



# FARM BILL LAW ENTERPRISE

Harvard Law School Food Law and Policy Clinic

## INTRODUCTION

Over the past year, the Harvard Law School Food Law and Policy Clinic (FLPC) successfully launched the Farm Bill Law Enterprise (FBLE), bringing together faculty from programs spanning six law schools and students across the Food Law Student Network to work together on research and action towards a better farm bill. Together, our partners have produced over 300 pages of background research, drafted four reports full of policy recommendations, and launched FBLE's robust web platform, which includes detailed background memos on every title in the farm bill. Year 2 will build on our first year with a broad range of activities to support FBLE's mission "to facilitate a more considered farm bill that reflects the long-term needs of our society, including environmental stewardship, economic opportunity and stability, public health and nutrition, and fair access and equal protection under the law."

## FBLE PARTNERS

- Harvard Law School, Food Law and Policy Clinic
- Harvard Law School, Environmental Policy Initiative and Emmett Environmental Law Clinic
- Harvard Law School, Health Law and Policy Clinic
- UCLA Law School, Resnick Program for Food Law and Policy
- Vermont Law School, Center for Agriculture and Food Systems
- Yale Law School, Environmental Protection Clinic
- Duke Law School, Environmental Law & Policy Clinic
- Pace University Elizabeth Haub School of Law, Food Law Initiative

Moving forward in Year 2, FLPC seeks support to lead FBLE in finalizing and publishing a series of reports that build on our extensive background research and detail our recommendations for the upcoming farm bill. This year will mark an important transition away from FBLE's internal capacity-building toward concrete efforts to lead public education and debate. As farm bill negotiations intensify over the coming year, FBLE will focus on education and building public awareness, adding an important new voice to the movement toward a farm bill that better protects public health, natural resources, and the economic viability of rural areas. In the coming year FLPC will lead FBLE efforts to:

- 1. Capitalize on our first year of work with FBLE by publishing and publicizing our platform to support better food policy goals.** FBLE is preparing to publish four reports based on our collaborative research and recommendations for farm bill reform: *I: Diversified Agricultural Economies; II: Public Health, Nutrition & Equity; III: Productivity & Risk Management; IV: Governance, Transparency & Accountability*. After publication, we will translate our core recommendations into impact by organizing two fly-ins to D.C., scheduling hill visits and calls with policymakers, presenting at notable conferences, publishing op-eds and articles, and hosting a webinar series. We also hope to monitor and respond to farm bill drafts as they are introduced.
- 2. Prepare for and engage in the farm bill implementation process.** FLPC is working to position FBLE to make an impact far beyond the farm bill's legislative process. We envision FBLE as a respected voice, both in the drafting process and throughout the farm bill's multi-year implementation. Too often, advocacy groups rally around farm bill legislation but fail to stay involved long enough to monitor implementation throughout the agency rulemaking process. Yet farm bill implementation takes longer—and is sometimes more consequential—than writing the legislation. Our goal is to keep stakeholders informed and engaged, as the most important details often are hashed out after the legislation passes and during the rulemaking process.
- 3. Build for the future by engaging new partners, students and initiatives.** FBLE is also working to strengthen the broader community of food law scholars to build its knowledge and capacity about the farm bill. FBLE has blossomed into a network of close relationships between diverse universities, law programs, and faculty. We will host another FBLE retreat in Winter 2018 to help deepen those connections and detail our Spring activities. We also plan to add a new partner and new component to the research that looks at opportunities for the farm bill to address climate change resulting from animal agriculture. As part of our ongoing work to build a deep bench of food law scholars, FLPC will harness the momentum of the first three Food Law Student Leadership Summits by hosting a fourth Summit to give a new cohort of law students the opportunity to learn about and engage in the work of FLPC and FBLE. We invite all FBLE partners to the Summit to share their work and build lasting connections with students. We have already seen that the Summit can inspire a new generation of lawyers, encouraging them to engage with the farm bill and U.S. food policy, as our 2016 Summit helped recruit more than twenty students to work on the FBLE project.

YEAR 2 PROJECT GOALS