

Kansas State University/Washburn University School of Law

Agribusiness Symposium

Friday, September 13, 2019

Hutchinson Community College • Justice Theater • Hutchinson, KS

9:00 a.m.

Registration

9:30 a.m.

Introductions and Welcome

Roger McEowen

Kansas Farm Bureau Professor of Agricultural Law and Taxation,
Washburn University School of Law

Wendee Grady

Director, Kansas Farm Bureau Legal Foundation

9:40 – 10:30 a.m.

High-Tech Rednecks: Precision Ag. Technology and Potential Legal Issues

Joe Aker, Attorney, Cottonwood Law Group, LC, Abilene, Kansas

Jerrod Westfahl, Co-Founder/COO AgriSync, Inc.; Of Counsel, Devine & Donley, LLC

This session will explore the issues that can arise with ownership interests in precision ag. data. With the ever-changing landscape of precision technology, the law is playing catch-up in a niche area. We'll highlight areas of current law that give producers a starting point for what they can do to protect their interests while bridging the gap to the practical aspects of implementing these technologies on your farm. Issues include: landlord/tenant situations, LLC/Partnership relationships, equipment terms of service agreements, broadband, and software compatibility.

10:30 – 11:20 a.m.

Water Rights - Evaluating risks that may reduce value and usefulness

Michael K. Ramsey, Partner with Hope Mills, Collins & Ramsey, Garden City, Kansas

This presentation addresses statutory, administrative and case law developments within the state of Kansas that may impact the value and usefulness of an individual water right. Understanding the extrinsic factors that may result in a loss of utility or value of a water right is of importance to an owner, purchaser or lender.

11:20 – 11:30 a.m.

Break

11:30 – 12:20

Tax Law Update and the New Tax Bill Impacts

Roger McEowen

The "Tax Cuts and Jobs Act" brought significant changes to the tax Code. Those changes continue to impact client tax planning in many ways. In the limited time allowed, Prof. McEowen will provide an overview of the changes, what was learned from the 2018 tax filing season, and associated client planning opportunities and challenges.

12:20 – 1:00 p.m.

Lunch

1:00 – 2:15 p.m.

Session 1: Impact of the Macroeconomic Environment on Agriculture

Brian Briggeman, Professor, Director of Arthur Capper Cooperative Center, Kansas State University Department of Agricultural Economics

The U.S. economy is in a protracted period of growth that recently has seen improvements to consumer spending and a more robust labor market. While at the same time, U.S. agriculture is in an extended slump. Many producers have been hurt by slowing global economic growth, disruptions to trade, and gradual increases to interest rates. In this session, Dr. Briggeman will discuss the implications of macro-economic and global issues facing U.S. agriculture and provide an outlook for the path moving forward.

Session 2: Farm Economy

Dr. Allen Featherstone, Department Head and Professor, Kansas State University Department of Agricultural Economics

The current financial situation in Kansas production agriculture. This will discuss the conditions through 2018 and will provide an outlook regarding what the income situation will be in 2019 and 2020.

2:15 – 2:25 p.m.

Break

2:25 – 3:40 p.m.

Session 1: Farm Bill

Dr. Mykel Taylor, Associate Professor, Kansas State University Department of Agricultural Economics

The 2018 Farm Bill was passed in December 2018. Though it has much in common with the previous farm bill, there are some significant differences. This discussion will cover the new provisions of the programs, and economic decisions to consider when making a decision regarding commodity programs.

Session 2: Agricultural Trade

Amy Deen Westbrook, Kurt M. Sager Memorial Distinguished Professor of International and Commercial Law, Washburn University School of Law

This session will examine recent developments involving the trade of agricultural goods and products on the agricultural sector in general and on Kansas producers specifically. What has been the impact of NAFTA and what is projected for the renegotiated NAFTA and the U.S./Mexico/Canada trade negotiations? China trade issues will also be addressed.

3:40 – 4:30 p.m.

Ethical Issues Related to Risk: Understanding and Advising Clients

(Approved for 1 hour CLE, including 1 hour ethics and professionalism)

Shawn Leisinger, Associate Dean for Centers and External Programs, Washburn University School of Law

This CLE session will take a look at ethical issues related to risk in the legal context. We will first look at how different people, and different attorneys, approach risk taking through a live exercise and application of academic risk approaches to the outcomes. We will then look at how an attorney can get competent and ethically advise clients in regard to risk decisions in practice. Participants will be challenged to contemplate how their personal approach to risk may impact, or fail to impact, client decisions and choices.

4:30 p.m.

Adjourn