

US AGRICULTURAL LAW
AGEC 342 – SPRING 2025
School of Agriculture – Western Illinois University

INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Kevin Bacon

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Office Hours: MWF 9:00–10:00, M 12-1

or by appointment

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

AGEC 342 meets on M, W, F in 308 Knoblauch Hall from 10:00 – 10:50 a.m.

EMAILS

Please be sure to include the course in which you are enrolled in any emails.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND PREREQUISITES

Law as it applies to the agricultural operation. Partnership, corporation, agribusiness contracts, leases, leasing practices, environmental, tort and liability law are covered. *Prerequisite: AGRI 220. 3 hrs. lect.*

TEXTS AND OTHER MATERIAL

- Recommended: Looney, J.W. and Uchtmann, Donald L. Agricultural Law – Principles and Cases, Second Edition, McGraw-Hill, Inc. ISBN 9780070657465
- Supplemental Handouts

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To develop a basic understanding of law and the legal system as it pertains to agriculture.
2. To learn basic legal terminology relevant to duty, liability, contracts, tenancy, property transfer, and organization and operation of businesses.
3. To gain practical experience regarding civil and criminal procedures through mock trials.

EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS

Participation: Students are expected to regularly attend class and actively participate.

- Online Absence Reporting System (OARS) - <http://wiu.edu/oars>.

Academic Integrity: The rules and regulations outlined in the University's policy on academic integrity are applied to this course. See <http://www.wiu.edu/policies/acintegrity.php>.

Disruptive Student Behavior: Behave yourself. <http://www.wiu.edu/vpas/policies/disrupst.php>.

Student Rights and Responsibilities: Detailed information on student rights/responsibilities can be found at <http://www.wiu.edu/provost/student/>. It's your responsibility to be familiar with posted info.

Special Accommodations: If you need special accommodations, please feel free to stop by and discuss your needs or contact Disability Resource Center: 309-298-2512 or disability@wiu.edu.

University values, Title IX, and other federal and state laws prohibit sex discrimination, including sexual assault/misconduct, dating/domestic violence, and stalking. If you, or someone you know, has been the victim of any of these offenses, we encourage you to report this to the Title IX Coordinator at 309-298-1977 or anonymously online at:

http://www.wiu.edu/equal_opportunity_and_access/report.php. If you disclose an incident to a

faculty member, the faculty member must notify the Title IX Coordinator. The complete Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct Policy is available at: <http://www.wiu.edu/policies/dhsm.php>.

TOBACCO POLICY

Tobacco use of any kind will not be tolerated in class. This includes chewing tobacco.

USE OF CELLULAR PHONES

As a courtesy to other students and to the instructor, all cell phones should be turned off prior to class. Continued disregard of this policy may result in ejection from the course. If, due to medical or public safety concerns, a student needs an exception to this policy he/she should inform the instructor prior to class. Cell phones are not be used under any circumstances on exams. **Texting** is not allowed during class and repeated violations may lead to dismissal from the course with an assigned grade of F.

IMPORTANT DATES

Jan 20	-	Martin Luther King Day – No Class
Feb 12	-	Lincoln’s Birthday – No Class
Mar 10-14	-	Spring Break – No Class
March 30	-	Last Day to Drop with a W
May 5	-	Final – 10:00 – 11:50

GRADING POLICY

The course grade will be based on the following factors, with weightings as indicated:

Exam I	25 %	A = 93% or above	C- = 70-72.99%
Exam II	25 %	A- = 90-92.99%	D+ = 67-69.99%
Quizzes and Homework	20 %	B+ = 87-89.99%	D = 63-66.99%
<u>Comprehensive Final Exam</u>	<u>30%</u>	B = 83-86.99%	D- = 60-62.99%
		B- = 80-82.99%	F = <60%
Total	100%	C+ = 77-79.99%	
		C = 73-76.99%	

Grade breaking points may be lowered, but in no case will they be raised. These breaking points will be evaluated only after final numerical grades have been calculated.

Attention Education Majors: The changes within the Illinois state teaching license require all education majors to receive a grade of a "C-" or better in this course in order to meet Illinois teaching license requirements. With the university +/- grading system, receiving a "D+" or below will require you to retake this course or find a substitute course to meet School of Agriculture graduation requirements.

QUIZZES/HOMEWORK

The instructor reserves the right to use both announced and unannounced quizzes. Participation in mock trials, provide a “learn by doing” opportunity. Only excused absences will be allowed to make up missed points. Unless it is an emergency, only absences approved in advance will be excused. It is at the discretion of the instructor as to whether an absence is excused or unexcused.

EXAMS

There will be two tests and one **comprehensive** final exam. Exams will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and problem-solving questions. Makeup exams will only be given in extreme situations.

If a student disagrees with a particular answer, it is the student's responsibility to provide a logical reason in writing as to the reason for their disagreement. This does not apply to scoring errors. All instructors are human and occasional errors in grading will occur. Please bring any such errors to the instructor's attention immediately. **Late work receives no more than half credit. No late work accepted after the week before finals week.**

ACCREDITATION

The School of Agriculture is housed in the College of Business and Technology which is accredited by AACSB-International.

COURSE OUTLINE

Week	Start of Week	Topic/Material
Week 1	1/13/2025	HW: Chapter Overview Presentations Chapter 1. Introduction to Law and Agricultural Law
Week 2	1/20/2025	MLK Day – Review Components of Agricultural Law Chapter 2. Torts & Chapter 8. Liability for Farm Animals Fence Laws
Week 3	1/27/2025	Civil Trial – Animals Running at Large Chapter 3. Contracts Chapter 4. Nature & Meaning of Property, & Intellectual Property Rights
Week 4	2/3/2025	Chapter 5. Acquiring & Disposing of Real Property Deeds and Land Ownership
Week 5	2/10/2025	Review & Exam 1
Week 6	2/17/2025	Chapter 6. Rights & Limitations in the Ownership of Agricultural Property Chapter 7. Rights & Limitations in the Use of Agricultural Property. Ownership Rights & Responsibilities, & Lecture on Property Insurance
Week 7	2/24/2025	Criminal Law Lecture, & Supplemental Criminal Law Lecture Chapter 9. Protecting the Environment & Productivity of Agricultural Land
Week 8	3/3/2025	Chapter 10. Water & Drainage Mock Criminal Trial–Meat Packer& Inspector, bribery& assault
	3/10/2025	Spring Break - No Class

Week 9	3/17/2025	Chapter 11. Sales, Warranties & Products Liability Chapter 12. Marketing of Agricultural Products
Week 10	3/24/2025	Review & Exam 2
Week 11	3/31/2025	Chapter 13. Agricultural Credit, Finance & Bankruptcy Chapter 14. Agricultural Labor, Agents & Independent Contractors Employment Legislation
Week 12	4/7/2025	Chapter 15. Farm Tenancy, & Lecture on Leases & Leasing
Week 13	4/14/2025	Chapter 16. Farm Partnership
Week 14	4/21/2025	Chapter 17. Farm Corporations Other organization forms: Farm Limited Liability Companies & Coops Coops as Unique Corp
Week 15	4/28/2025	Chapter 18. Farm Estate Planning Review for Final
Week 16	5/5/2025	Comprehensive Final Exam 10:00 am Monday, May 5.

NOTICES

Please be advised that this syllabus is tentative. All classes are different and we may or may not be able to address all of the content areas or stick with the anticipated number of exams. Any deviations from the syllabus will be announced as soon as possible.