



CENTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS AT VERMONT LAW AND GRADUATE SCHOOL

YEAR IN REVIEW

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS | JULY 2023 THROUGH JUNE 2024



Credit: USDA photo by Christophe Paul

We are using law and policy to train students to build a more sustainable and just food system.

Vermont Law and Graduate School's Center for Agriculture and Food Systems (CAFS) trains students to address food system challenges related to food justice, food security, farmland access, animal welfare, worker protections, the environment, and public health, among others. CAFS works closely with local, regional, national, and international partners to provide legal services that respond to their needs and develop resources that empower the communities they serve. Through CAFS's Food and Agriculture Clinic, Research Assistant program, and Summer Honors Intern program, students work directly on projects alongside partners nationwide, engaging in innovative work that spans the food system.

In the pages ahead, read about our students' work, the new resources CAFS has developed, the fellows and staff who have joined the team, and the food system partners we have supported through legal and policy services in the past year. Follow @CAFScenter on social media or visit vermontlaw.edu/cafs to learn more.



NEW RESOURCES AND REPORTS

FEATURED RESOURCE

Food Systems Resilience Planning and the Climate Crisis

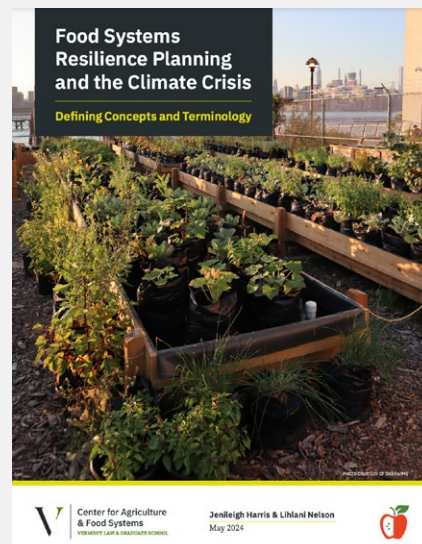
Defining Concepts and Terminology

With climate-related shocks and stressors adding to existing hazards facing food systems, it is critical to examine vulnerabilities in those systems and work to ameliorate them. Policymakers are increasingly focused on building “resilience”—with a growing number of public programs and philanthropic funding targeting resilience-related goals, metrics, and outcomes.

But what does “resilience” mean, and what do resilient food systems look like? For policymakers, planners, advocates, and other stakeholders focused on building long-term, equity-centered climate resilience, adopting a shared understanding of language and concepts is an important first step.

This new resource from CAFS’s **Food Systems Resilience** project, authored by Jenileigh Harris MFALP’18 and CAFS deputy director and senior researcher Lihlani Nelson, supports policymakers and others tasked with addressing the multi-dimensional and disparate impacts of climate change. It highlights the need for equity-centered food systems resilience as an essential component of climate response, with a focus on healthy food access.

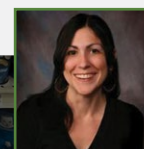
 [VIEW THE RESOURCE](#)



CAFS IN THE NEWS

“These levels are so far beyond the realm of what might be expected or considered safe.”

— Laurie Beyranevand spoke with NBC News about applesauce pouches found to be contaminated with lead.



FEATURED RESOURCE

Appealing for Relief

An Analysis of Appealed Direct Farm Loan Decisions 2009-2022 and Opportunities for Reform

Loans from the USDA's Farm Service Agency are key to establishing and supporting farms—especially among beginning or marginalized farmers who are more likely to face challenges in obtaining commercial loans. When the Farm Service Agency rejects loan applications, farmers can be left with no other option, except to appeal the decision to the USDA's National Appeals Division.

Unfortunately—according to a new report from CAFS and partners at Farm Aid and the Rural Advancement Foundation International—only 17 percent of farmers denied federal loans between January 2009 and July 2022 were successful in their appeals.

The report shows that the agency has wide discretion that can lead to different outcomes for similarly situated farmers in the loan approval process. Among other findings, it also reveals that innovative and nontraditional operations often face more barriers to financing. Authors Molly Carey MFALP'22 and senior research fellow Emily Spiegel identified opportunities for reform to ensure the agency meets its mission at every step of the appeals process and outline recommendations to improve the process and its outcomes for farmers.

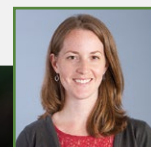
 [READ THE REPORT](#)



CAFS IN THE NEWS

“USDA Farm Service Agency officers have significant discretion in approving or denying loans, but these numbers show that initial process is incredibly important to get right, because farmers have little chance of getting a better outcome when they appeal.”

— Research fellow **Emily Spiegel** was quoted in an [AgDaily](#) story about the report.



NEW RESOURCES AND REPORTS

FEATURED RESOURCE

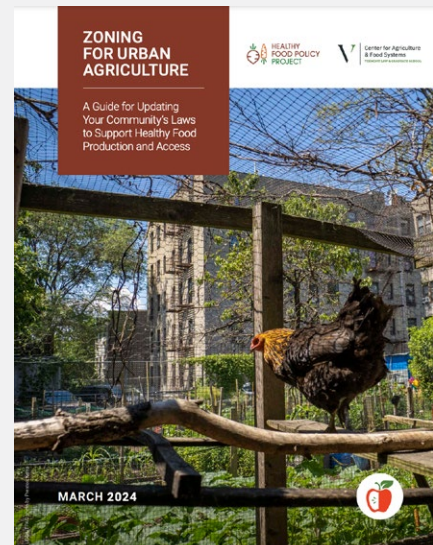
Zoning for Urban Agriculture

A Guide for Updating Your Community's Laws to Support Healthy Food Production and Access

Urban farms can benefit their surrounding communities in many ways. But urban farmers often face obstacles due to outdated municipal zoning codes: regulatory tools used by local governments to control what uses are allowed on a given tract of land. An updated guide from CAFS offers a resource for local policymakers and advocates looking to remove these obstacles to shape and promote better urban agriculture policy.

The guide, a resource from CAFS's **Healthy Food Policy Project**, provides a general overview of urban agriculture and zoning, explains how zoning can support urban agriculture, considers action steps for advocates trying to facilitate urban agriculture through zoning, and explores emerging trends in zoning for urban agriculture.

 [VIEW THE GUIDE](#)



New partnership

USDA's Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (OUAIP) partnered with CAFS to develop resources that help urban farmers understand and work through local policies. The new agreement will result in resources for understanding and navigating local policy, including a policy scan, case studies, city snapshots, and issue briefs. These resources are also intended to help policymakers support urban and innovative producers by adopting policies and reducing policy barriers, and to aid USDA staff and other service providers in better understanding the policy environment that impacts the producers that make up their customer base.

CAFS IN THE NEWS

“There are so many benefits of urban agriculture when it comes to mitigating climate change. People need access to green space and they need access to local food. I think there are particular needs that are met in urban environments with more urban farming; the more access the better.”

— Senior staff attorney **Fran Miller** spoke with *Grist* about how urban gardening connects food justice and climate mitigation.



FEATURED RESOURCE

Precarious Protection

Analyzing Compliance with Pesticide Regulations for Farmworker Safety

Pesticide exposure is one of the most dangerous workplace hazards that farmworkers face. The Worker Protection Standard (WPS), enforced by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, is the main federal regulation intended to protect farmworkers from pesticides—but compliance is key, and, unfortunately, many farms do not comply with the standard. At the same time, there have been almost no reliable studies about the actual rate and quality of compliance and identified shortcomings in enforcement and monitoring.

A new report from CAFS and partners at Farmworker Justice and the Harvard Law School Food Law and Policy Clinic dives into the compliance landscape of the Worker Protection Standard. It outlines how improving farmworker safety requires stronger enforcement and monitoring, training, shifts in workplace norms, and policy change. From providing workers with interactive and more engaged training, to establishing confidentiality protections for those who report violations, the report outlines practical steps that policymakers and other stakeholders can take to ensure the Worker Protection Standard protects the health of farmworkers.

The report is the latest release from CAFS's **Food System Worker Law and Policy Project**, which exposes gaps in laws and policies that affect the health and safety of workers throughout the food system.

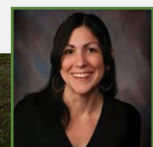


[READ THE REPORT](#)

CAFS IN THE NEWS

“It’s been a pretty substantial amount of time for OSHA not to have actually created a regulation for heat stress. In the absence of federal regulation, people are concerned about the health of farmworkers.”

– CAFS director **Laurie Beyranevand** spoke with *Civil Eats* about heat stress protections for farmworkers.



NEW RESOURCES AND REPORTS

FEATURED RESOURCE

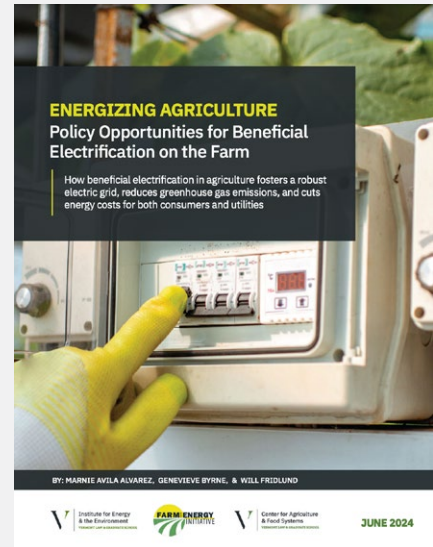
Energizing Agriculture

Policy Opportunities for Beneficial Electrification on the Farm

Transitioning from fossil fuels to electric technologies on farms can reduce greenhouse gas emissions, benefit the electric grid, and cut energy costs for consumers and utilities. But the journey towards a decarbonized agricultural sector is complex, requiring a concerted effort from policymakers, utilities, and farmers.

The **Farm and Energy Initiative**, a collaboration between CAFS and the Institute for Energy and the Environment at VLGS, released a report exploring these challenges and opportunities. It offers valuable insights for public utility commissions, electric utilities, state and local energy offices, organizations, and others interested in improving the economic and environmental sustainability of farms. An accompanying **database** highlights more than 70 existing electrical utility programs across the U.S. supporting beneficial electrification in agriculture.

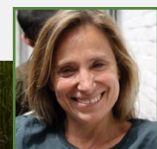
 [READ THE REPORT](#)



CAFS IN THE NEWS

“Corporate consolidation is a big issue in farmland. Congress, I think in a bipartisan way, has been focusing on some of the foreign investors in farmlands. But in my opinion, that really ignores the bigger issue in America, which is domestic corporate consolidation and ways that land is being treated as a commodity, as an investment vehicle.”

– **Fran Miller** weighed in for *Hoosier Ag Today* about a new bill restricting corporate ownership of farmland.



FEATURED RESOURCE

Protecting Heirs' Property

CAFS's **Farmland Access Legal Toolkit** includes a growing repository of resources for owners of heirs' property: land that is passed to family members by inheritance, usually without a will or estate planning strategy. Property passed down in this way can lead to legal and structural obstacles that sometimes result in the owners losing land, wealth, and family legacy. The phenomenon is most predominant among African American landholders in the South and has been a significant driver of Black farmland loss in the United States.

A new set of case studies in the Farmland Access Legal Toolkit includes insights from farmers who own heirs' property or have entered into innovative arrangements to preserve family land.



“ If you want to keep your land, be on it—do something with the land. Long distance, paying money on it is not good because somebody is not going to care. As long as me and my dad go out and farm and pay the taxes, my family is good. When people try to sell or don't want to pay debts, that's when heirs' property becomes an issue.”

Julius Tillery, a fifth-generation cotton farmer in Rich Square, North Carolina, whose business, Black Cotton, creates home décor, jewelry, and accessories handmade with cotton cultivated on the farm.

[READ MORE](#)



“ My grandfather put a big down payment on the land, and within two years, he owned all 160 acres outright. He was one of the few Black landowners in Crawfordville . . . I'll call my aunts and uncles to update them or get advice and I get a 'Great! Keep going!' They are happy that the land is being cultivated again and curious to see the progress.”

Raina Turner-Greenlea, a farmer in Crawfordville, Georgia, who cultivates her grandfather's land, now owned by his 13 children and held under a conservation easement to protect it from development.

[READ MORE](#)

[SEE ALL FARMER STORIES](#)

HPPN Inaugural Conference

In October of 2023, CAFS—along with the Center for Heirs' Property Preservation, HeirShares, Wake Forest University School of Law, and partners—hosted the Heirs' Property Practitioner Network (HPPN) Inaugural Conference in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. More than 50 lawyers and law students attended the two-day gathering. HPPN is a group of attorneys who work collectively to address legal issues that arise when someone owns land or a home as heirs' property.



Attendees at the HPPN Inaugural Conference

“ It's important to be amongst practitioners who are doing the same thing so that we can come up with the best solutions. The collaboration—that's the most important part.”

Darlene Bell-Alexander, Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida



NEW RESOURCES AND REPORTS

What is Country of Origin Labeling?

Food labels communicate the stories of products and can aid consumer choice—but they can also cause confusion. For example, one USDA study found that only 16 percent of consumers can correctly identify what it means for a product to be labeled “Product of USA.” A new issue brief from CAFS’s **Labels Unwrapped** project, written by Josephine Pechous JD’24, explores the laws and policies influencing Country of Origin Labeling and how the complexities involved shape consumer knowledge and choice.

 [READ THE ISSUE BRIEF](#)

Housing and Employment Rights for Vermont Dairy Workers

Farmworkers face some of the most dangerous working conditions in the country, and lack of access to justice can magnify the risks. Understanding legal rights and protections is one critical step to preventing harm. This newly updated handbook, available in English and Spanish, offers information on employment and housing rights for dairy farmworkers in Vermont. Students and staff at CAFS updated the handbook in response to frequently asked questions from workers and organizers around housing safety and privacy, wages, workplace safety, underage workers, medical care, and more. The project is a collaboration with Vermont-based nonprofit **Migrant Justice**.

 [READ THE HANDBOOK](#)

Land-Use Tools to Protect Pollinators

Pollinators are vital to ecosystem and food system health. But pollinator populations are struggling, as habitat loss, climate change, and pesticide use threaten bees, butterflies, birds, bats, and other pollinators. What concrete steps can policymakers take to protect these critical species? This new issue brief by Logan Keen JD/MELP’24 and adjunct faculty member Jess Phelps explores land-use interventions that can promote pollinator health.

 [READ THE ISSUE BRIEF](#)

A Guide for Food Hubs on Food Safety Compliance

With a wide array of functions, connections, and impacts, food hubs face challenges adhering to food safety laws and regulations that often were not written with food hubs in mind. Designed to be used in collaboration with a lawyer or food safety consultant, a new guide by Erika Dunyak and Andrew Marchev JD’18 helps decisionmakers at food hubs build a strategy around food safety regulations to achieve compliance and mitigate risk.

 [VIEW THE GUIDE](#)

Gleaning Organizations and Value-Added Products

What do gleaning organizations need to consider when turning produce into jams, soups, sauces, and more? A new guide from CAFS’s **National Gleaning Project**, written by Erika Dunyak and Olivia Burton MFALP’21, helps gleaning organizations understand and address risks related to value-added production.

 [VIEW THE GUIDE](#)

Farmers Market Factsheets

CAFS’s **Farmers Market Legal Toolkit**, a project with the Farmers Market Coalition and NOFA-VT, released two new factsheets for farmers market managers, written by food and agriculture fellow Wendy Chen with support from Cameron Briggs Ramos JD’24. “Employment Classification for Farmers Market Managers” explains the process and implications of classifying market managers as employees versus contractors. “Volunteers at Farmers Markets: Managing Legal Risks,” tackles the proper classification of volunteers versus employees so markets can mitigate risk and liability.

 [VIEW THE FACTSHEETS](#)

To view all CAFS resources, visit vermontlaw.edu/cafs



PEOPLE

Welcome, Emma!



CAFS is thrilled to welcome Emma Scott, associate professor and new director of the Food and Agriculture Clinic. Emma's work focuses on food system workers and food system policy at federal, state, and local levels. She joins CAFS from Harvard Law School, where she was the associate director of the Food Law and Policy Clinic and a lecturer on law, leading advocacy on farm bill policy, food system workers, and improvement of USDA

programs and services, in addition to leading the clinic's partnerships in the Mississippi Delta region. Emma has also represented groups of farmworkers from immigrant communities in employment litigation with the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation and has clerked on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California with Hon. John A. Mendez. She has a bachelor's degree from California Polytechnic State University and a JD, cum laude, from Harvard Law School.

FEATURED COURSE

Emma Scott taught **Farmworkers and the Law** during VLGS's 2024 Summer Session. The approximately two million farmworkers who grow our food are essential to this country, yet they are often overlooked in national policy efforts on issues ranging from immigration law to environmental justice. This course details farmworkers' current living and working conditions, as well as their history of exclusion from key laws and regulations. It also explores current tools and strategies used by farmworker advocates at both state and federal levels, including litigation, legislative advocacy, and worker organizing.

Distinguished Summer Scholar and Media Fellow

In summer of 2024, CAFS welcomed two distinguished food systems visitors as part of the Environmental Law Center's summer program.

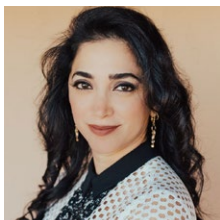


MAVIS GRAGG

Distinguished Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Scholar

A self-described "death and dirt" attorney, conservation professional, and long-time partner of CAFS, Mavis Gragg empowers families to use real estate as a source of intergenerational resiliency and wealth. She currently

serves as CEO of HeirShares, which is building groundbreaking technology to facilitate affordable solutions for family real estate ownership.



HODA EMAM

Food and Agriculture Media Fellow

Hoda Emam is an award-winning journalist, filmmaker, and visual journalism professor based in Texas. Her work has appeared in *The Guardian*, *Quartz*, *Yahoo*, and *ABC News*, among other outlets. Hoda drew from her reporting on health inequities and food insecurity to

give the talk "Unveiling America's Hidden Hunger: A Journey through Health Inequities in Early Childhood" during VLGS's **Hot Topics summer lecture series**.

Visiting Professor



DÃNIA DAVY

Dãnia Davy, a community attorney and advocate, joined CAFS in summer 2024 to teach **Food System Equity and Critical Race Theory**. At the turn of the twentieth century, Black people

owned more than 19 million acres of land in the United States; today, they own less than 2 million. The corresponding wealth inequities have far-reaching political, economic, and health implications. Legislation and institutional policy perpetuate anti-Black racism, which is firmly rooted in disproportionate property dispossession. This course explores the unique opportunities farm policy presents to create a model for eliminating systemic anti-Blackness, laying an analytical foundation by examining readings on critical race theory and agricultural policy.



STUDENTS AND ALUMNI



Featured Student

JULIA WICKAM JD'26

Before law school, Julia Wickham worked on vegetable farms, lobbied on behalf of farmers, and was involved in state politics in Minnesota. That is where she started understanding how laws and policies shape agriculture—and decided to pursue a legal education.

“I Googled ‘best agricultural law schools’ and Vermont Law popped right up,” she recalls. “I knew it was the place I wanted to be with the focus on community here.”

Community is exactly what Julia found in and around VLGS. Her extracurriculars include milking cows for a nearby farm, working at the Tunbridge General Store, and hosting her own weekly radio show on the local South Royalton station. She also served as co-president of the Food and Agriculture Law Society, one of the many active student groups at VLGS.

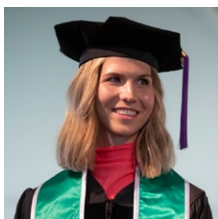
Last spring, Julia had the idea of organizing an antitrust symposium. “Antitrust law applies to almost every sector of the law,” she says. “I’m especially interested in it because companies control so much in agriculture. As these corporations get bigger and bigger, we start losing small farms.”

Her vision came to fruition with the “Bust the Trust” symposium, an achievement that helped her land the Hollis Salzman Memorial Scholarship, an American Bar Association award for women interested in advancing antitrust, consumer protection, and privacy.

“I have fallen in love with the small community here,” she said. “There is this emphasis on knowing where your food comes from and really caring for the land, and I think VLGS does a great job at connecting you with people.”

Independent Research Projects

Each year, CAFS faculty supervise students conducting research projects independently. For example, Sam Ellis JD/MFALP'24 authored a memo analyzing the Massachusetts Healthy Soils Action Plan and offering recommendations to improve the plan's efficacy and impact. Josie Pechous JD'24 authored the **“What is Country of Origin Labeling?”** issue brief for CAFS's Labels Unwrapped site.



“Working with our project partners gave me first-hand insight into the challenges facing our food system and how my legal education can be useful to the food industry.”

— Josie Pechous JD'24

Food and Agriculture Clinic

In fall 2023, five VLGS students joined the Food and Agriculture Clinic to gain hands-on law and policy experience. They worked to draft memos related to fisheries management, case studies on urban agriculture, issue briefs addressing rural development loans to improve housing for farmworkers, memos to aid in advocating for flood disaster relief, and more. Three of the clinicians attended the American Agricultural Law Association's 2023 Annual Educational Symposium along with CAFS faculty and staff in North Carolina.



From left: Clinicians Nicole Renna, Maya Graeber, and Sam Ellis with fellow student Alyssa Shea at the AALA symposium

Research Assistant Program

VLGS students hold work-study positions with CAFS each year as research assistants. This past year, Cameron Briggs Ramos JD'24 worked closely with Wendy Chen to develop factsheets for the Farmers Market Legal Toolkit and present the work at conferences for farmers market managers. Callum LaFrance JD'24 worked with Fran Miller and a team of heirs' property practitioners to develop a model “tenant-in-common” statute to better protect heirs' property owners from risks. And Raina Goldstein Bunnag MFALP'24 worked with Lihlani Nelson and Wendy Chen to lead a team of fellow research assistants in updating the State Farm to School Policy Handbook, a project of CAFS and the National Farm to School Network.



INTERNSHIPS

Summer Honors Interns

Community land trusts, fisheries management, urban agriculture, and prison food: This summer, CAFS's eight summer honors interns—including five VLGS students—dug into a diverse range of law and policy projects alongside food system partner organizations across the country.

 [READ MORE ABOUT THEIR WORK](#)



From left to right: Aija Zamurs, Emily Collins, Joe Anderson, Julia Wickham, Maggie Kaniecki, Nicole Renna, Olivia Bayne, and Hanna Silva



Featured Alum

BECCA GREDONE JD'22

Taking advantage of the 3+2 dual-degree program, a collaboration between VLGS and the University of Vermont, Becca Gredone was able to complete her bachelor's degree in three years and a JD in two, graduating in 2022.

Today she serves as legal analyst for Nourish Colorado, a nonprofit working on food access and policy advocacy. Her relationship with the organization dates back to her time at VLGS, when she worked with the school's JD Externship Program to create her own legal externship.

"I was set on finding an externship where I could use my knowledge and skills to help create equitable, sustainable change in the food system," explains Becca, who came across Nourish Colorado and reached out to see if she could serve as a legal extern.

Despite never having a legal extern before, Nourish Colorado accepted Becca's offer, tasking her with creating a law and policy roadmap to add to their strategic planning. The externship turned into a job offer; after graduating, she became the organization's first-ever legal analyst.

Becca now puts her legal knowledge to use engaging with farm bill and state-level advocacy and providing support to grassroots partners looking to learn more about federal food policy. She attributes her understanding of the interrelated nature of policy solutions to her time with CAFS.

"CAFS values connecting small, local farmers with opportunity in the market and with families seeking fresh, nutritious food, [recognizing] that state and federal policy has a huge impact on the potential for a more healthy and sustainable food system," she says.



STUDENTS AND ALUMNI

CAFS ALUMNI NEWSFEED

During the past year...

ASHELY MONTI JD/MFALP'22

joined the PETA Foundation as a legal fellow.

EMILY WHITTIER MFALP'20

became Washington State Coordinator at the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

JOSEPHINE PECHOUS JD'24

became an associate in the Products Liability & Mass Torts Practice Group of Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath in Minneapolis, MN.

TRAVIS ROSENBLUTH JD'24

started a clerkship with Judge Shoemaker of Gloucester County, NJ.

NATALIE LAURIE JD'23

started a new position at the Food Integrity Campaign.

MICHELLE AMIDZICH FRITZ JD/MFALP'22

became an associate at Preti, Flaherty, Beliveau & Pachios, LLP.

ASHLEIGH ANGEL JD/MFALP'20

was hired as management and program analyst at the Department of Energy.

TAYLOR COX MFALP'23

joined the VLGS Environmental Advocacy and Justice Clinics as program coordinator.

JEFFRY DIAMOND MFALP'22

started as program coordinator position at the Minnesota Farmers Union.

ANDREW MARCHEV JD'18

became a sole practitioner at Three Rivers Law, PLLC.

CARLIN MOLANDER MFALP'23

joined Action Circles as legislative operations manager.

Congratulations, award winners!

Several graduating CAFS students received VLGS awards in 2024.

For their work building a student garden and pantry, **SAM ELLIS JD/MFALP'24** and **ALYSSA SHEA JD/MELP'24** received the John Delemarre Award, recognizing outstanding service to the VLGS community in the achievement and stewardship of the school's physical environment.

CAMERON BRIGGS RAMOS JD'24 won the Shirley A. Jefferson Perseverance Award, for a student demonstrating extraordinary tenacity and perseverance in the face of adversity.

CALLUM LAFRANCE JD'24 won the Lex Pro Urbe et Orbe Award, given to a student who represents the mission of VLGS to serve the community and the world through community service; shows respect and kindness to other students, administrators, faculty, staff, and alumni; and supports other students through social support, mentoring, professional networking, and other programs.

Stay in touch!

If you are an alum with a new job, email us at **CAFS@vermontlaw.edu**



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

CAFS provides direct law and policy assistance to organizations and entities in the food system in Vermont and beyond. For example, in the past year:

Farm School NYC

CAFS offered legal counsel to longstanding client Farm School NYC as the organization transitioned from having a single executive director to a collective leadership structure. CAFS supported the new leaders by reviewing grant contracts and contractor agreements, answering tax questions, advising on lobbying compliance, and updating fiscal sponsor agreements. CAFS also helped the organization with intellectual property issues.



Photo courtesy of Farm School NYC

Liberation Ecosystem

Wendy Chen and Fran Miller provided assistance to Liberation Ecosystem, a statewide network created by and for Black, Indigenous, People of Color advancing racial equity in land, environment, agriculture, and foodways. This included supporting the organization during a transition to its own 501c3 organization, particularly regarding contracts and employment law.

Cooperation Vermont

Cooperation Vermont, an organization that aims to further cooperative development in the state, sought to create a community land trust, so they tapped CAFS experts for support. The project, called the Landstead Elders Project, will usher in a new generation of land stewards to help provide community-level care for elders aging in place in their homes.



EVENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

July 2023

CAFS and the Food Law and Policy Clinic at Harvard Law School played a supporting role for the Alcorn State Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers Policy Center, helping facilitate breakout sessions during their 1890 University Strategy Meeting.

Fran Miller participated in the Rural Reconciliation Project's Land and Water Roundtable.

August 2023

Fran Miller was a panelist on "Translating Research into Action and Policy" and "Engaging with Law and Policy" at the Rural Sociological Society 2023 Conference.

September 2022

Fran Miller was a panelist on "Rethinking Farmland and Housing Ownership Through an Equity and Justice Lens" at the Land Trust Alliance Rally in Portland, Oregon; Liz Turner exhibited.

October 2022

Fran Miller presented "Understanding Heirs' Property at the Community Level" as part of a three-part training for land-grant university extension agents by the Southern Rural Development Center and the Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers Policy Research Center at Alcorn State University.

CAFS organized and funded the inaugural Heirs' Property Practitioner Network Educational Event at Wake Forest University School of Law. Fran Miller presented along with other HPPN members.



Fran Miller, Lindsey Cole, Rev. Dr. Heber Brown, and members of the HPPN network at a welcome dinner during the event

November 2023

Laurie Beyranevand was a panel speaker on "Innovative Solutions," a panel exploring whether collaborative research can save food systems at the UVM Food Systems Summit.

January 2024

Laurie Beyranevand presented on "The State of Prison Food in New England – Research Gaps and Opportunities" at a National Farm to Institution Metrics Collaborative meeting.

Laurie Beyranevand was an invited panelist on "Reflecting on Issues Relating to Human Health, Food Insecurity, and Biodiversity, Broadly Defined" for a symposium hosted by the Indiana Journal of Global Legal Studies entitled "A Fragile Framework: How Global Food Systems Intersect with the International Legal Order, the Environment, and the World's Populations" at Indiana University's Mayer School of Law.

February 2024

Wendy Chen participated in a virtual Q&A session on employment law for farmers markets for the Virginia Farmers Market Association's "Market Management 201" training program.

Erika Dunyak presented on cooperatives during the Legal Food Hub 2024 Winter Webinar Series hosted by the Conservation Law Foundation.

Fran Miller presented on the White River Land Collaborative and collaborative farming to the Collective Models Working Group virtual meeting organized by Renewing the Countryside.

Laurie Beyranevand was a panelist on "Growing Solutions: Pesticide Practices for a Sustainable Food Future" at the *NYU Law Environmental Law Journal's* Annual Symposium. She presented "Our Toxic Food System: Perspectives on Pesticides and Pathways to Change."

March 2024

Wendy Chen and Lihlani Nelson presented "The Farmers Market Legal Toolkit: Rules and Procedures for Risk Management" for the Virginia Farmers Market Association's Market Manager Certification Program.

With Andrew Graham from NOFA-VT/VTFMA, Wendy Chen and Cameron Briggs Ramos JD'24 presented "The Farmers Market Legal Toolkit: Employment Law Essentials for Markets" at InTents: The Farmers Market Conference in San Diego, CA.



EVENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Laurie Beyranevand presented on CAFS's report "The State of Prison Food in New England" to the Downeast Restorative Harvest Advisory Council.

Lihlani Nelson presented "The Farmers Market Legal Toolkit: Rules and Procedures for Risk Management" at the Mass Farmers Markets 2024 Conference: Farmers Markets Connect.

Fran Miller presented to the Land Access Alliance's board meeting on community-based ownership of land, specifically on the White River Land Collaborative and their learnings.

Wendy Chen and Cameron Briggs Ramos JD'24 presented "The Farmers Market Legal Toolkit: Worker Classification for Farmers Markets" at the Vermont Farmers Market Conference at VLGS.

Laurie Beyranevand and Lihlani Nelson participated in the 2024 Racial Justice in the U.S. Food System Convening, in Chicago, IL, hosted by ChangeLab Solutions and Cornell University.

Fran Miller organized a panel titled "Perspective from Lawyers in the Trenches" at the Heirs Property and the Racial Wealth Gap Conference at Boston College Law School.

Erika Dunyak presented on business succession and cooperative conversion, in collaboration with the Small Business Law Center, for the Randolph Innovation Center and the HUB CoWorks in Rutland, VT.

CAFS co-sponsored Vermont Law and Graduate School's Bust the Trust Symposium, a discussion on antitrust trends with experts in Vermont and nationwide organized by the VLGS Food and Agriculture Law Society and Business Law Society.

Laurie Beyranevand was a panelist on "The History of the Academic Discipline of Food Law" and a moderator for "Teaching Food Law & Policy Panel and Discussion on Models, Innovations" at Reflecting on the Past to Advance the Future: Celebrating a Decade of the Resnick Center for Food Law and Policy at UCLA.

Erika Dunyak and Liz Turner presented "Business Planning Principles for Queer-Owned Food System Businesses" at the Queer Food Conference in Boston, MA.

Fran Miller presented "Family Land: An Introduction to Heirs' Property Challenges and Remedies" at the National Farm Viability Conference in Charleston, WV.

Fran Miller participated in an heirs' property roundtable at the 2024 Annual Conference on Legal Issues in Social Entrepreneurship and Impact Investing hosted by the Impact Investing Legal Working Group and the Grunin Center in New York City.

Lihlani Nelson presented on the Healthy Food Policy Project at the Indiana Hoosier Health and Wellness Alliance's Building a Sustainable Food System: From Concept to Creation Virtual Food Summit.

Laurie Beyranevand presented "Essentially Expendable: The Failure of Preemptive Agency Space to Protect Farmworkers from Dangerous Pesticides" at the 2024 Annual Health Law Professors Conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Lihlani Nelson presented "Food Systems Resilience Planning and the Climate Crisis" on a webinar addressing Climate Adaptation and Resilience in Community Food Systems hosted by the Food Systems Leadership Network and the Institute for Social Economic Development Solutions.

Lihlani Nelson presented "Food Systems Resilience Planning and the Climate Crisis: Defining Concepts and Terminology" to the Resilient Food Systems & Nutrition Work Group of Healthy Eating Research, a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Nutrition and Obesity Policy Research and Evaluation Network.

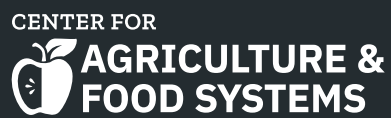


Clockwise, from left: Alyssa Shea, Sam Ellis, Lauren Wustenburg, Maya Graeber, and Fran Miller

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