

TEXAS A&M LAW REVIEW
FALL 2018 SYMPOSIUM
AGRICULTURE 2.0:



THE CHANGING LEGAL LANDSCAPE FOR TEXAS AGRICULTURE

Tentative Schedule of Events for October 5, 2018

8:30-9:00 am: Breakfast/Check-in

9:05-9:15 am: Welcome Greetings

9:20-10:05 am: Agriculture and Trade: Where we are currently, Where we are heading, What should the industry be doing or looking for? Potential Economic Consequences?

Panel: Congressman Kevin Brady (Invited); Dan Hunter: Texas Dep't of Agriculture; John Gilliland: Akin Gump

Topics to be discussed:

- Current trade climate for agricultural industry.
- Forecast resulting from Trump trade policies, including tariffs.
- What should producers look for?
- What should policy makers press for?
- White House Announcement on Aid Program

10:05-10:15 am: Break

10:20-11:00 am: New Tax Law and Agriculture: How the 2017 tax plan affects the agriculture industry.

Speaker: Kristine Tidgren: Iowa State University

Topics to be discussed:

- How is the new tax plan different for producers?
- Any benefits producers should take advantage of?
- Should producers change business practices?
- Any warnings?

THE CHANGING LEGAL LANDSCAPE FOR TEXAS AGRICULTURE

11:05-11:50 am: Agriculture/ Big Data: Who owns the data? Risks and Benefits
[subject to change]

11:05-11:50 am: Right to Farm/Growing Concern of Public Backlash: Recent Smithfield lawsuits have in North Carolina and other proceedings across the US suggest a growing threat to Agriculture Operatives.

Panel: Rusty Rumley: National Agricultural Law Center; Attorney (TBA); Industry Representative (TBA)

Topics to be discussed:

- Current problem with agriculture and other areas of society (Smithfield cases)
- What is right to farm statutes?
- State examples (does Texas have one)?
- How do they benefit producers?
- Who are the new players in actions against agriculture?

11:50-12:00 pm: Lunch served

12:05-12:50 pm: Legislative Update during lunch

Speaker: Harrison Pittman: National Agricultural Law Center

1:00-1:45 pm: Climate and Environmental Policies: Highlight current innovation and efforts.

Panel: Steve Dauphin: Kirchner Group; TBA Noble Foundation Member

Topics to be discussed:

- Ecosystem service markets and how they may apply to agriculture.
- Alternatives to traditional fertilizer.

THE CHANGING LEGAL LANDSCAPE FOR TEXAS AGRICULTURE

- Proposing better environmental policies that make sense for both sides.
- Current and forthcoming technology for the agricultural industry.

1:50-2:00 pm: Break

2:00-2:45 pm: Texas groundwater law and policy: Rural v. Urban, Ownership v. Regulation, and Impact of Water Projects

Panel: Billy Howe: Texas Farm Bureau; Groundwater Conservation District Representative (Proposed); Texas Water Attorney (TBA)

Topics to be discussed:

- Update after Coyote Lake?
- How to address future water constraints?

2:50-3:20 pm: Land and Water Conservation in Texas: Loss of Productive Lands and Fragmentation.

Panel: Blair Fitzsimons: Texas Agricultural Land Trust; Roel Lopez: Texas A&M Natural Resource Institute

Topics to be discussed:

- Effects of land fragmentation.
- What are conservation easements?
- How do conservation easements benefit everyone?
- Who is a land trust owner? (TALT).

3:25 pm: Closing remarks