

# Agribusiness Law Syllabus

AEDE 3170, Spring 2024

## Course Information

- **Course times and location:** Monday and Wednesday, 2:20 – 3:40, 164 Howlett Hall
- **Credit hours:** 3
- **Mode of delivery:** In Person
- **Office Hours:** Prior to or after class, or by appointment.

## Instructors

- **Name:** Robert Moore
  - **Email:** moore.301@osu.edu
  - **Phone Number:** 614-247-8260
  - **Preferred means of communication:**
    - Preferred method of communication for questions is **email**.
    - Class-wide communications will be sent through the Announcements tool in CarmenCanvas. Please check your notification preferences ([go.osu.edu/canvas-notifications](https://go.osu.edu/canvas-notifications)) to be sure you receive these messages.
- **Name:** Jeff Lewis
  - **Email:** lewis.1459@osu.edu
  - **Phone Number:** 614-247-1720
  - **Preferred means of communication:**
    - Preferred method of communication for questions is **email**.

## Course Prerequisites/Co-Requisites

AEDE 2001, 2001H; Econ 2001, or 2001H

## Course Description

A study of the legal system and selected areas of law that affect agricultural types of businesses, including civil liabilities, property law, business law and regulatory law.



## Course Learning Goals and Outcomes

Whether you will work in agricultural production, agribusiness, ag systems, natural resources, or similar areas, agricultural laws will undoubtedly affect you and your career. How will you manage the legal issues you will encounter? Our primary objective for this class is to help you handle legal issues in agriculture. We cannot prepare you to be an agricultural attorney, but we aim instead to help you be an agricultural professional who can recognize and deal with legal needs and problems.

Our specific goals are to teach you to:

- Be more aware of the legal system, how it functions, and your role in it;
- Find agricultural laws and legal information for agriculture;
- Consider legal problems and needs you may encounter in your agricultural career;
- Develop practices and strategies to address legal issues and solve legal problems;
- Think critically about laws and policies that affect you, your career area, and our society.



# How This Course Works

**Mode of delivery:** This course is taught in person. Students are expected to attend class each week during the scheduled meeting sessions. Quizzes, activities and exams will be administered through Carmen during the scheduled class meetings as found on the course schedule.

**Pace of online activities:** This course is divided into **modules**. Students are expected to keep pace with deadlines but may schedule their efforts freely within that time frame.

**Credit hours and work expectations:** This is a 3 credit-hour course. According to [Ohio State bylaws on instruction](http://go.osu.edu/credithours) (go.osu.edu/credithours), students should expect around 3 hours per week of time spent on direct instruction in addition to 6 hours of homework (reading and assignment preparation, for example) to receive a grade of C average.

**Getting the Most Out of This Class:** There are five things you can do to get the most out of this class:

- Attend class and abide by course policies.
- Think about and apply the information we share with you.
- Participate in class discussions and activities.
- Collaborate with other students on group activities in class.
- Complete assignments on time and according to instructions.

How much work you want to put into this class is up to you, but we believe that the harder you work, the more you will learn. Because the law is not your area of expertise, consistent and continued engagement with this unfamiliar content will ensure that you obtain the information and skills we want to share with you. Our focus as your instructors is on learning rather than on grading. But grading is an unfortunate custom we must practice, so we have established a “labor-based” grading approach” that ties your efforts to the final grade you will receive for the course.

## Our “Labor-Based” Grading Approach

A labor-based grading approach emphasizes effort as the indicator of learning growth. We have identified the amount of effort or “labor” we expect from you to ensure that you experience learning growth. If you complete the labor we expect, you are guaranteed the default grade of ‘C.’ More labor will maximize your learning and result in a higher grade. Less effort will reduce both your learning and your grade. This approach means that the learning impact and grade you obtain from this class is, in large part, *your choice*.



## Points

You will earn points as follows:

### Quizzes

There will be 10 quizzes throughout the semester. The quizzes will be multiple choice on Carmen. Each quiz will be pass/fail. To pass the quiz, you must get at least 8 of the 10 questions correct and you will have two tries for each quiz. Points for quizzes will be allotted as follows:

<u>Quizzes Passed</u>	<u>Points Toward Grade</u>
8-10	3
7	2
6	1
0-5	0

For example, if you pass eight or more quizzes, you will receive three points towards your grade.

Quizzes will be posted Wednesday afternoon and must be submitted by 2:20 pm the following Monday. The first quiz will be a practice quiz and not graded to provide an idea of what to expect with the quizzes.

### Activities

At the end of class on most Wednesdays, we will have an in-class activity. The activity will attempt to apply what we have learned to a real-life situation. You will be required to submit short answers to the questions presented with each activity. We will grade your answers and give you a pass/fail grade. You will be permitted to resubmit your answers 1 additional time if you receive a fail. We will provide guidance as to how you can improve your grade to pass.

Points for activities will be allotted as follows:

<u>Activities Passed</u>	<u>Points Toward Grade</u>
8-10	3
7	2
6	1
0-5	0

The answers are required to be submitted by 2:20 pm on the Monday following the activity. Resubmissions are due on the Monday following the original due date. The first activity will be a practice activity and not graded to provide an idea of what to expect with the quizzes.



### *Final Exam*

You will be required to submit a final exam. The final exam will be worth up to 3 points and you will submit it on Carmen. The due date will be determined at a later date. Throughout the semester, you will be provided key concepts during our lectures. For the final exam you will be required to provide each key concept. You may also be asked a few other questions that relates to suggestions on improving the class. All key concepts will be clearly identified in the class slides throughout the semester.

### *Grade Boost Projects*

We will offer two optional Grade Boost Projects. You can earn an additional 3 points for each project. You can choose to do both, either or neither of the grade boost projects. If you choose to do neither project, the best grade you can get is a C. If you choose to only do one grade boost project, the best grade you can get is a B. If you want an A in the class, you must complete both projects.

The grade boosts will be more involved, complex scenarios. You will be required to determine what law applies to the situation and provide a legal analysis. Your answer must show us that you understand the law that applies and understand the legal concepts pertaining to the law. Each project will receive an initial score of 0-3. We will provide feedback on the answers and you may resubmit your answers one time to try to improve your score, if needed. Resubmissions are due on the Monday following the original due date.

### **Late Submissions**

Late submissions will not receive credit. We have provided some allowable misses on quizzes and activities so you can miss one or two and still receive the full three points. We will remind you multiple times when the class boosts are due. The class schedule indicates when we will have quizzes and activities. **THIS SCHEDULE MAY CHANGE – BE SURE TO REGULARLY CHECK.** Depending on how lectures, discussions and activities go, we may need to adjust the calendar. **IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO CHECK THE CALENDAR ON CARMEN FOR ANY UPDATES OR CHANGES.** We will do our best to alert you to any schedule changes.

# Course Materials, Fees and Technologies

## Required Materials and/or Technologies

- All materials will be provided on Carmen. There is no textbook for this class. [Required material or technology]

## Optional Materials

- You may be required to access other materials to complete your activities and assignments. All resources will be online, free of charge. We will discuss what materials and how to find them in class.

## Required Equipment

- **Computer:** current Mac (MacOS) or PC (Windows 10) with high-speed internet connection.

## Required Software

**Microsoft Office 365:** All Ohio State students are now eligible for free Microsoft Office 365. Visit the [installing Office 365](https://go.osu.edu/office365help) (go.osu.edu/office365help) help article for full instructions.

## CarmenCanvas Access

You will need to use [BuckeyePass](https://buckeyepass.osu.edu) (buckeyepass.osu.edu) multi-factor authentication to access your courses in Carmen. To ensure that you are able to connect to Carmen at all times, it is recommended that you do each of the following:

- Register multiple devices in case something happens to your primary device. Visit the [BuckeyePass - Adding a Device](https://go.osu.edu/add-device) (go.osu.edu/add-device) help article for step-by-step instructions.
- Request passcodes to keep as a backup authentication option. When you see the Duo login screen on your computer, click **Enter a Passcode** and then click the **Text me new codes** button that appears. This will text you ten passcodes, good for 365 days, that can each be used once.
- [Install the Duo Mobile application](https://go.osu.edu/install-duo) (go.osu.edu/install-duo) on all of your registered devices for the ability to generate one-time codes in the event that you lose cell, data, or Wi-Fi service.

If none of these options will meet the needs of your situation, you can contact the IT Service Desk at [614-688-4357 \(HELP\)](tel:614-688-4357) and IT support staff will work out a solution with you.



## Technology Skills Needed for This Course

- Basic computer and web-browsing skills
- [Navigating CarmenCanvas](https://go.osu.edu/canvasstudent) (go.osu.edu/canvasstudent)
- [CarmenZoom virtual meetings](https://go.osu.edu/zoom-meetings) (go.osu.edu/zoom-meetings)
- [Recording a slide presentation with audio narration and recording, editing and uploading video](https://go.osu.edu/video-assignment-guide) (go.osu.edu/video-assignment-guide)

## Technology Support

For help with your password, university email, CarmenCanvas, or any other technology issues, questions or requests, contact the IT Service Desk, which offers 24-hour support, seven days a week.

- **Self Service and Chat:** [go.osu.edu/it](https://go.osu.edu/it)
- **Phone:** [614-688-4357 \(HELP\)](tel:614-688-4357)
- **Email:** [servicedesk@osu.edu](mailto:servicedesk@osu.edu)



# Grading and Faculty Response

## How Your Grade is Calculated

Assignment Category	Points
Quizzes	0-3
Activities	0-3
Grade boost #1	0-3
Grade Boost #2	0-3
Final	0-3

The following is the grading scale for the class:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Points</u>
A	15
A-	14
B+	13
B	12
B-	11
C+	10
C	9
C-	8
D	7
E	0-6





# Other Course Policies

## Discussion and Communication Guidelines

[The following are my expectations for how we should communicate as a class. Above all, please remember to be respectful and thoughtful.]

- **Writing style:** Write using good grammar, spelling, and punctuation. A more conversational tone is fine.
- **Tone and civility:** Let's maintain a supportive learning community where everyone feels safe and where people can disagree amicably.
- **Citing your sources:** When we have academic discussions, please cite your sources to back up what you say. For the textbook or other course materials, list at least the title and page numbers. For online sources, include a link.
- **Backing up your work:** Consider composing your academic posts in a word processor, where you can save your work, and then copying into the Carmen discussion.

## Academic Integrity Policy

See [Descriptions of Major Course Assignments](#) for specific guidelines about collaboration and academic integrity in the context of this online class.

### Ohio State's Academic Integrity Policy

Academic integrity is essential to maintaining an environment that fosters excellence in teaching, research, and other educational and scholarly activities. Thus, The Ohio State University and the Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM) expect that all students have read and understand the University's Code of Student Conduct, and that all students will complete all academic and scholarly assignments with fairness and honesty. Students must recognize that failure to follow the rules and guidelines established in the University's Code of Student Conduct and this syllabus may constitute Academic Misconduct.

The Ohio State University's Code of Student Conduct (Section 3335-23-04) defines academic misconduct as: Any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the University, or subvert the educational process. Examples of academic misconduct include (but are not limited to) plagiarism, collusion (unauthorized collaboration), copying the work of another student, and possession of unauthorized materials during an examination. Ignorance of the University's Code of Student Conduct is never considered an excuse for academic misconduct, so I recommend that you review the Code of Student Conduct and, specifically, the sections dealing with academic misconduct.

If I suspect that a student has committed academic misconduct in this course, I am obligated by University Rules to report my suspicions to the Committee on Academic Misconduct. If COAM determines that you have violated the University's Code of Student Conduct (i.e.,



committed academic misconduct), the sanctions for the misconduct could include a failing grade in this course and suspension or dismissal from the University.

If you have any questions about the above policy or what constitutes academic misconduct in this course, please contact me.

Other sources of information on academic misconduct (integrity) to which you can refer include:

- [Committee on Academic Misconduct](http://go.osu.edu/coam) (go.osu.edu/coam)
- [Ten Suggestions for Preserving Academic Integrity](http://go.osu.edu/ten-suggestions) (go.osu.edu/ten-suggestions)
- [Eight Cardinal Rules of Academic Integrity](http://go.osu.edu/cardinal-rules) (go.osu.edu/cardinal-rules)

## Copyright for Instructional Materials

The materials used in connection with this course may be subject to copyright protection and are only for the use of students officially enrolled in the course for the educational purposes associated with the course. Copyright law must be considered before copying, retaining, or disseminating materials outside of the course.

## Creating an Environment Free from Harassment, Discrimination, and Sexual Misconduct

The Ohio State University is committed to building and maintaining a community to reflect diversity and to improve opportunities for all. All Buckeyes have the right to be free from harassment, discrimination, and sexual misconduct. Ohio State does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, pregnancy (childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, or recovery therefrom), race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or protected veteran status, or any other bases under the law, in its activities, academic programs, admission, and employment. Members of the university community also have the right to be free from all forms of sexual misconduct: sexual harassment, sexual assault, relationship violence, stalking, and sexual exploitation.

To report harassment, discrimination, sexual misconduct, or retaliation and/or seek confidential and non-confidential resources and supportive measures, contact the Office of Institutional Equity:

1. Online reporting form at [equity.osu.edu](http://equity.osu.edu),
2. Call 614-247-5838 or TTY 614-688-8605,
3. Or Email [equity@osu.edu](mailto:equity@osu.edu)

The university is committed to stopping sexual misconduct, preventing its recurrence, eliminating any hostile environment, and remedying its discriminatory effects. All university

employees have reporting responsibilities to the Office of Institutional Equity to ensure the university can take appropriate action:

- All university employees, except those exempted by legal privilege of confidentiality or expressly identified as a confidential reporter, have an obligation to report incidents of sexual assault immediately.
- The following employees have an obligation to report all other forms of sexual misconduct as soon as practicable but at most within five workdays of becoming aware of such information: 1. Any human resource professional (HRP); 2. Anyone who supervises faculty, staff, students, or volunteers; 3. Chair/director; and 4. Faculty member.

## Diversity

The Ohio State University affirms the importance and value of diversity of people and ideas. We believe in creating equitable research opportunities for all students and to providing programs and curricula that allow our students to understand critical societal challenges from diverse perspectives and aspire to use research to promote sustainable solutions for all. We are committed to maintaining an inclusive community that recognizes and values the inherent worth and dignity of every person; fosters sensitivity, understanding, and mutual respect among all members; and encourages each individual to strive to reach their own potential. The Ohio State University does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, race, religion, sex, gender, sexual orientation, pregnancy, protected veteran status, or any other bases under the law, in its activities, academic programs, admission, and employment.

To learn more about diversity, equity, and inclusion and for opportunities to get involved, please visit:

- <https://odi.osu.edu/>
- <https://odi.osu.edu/racial-justice-resources>
- <https://odi.osu.edu/focus-on-racial-justice>
- <https://cbssc.osu.edu/>

In addition, this course adheres to **The Principles of Community** adopted by the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences. These principles can be found at <https://cfaesdei.osu.edu/about-us/cfaes-principles-community>. For additional information on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in CFAES, contact the CFAES Office for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (<https://cfaesdei.osu.edu/>). If you have been a victim of or a witness to harassment or discrimination or a bias incident, you can report it online and anonymously (if you choose) at <https://equity.osu.edu/>.

## Your Mental Health

As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce a student's ability to participate in daily activities. The Ohio State University offers services to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing.

If you or someone you know are suffering from any of the aforementioned conditions, you can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus via the Office of Student Life's Counseling and Consultation Service (CCS) by visiting [ccs.osu.edu](http://ccs.osu.edu) or calling 614-292-5766. CCS is located on the 4th floor of the Younkin Success Center and 10th floor of Lincoln Tower. You can reach an on-call counselor when CCS is closed at 614-292-5766 and 24 hour emergency help is also available 24/7 **by dialing 988 to reach the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.**

For students in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences, David Wirt, [wirt.9@osu.edu](mailto:wirt.9@osu.edu), is the CFAES embedded mental health counselor on the Columbus campus. To contact David, please call 614-292-5766. Students should mention their affiliation with CFAES if interested in speaking directly with David.

## Religious Accommodations

It is Ohio State's policy to reasonably accommodate the sincerely held religious beliefs and practices of all students. The policy permits a student to be absent for up to three days each academic semester for reasons of faith or religious or spiritual belief.

Students planning to use religious beliefs or practices accommodations for course requirements must inform the instructor in writing no later than 14 days after the course begins. The instructor is then responsible for scheduling an alternative time and date for the course requirement, which may be before or after the original time and date of the course requirement. These alternative accommodations will remain confidential. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that all course assignments are completed.

## Weather or other short-term closing

Should in-person classes be canceled, we will conduct class on Carmen Zoom. We will send out a notice at least 2 hours prior to the beginning of class if we will be using Zoom.



# ACCESSIBILITY ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

## Requesting Accommodations

The university strives to maintain a healthy and accessible environment to support student learning in and out of the classroom. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic, or temporary medical conditions), please let me know immediately so that we can privately discuss options. To establish reasonable accommodations, I may request that you register with Student Life Disability Services. After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion.

If you are isolating while waiting for a COVID-19 test result, please let me know immediately. Those testing positive for COVID-19 should refer to the Safe and Healthy Buckeyes site for resources. Beyond five days of the required COVID-19 isolation period, I may rely on Student Life Disability Services to establish further reasonable accommodations. You can connect with them at [slds@osu.edu](mailto:slds@osu.edu); 614-292-3307; or [slds.osu.edu](http://slds.osu.edu).

## Disability Services Contact Information

- Phone: [614-292-3307](tel:614-292-3307)
- Website: [slds.osu.edu](http://slds.osu.edu)
- Email: [slds@osu.edu](mailto:slds@osu.edu)
- In person: [Baker Hall 098, 113 W. 12th Avenue](#)

## Accessibility of Course Technology

This online course requires use of CarmenCanvas (Ohio State's learning management system) and other online communication and multimedia tools. If you need additional services to use these technologies, please request accommodations as early as possible.

- [CarmenCanvas accessibility](https://go.osu.edu/canvas-accessibility) (go.osu.edu/canvas-accessibility)
- Streaming audio and video
- [CarmenZoom accessibility](https://go.osu.edu/zoom-accessibility) (go.osu.edu/zoom-accessibility)



# Course Schedule

Refer to the CarmenCanvas course for up-to-date due dates.

Day	Date	Topic	Quiz Due	Activity Due	Grade Boost
M	1/8	Introduction			
W	1/10	Rule of Law, Sources of Law			
M	1/15	MLK			
W	1/17	Court System			
M	1/22	Criminal Law and Civil Law	Practice	Practice	
W	1/24	Legal Profession			
M	1/29	Negligence	1	1	
W	1/31	Premises Liability			
M	2/5	Product Liability, specific statutes,	2	2	
W	2/7	Remedies			
M	2/12	Contracts	3	3	
W	2/14	Contracts			
M	2/19	Financial Instruments	4	4	1 - released
W	2/21	Business Entities			
M	2/26	Estate Planning			
W	2/28	Deeds/Easements			
M	3/4	Farm Leases	5	5	
W	3/6	Internet Information			1 - due
M	3/11	Spring Break	6	6	
W	3/13	Spring Break			
M	3/18	Review grade boost/finish up other topics			
W	3/20	Taxes			
M	3/25	Insurance	7	7	
W	3/27	Employment			
M	4/1	Nuisance	8	8	
W	4/3	Eminent Domain			
M	4/8*	Water/Drainage	9	9	
W	4/10	Neighbor Issues			2 - released
M	4/15	Energy Leases	10	10	
W	4/17	Zoning/Land Use			
M	4/22	Last Day			2 - due
*On-line, no in-person class					



# Course Topics

## **AEDE 3170**

Agricbusiness Law  
Topics to be Covered  
Subject to change

### Legal Foundations

- Rule of Law
- Sources of Law
- The Court System
- The Legal Profession

### Criminal Law

### Civil Law

- Negligence
- Defamation
- Premises Liability
- Product Liability
- Resolving legal issues

### Contracts

- What is a contract?
- Contract formation
- Uniform Commercial Code (UCC)
- Contract terms
- Breach of Contract

### Financial Instruments

### Business Entities

### Estate Planning

### Real Estate Conveyance

- Deeds
- Easements
- Leases

### Online Legal Information

### Taxes

### Insurance

### Employment

### Property Issues

- Nuisance
- Eminent Domain
- Water/Drainage
- Neighbor Issues
- Energy Leases
- Zoning/Land Use

