Anticipated Extension Program Needs: Legal Issues With the Transition to a Bioeconomy

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Outline

I. National Agricultural Law Center, www.nationalaglawcenter.org
   → “platform” of legal research and information

II. Center’s commitment to Cooperative Extension Service
    → eXtension Community of Practice for Agricultural Law

III. Comments/Talking Points
"The decision to create the Center, now more than twenty years ago, was certainly the right decision. As agriculture has evolved over the last quarter century, legal issues have gotten bigger and their impact has gotten broader. . . . Your work can bring predictability and equity in every day dealings in unchartered areas where agriculture is moving."

-- USDA Secretary Mike Johanns, April 2007
National Agricultural Law Center

- Reading Rooms
- Case Law Indexes
- Federal Register Digest
- Agricultural Law Bibliography
- Congressional Research Service Reports
- State Law Clearinghouse
- Glossary of Agricultural Policies and Programs
- E-Newsletter
- “United States Agricultural & Food Law and Policy Blog”
eXtension CoP for Agricultural Law

- Comprised of over 40 land grant faculty and state, regional and county Extension professionals, and nonprofit organizations representing 25 states

- Currently comprised of six subgroups:

1. Environment and Natural Resources
2. Labor Issues
3. Ag Diversification
4. Taxation and Business Organizations
5. Estate Planning and Farm Succession
6. Renewable Energy
Comments/Talking Points

• Examples of interaction with extension and law: carbon credits; wind lease issues; states’ laws on ownership of geothermal sources

• Need for dialogue and input from extension community on legal issues

• Need for dialogue and input from extension community on best means of information delivery

• Two “universes” of issues: current and emerging

• Limitations
“This time, like all times, is a very good one, if we but know what to do with it.”

(Ralph Waldo Emerson)