact me within a week of the missed class period notifying me of the concern and asking for accommodations. In this situation, please contact the Office of the Dean of Students at (479) 575-5004 to inform them of the situation and ask that they send the email request. Nicole Ferguson at snfergus@uark.edu is the case manager in charge of handling attendance issues.

A pattern of tardiness by a student will be addressed and can result in an appropriate reduction of that student’s final grade. If you leave class early then you must sign out and be counted as absent, unless you email me before class and I agree to it by email.

VI. Grading and Exams:

There will be a total of 400 points available in this class, broken down as follows:

- Three exams @ 100 points each = 300
- Attendance = 50
- Quizzes = 50

Total Points Available = 400

**Exams:**

There will be two regular and one final exam. Each exam will be count for 100 points and the final exam will only cover the materials from between the second exam and the end of the semester (i.e. NOT comprehensive). If for some reason you are unable to attend one of the exams then let the professor know before the exam in an email to see about another time to take the exam.

**Quizzes:**

There will be 10 quizzes given throughout the semester that will occur at the beginning of the class. These quizzes will be based upon the information from the reading assigned for the class session for that day. Only the top 5 of your quiz scores will be used and the others will be dropped. Because half of the quizzes are disregarded you will NOT be able to make up a quiz if you are absent for any reason.

**Attendance:**

- 4 or fewer absences = 50 points
- 5 absences = 40 points
- 6 absences = 30 points
- 7 absences = 20 points
- 8 absences = 10 points
- 9 or more absences = 0 points
VII. Semester schedule:

- August 25  Class begins
- August 28  Last day to register, add a course, or change from audit to credit
- September 04  Last day to drop without a mark of “W” or change from credit to audit
- November 20  Last day to drop a Spring semester class with a “W”
- December 15  Final Exam date for Introduction to Agricultural Law

VIII. EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Many types of emergencies can occur on campus; instructions for specific emergencies such as severe weather, active shooter, or fire can be found at emergency.uark.edu.

Severe Weather (Tornado Warning):

- Follow the directions of the instructor or emergency personnel
- Seek shelter in the basement or interior room or hallway on the lowest floor, putting as many walls as possible between you and the outside
- If you are in a multi-story building, and you cannot get to the lowest floor, pick a hallway in the center of the building
- Stay in the center of the room, away from exterior walls, windows, and doors

Violence / Active Shooter (CADD):

- CALL- 9-1-1
- AVOID- If possible, self-evacuate to a safe area outside the building. Follow directions of police officers.
- DENY- Barricade the door with desk, chairs, bookcases or any items. Move to a place inside the room where you are not visible. Turn off the lights and remain quiet. Remain there until told by police it’s safe.
- DEFEND- Use chairs, desks, cell phones or whatever is immediately available to distract and/or defend yourself and others from attack.