Welcome to the 2007 Drake University Agricultural Law Center annual report. I am pleased to share with you this update on a very productive year and to highlight some of our plans for 2008. This past year was especially significant because it marked the beginning of our 25th anniversary celebrations. In 1983 Drake University Law School created the Center and hired me as the director. To celebrate our 25th anniversary the Center organized a series of special conferences and other activities focusing on the role of law in rural development. These efforts included renewing contacts with agricultural law colleagues from other nations, many who participated in our international workshop on the Role of Law in Rural Development in October.

This report reflects the Center’s wide range of activities in the area of food and agricultural law and rural policy. It showcases our conferences, classes, publications, and special research projects and highlights the outstanding work of the Center’s staff, the Drake law students associated with it, and some of our recent graduates. I want to give special thanks to Matt Russell, my friend and colleague, the state food policy project coordinator and assistant in the Center. The report details his many projects and activities, including taking the lead in compiling this report. I also want to thank Susan Roberts, who has been affiliated with the Center since her time as a law student, for leading our work in the emerging legal fields of nutrition and food and health policy.

I hope you enjoy reading about what Drake Law School and the Agricultural Law Center are doing to advance the understanding and awareness of the role of law in shaping society’s relation to food, agriculture and rural society. I look forward to hearing from you if you have comments or questions or would like to learn more about how you can support the work of the Center.

Best wishes,

Prof. Neil D. Hamilton
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## The Center’s Rural Development Conferences & Initiatives

### CLE on Renewable Energy and Agriculture

On May 17, 2007, the Center and the Law School hosted a symposium in partnership with the Association of Patent Law Firms convening internationally renowned scholars and experts on the increasingly relevant topic of renewable energy and alternative fuels. The symposium "Intellectual Property, Regulatory, Business, Academic and Government Perspectives of Alternative Energy Fuels," presented a cross-section of perspectives on intellectual property, business law, legislation, and international issues. The workshop was held at the Legal Clinic and featured a number of prominent figures in the renewable fuels sector, including intellectual property rights lawyers from Brazil and Argentina. Former Governor and Visiting Distinguished Professor Tom Vilsack spoke, as did David Miles, Doug O’Brien and Bill Even, our 2005 graduate who is now Secretary of Agriculture for South Dakota. Troy Groetken was the chief organizer of this effort in cooperation with Dean Walker and the Center.

### Rural Lands Rural Livelihoods

The Center’s 2007 annual policy conference “Rural Lands Rural Livelihoods: Using Land and Natural Resources to Revitalize Rural Areas” was held on September 20-21. The conference featured over thirty speakers who examined how Iowa landowners are using natural resource amenities to create economic opportunities and spoke to the role of public policy in supporting these initiatives. The
Agricultural Law Center worked with the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation and USDA Rural Development – Iowa to host the conference, which was supported with funding from the Lillian Goldman Charitable Trust. To read more about the events and its speakers, click here.

Pictured are Prof. Hamilton, Prof. Anthony Schutz of the University of Nebraska Law School, and his sixteen UNL students of agricultural law who traveled from Lincoln to attend the Rural Lands Rural Livelihoods conference.

Rural Lands Rural Livelihoods Art Show
In addition to the conference, the center sponsored the "Rural Lands Rural Livelihoods Art Show," in which more than 30 professional and amateur visual artists submitted 80 pieces of artwork to showcase rural Iowa in categories including restoration of native prairies, wineries, wildlife and natural landscapes. The art show ran from September 20th to October 16th in the Smith Legal Clinic at Drake University. An opening reception and ceremony was held at which ten artists received awards from the jurors for the show, Lea Rosson DeLong and Prof. Ignatius Widiapradja. Pictured below are attendees at the opening of the art show.
Awards
Best of Show: John Preston, “The Weather Gauge-Passed Over 4/02/2006”
1st Place: Brent Houzenga, “Four Piece”
2nd Place: Margaret Whiting, “Commentaries on American Law (As a General Rule)”
3rd Place: L. Middleswart, “Wooden Quilt”

Honorable Mention
Mary Muller, “Landwaves VI”
Heather Wachendorf, “Furrow”
Bobbie McKibbin, “Young Corn”
Linda Andeberg, “Shadow Across the Field”
Laurayne Robinette, “The Stare Down”
Shari Baeth, “Electric Sunset”

Purchase Awards. To commemorate the 25th anniversary the Center purchased two pieces of artwork for the Law School: “Feed the Hungry” by Jane Robinette (shown here) and “Commentaries on American Law (As a General Rule)” by Margaret Whiting.

The Role of Law in Promoting Sustainable Farming and Rural Development: An International Perspective
On October 15th and 16th the Center held a two day international workshop on the theme “The Role of Law in Promoting Sustainable Farming and Rural Development.” The workshop was co-sponsored by the International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington, D.C.; the Centre for Rural Economy, University of Newcastle-on-Tyne, U.K.; the Beginning Farmer Center, Iowa State University; the National Center for Agricultural Law Research and Information; and the University of Arkansas, graduate program in Agricultural Law, both in Fayetteville. The conference was made possible with generous travel support from the Lillian Goldman Charitable Trust. Scholars representing eleven countries and several U.S. states came to Drake to discuss perspectives on sustainable farming and rural development. Presentations were made by:

- Michael Cardwell, professor, University of Leeds, U.K.;
- Luc Bodiguel, researcher, University of Nantes, France;
- Domenico Viti, professor, University of Foggia, Italy;
- Juan Jose Fernández-Bussy, professor, Universidad Nacional de Rosario, Rosario, Argentina;
- Harrison Pittman, director, National Center for Agricultural Law Research and Information, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas;
- Susan Schneider, director of agricultural law program, University of Arkansas;
- Paul Pommerlau, general council, Nutrinor Cooperative, Lac St.-Jean, Quebec, Canada;
- Bhargavi Motukuri, policy coordinator, International Network of Bamboo and Rattan, New Delhi, India;
From left: Anthony Schutz, Nebraska; Luc Bodiguel, France; Bhargavi Motukuri, India; Chris Rodgers, U.K.; Dominico Viti, Italy; John Baker, Iowa; Prof. Hamilton, Iowa; Shunsuke Yanagimura, Japan.

Click here for speaker biographies as well as papers and the agenda from the symposium.

Honoring the Memory of Louis Lorvellec, University of Nantes
On Monday evening October 15th, attendees at the workshop and members of the Drake faculty attended a dinner in honor of the memory of our friend and colleague Professor Louis Lorvellec from the University of Nantes. Louis directed a food and agricultural law program at his law school in France and was a frequent visitor to Drake. His leadership and inspiration helped connect Prof. Hamilton and the Center with many international colleagues. His assistance made it possible for the Law School to develop the successful summer study abroad program in Nantes. After his death in 2001 the Drake law faculty created an endowed fund to support the Louis Lorvellec International Visiting Scholar. Prof. Domenico Viti was the Lorvellec Scholar for 2007 and spent two weeks at Drake prior to the workshop teaching a course on rural development issues in the EU. Our special guest at the banquet was Louis’ widow Soizic, who
is in charge of research initiatives at the University of Nantes Law School. She is pictured here with Khanh Hamilton and Professor Jim Adams. Dean David Walker made a presentation about the contributions Louis made to Drake and to international understanding.

Student Academic Achievement

Certificate in Food and Agricultural Law
Drake is the only law school in the nation to offer its students the opportunity to earn a certification marking completion of a set of courses, internships and writing projects in the field of food and agricultural law. Recent Drake Law graduates who received the Certificate in Food and Agricultural Law include:

2007 - Aaron Brees, Veronica Franck, Whitney LeGrand, Jesse Phelps

2006 - Bridget Bailey, Ely Grote, David Morain, Martha Sibbell, Garrett Thalgott.

Drake Journal of Agricultural Law
Drake is the only accredited law school in the nation where students publish a legal journal focusing solely on agricultural law issues. The journal features articles written by professors, lawyers and students. The journal analyzes new legislation, reviews case law and explores cutting-edge concepts. It publishes the annual symposium issue for the American Agricultural Law Association’s educational conference.

For information, please see the Drake Journal of Agricultural Law's website by clicking here.

Summer Agricultural Law Institute
Each year, the Center organizes summer Agricultural Law Institute courses taught by national and international agricultural law scholars.

In May 2007, the Center offered a one week course titled Rural Lands Rural Livelihoods taught by Prof. Hamilton and Former Iowa

Professor Vilsack is pictured here with the students and John Sellers in one of his switchgrass fields near Millerton.
Governor Tom Vilsack. The course involved a day trip to southern Iowa to see rural development in action including several stops intended to highlight ways rural Iowa communities are capitalizing on natural amenities and resources to create sustainable economic growth. The group visited Honey Creek Resort State Park development on Rathbun Lake, the Chariton Valley Switchgrass Project near Millerton, Tassel Ridge Winery in Leighton, the Front Street Market, a community-owned grocery store in Humeston, and the Mainstreet project in Albia. Professors Hamilton and Vilsack collaborated to design the course, which introduced concepts of rural development and related legal issues such as the challenges of rural America, the impact of the 2007 farm bill, traditional rural development programs offered by the USDA, and the role of local natural resource agencies such as county conservation boards.

In 2006, the Center offered three week long classes: Agricultural Taxation, Professor Jim Monroe - June 5-8; 2007 Farm Bill, Doug O'Brien - July 10-13; and Law and Rural Development, Professor Neil D. Hamilton - July 17-20

Agricultural Law Visiting Scholars
The Center annually hosts distinguished agricultural law scholars to teach Drake law students and share their unique cultural perspective on food and agricultural law. In 2007, the Center hosted two visiting scholars focusing on rural development.

In January, Drake University Law School named former Iowa Gov. and then Democratic presidential candidate Tom Vilsack as visiting distinguished professor of law for the 2007 calendar year. Gov. Vilsack taught a May interim course with Prof. Hamilton focusing on legal issues relating to rural development and renewable energy.

Professor Domenico Viti, University of Foggia (Italy) taught Rural Development in the European Union: Food, Agri-Tourism, and Renewable Energy in October. The course examined the role of European Union laws and regulations relating to rural development in Europe, with special attention to the role of food, tourism and renewable energy. Prof. Viti is pictured here with Ray Gaesser, past president of the Iowa Soybean Association, in a field in Taylor County.
Harkin Summer Service Learning Internships

One of the many opportunities the Center has developed using the financial support provided by Congress through the National Agricultural Law Center is our summer Harkin Service Learning Internships. This program provides Drake Law students with the opportunity to spend a significant portion of their summer working for a public or non-profit organization in the field of food policy and agricultural law. The internships provide students with valuable insights and experience in policy work and benefit the sponsoring organizations by providing over 200 hours of legal intern assistance at no cost. The internships are named after U.S. Senator Tom Harkin, chair of the Agriculture Committee and long-time friend and supporter of Drake and the Center. The following are the 2006 and 2007 students who completed summer internships with the sponsoring organization and the supervising staff person.

Dustin Miller and Jason Yates, two Harkin Summer Service Learning Interns, help register participants in the Rural Lands Rural Livelihoods conference.

2007
Iowa office, USDA Rural Development - Jason Yates and Joshua Borchert [Mark Reisinger]
ISU Beginning Farmer Center - Ethan Eppley [John Baker]
Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation - Ed Cox [Mark Ackelson]
The Center and the INHF - Fritz Ebinger [Prof. Hamilton].
International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)- Dustin Miller [Dr. Regina Birner]
The Center on renewable energy issues - Emiliano Lerda [Prof. Hamilton]
The Center, Buy Fresh Buy Local field coordinator - Whitney LeGrand – [Matt Russell]
The Center and the Iowa Food Policy Council, Farm to School - Cesilie Fox [Matt Russell]

Continuing Internships 2007-2008 School Year
The Center and the INHF - Fritz Ebinger [Prof. Hamilton]
USDA—NRCS Iowa – Ed Cox [Shelley Dugan]

2006
USDA-Agricultural Marketing Service, Washington, DC - Whitney LeGrand [Barbara Robinson]
Iowa office, USDA Rural Development - Julie Braid [Mark Reisinger]
Center for Community Vitality, ISU - Amanda James [Mark Edelman]
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship - Veronica Franck [Pat Paustian]
The Center, Garden Policy project - Jill Trammel [Prof. Hamilton]  
Iowa Dept. of Admin. Services, Institutional Purchasing - Shana Lawson [Matt Russell]  
Food and Society Project - Judie Levy [Sue Roberts]  
Opportunity International, Kenya - Justin Miller [Mano Kamaleson]

Agricultural law students tasting wine at Tassel Ridge Winery during the Rural Lands Rural Livelihoods summer agricultural law institute field trip.

Bill Emerson National Hunger fellows
Drake University Law School was one of 13 sites selected to host two Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellows for the 2007-08 academic year. Drake’s two fellows were selected from a 20-member class and joined the Center in September to work on public policy for food and agricultural issues. Isha Plynton, a 2007 Tufts University graduate from Providence, R.I., and William Perreault, a 2007 Davidson College graduate from Chapel Hill, N.C., spent six months in their field placement at Drake before returning for six months with national organizations combating hunger in Washington, D.C. While at the Center, staff attorney Susan Roberts guided the fellows work in the Drake Legal Clinic and Middleton Children’s Rights Center and the Iowa Food Policy Council and its Hunger and Food Security Task Force. At Drake, the fellows increased awareness of hunger among low-income children and expanded understanding of food security issues on local, state, and national levels. Click here to view the Presidential Voter Education Guide on Hunger Issues prepared by the Fellows.

Collaborations, Partnerships, and Resources

The Center is fortunate to have a strong set of relations, collaborations and partnerships with other institutions and organizations. Among the key partnerships are:

- Each spring and summer the Director teaches two seminars for the agricultural law graduate students at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, collaborating with the program leader, Prof. Susan Schneider.
- Each winter the Director teaches a one-credit class on “An Introduction to American Agricultural Law and Policy” as an invited professor at the University of Nantes, collaborating with Prof. Marine Friant-Perrot who heads the program.
- The Center has a long-standing partnership and collaboration with the National Center for Agricultural Law at the University of Arkansas under the able direction of Harrison Pittman, working on a variety of joint research and education initiatives. This partnership
is supported with funding provided by Congress to the USDA Agricultural Research Service and the National Agricultural Library.

- For the last twenty years the director has served on the Advisory Board of the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture at Iowa State University, and is currently the board chair, working closely with director Jerry DeWitt and associate director Rich Pirog.
- For the last 16 years the director has served on the board of directors of the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, and is now the chairman of the board working closely with President Mark Ackelson.
- For over 10 years the director has served on the board of the Seed Savers Exchange and now serves as the vice-chair working closely with chairman Amy Goldman.
- For over ten years the Director has served on the board of the National Gardening Association, headquartered in Burlington Vermont and is now the vice chair working with the executive director Michael Metallo.
- Matt Russell is in his fourth year as the board chair of the Iowa Network for Community Agriculture. This statewide organization of farmers, educators, health professionals, students, and consumers focuses on building local food systems. In 2007, the Center co-sponsored the 12th Annual Local Food Conference in Marshalltown. Senator Tom Harkin and Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey both attended and participated in a forum on the future of food and agriculture in Iowa.

In 2007 the Center was honored to receive a grant from the Lillian Goldman Charitable Trust to support the activities held in connection with the 25th anniversary.

In 2007 the Center was selected by the Iowa Department of Justice to receive a grant to support research on legal issues and innovation in organizing the production and marketing of swine. The funds are part of the research initiative funded under the Smithfield Foods settlement.

**Wellmark Blue Cross & Blue Shield** provided the primary sponsorship for the 2007 Greater Des Moines Buy Fresh Buy Local Campaign to help consumers connect healthy eating with wellness.

**Food and Agriculture Policy**

**2007 Farm Bill Development and Public Health**

On January 30th, Doug O’Brien and the Director participated in a one day symposium and policy discussion “Ag 101 for Public Health Leaders,” co-sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the Kaiser Family Foundation and the Centers for Disease Control. It brought together 45 public health leaders from across the country to consider how U.S. farm policy
can promote healthier eating and address issues such as childhood obesity and diet related disease. O’Brien and Hamilton began the day with a 1 and ½ hour overview of U.S. farm policy, the operation of farm programs and the politics of farm bills.

On February 2nd, the director took part in a “Farm Bill Resources” briefing for U.S. Senate agricultural staff and new legislative aides. The session was organized by John Ferrell in the agricultural committee chambers and involved presentations by Harrison Pittman, interim co-director (with Doug O’Brien) of the National Center for Agricultural Law at Fayetteville; Ralph Chite of the Congressional Research Service and Hamilton, about the work of the respective organizations and the resources to assist staff in developing the 2007 farm bill. Over 45 legislative staff attended.

In March the Director was invited to participate in a two day grant planning workshop at the University of California in Berkeley, sponsored by the Public Health law Institute. The purpose of the workshop was to develop plans for a major public policy initiative addressing obesity and nutrition policy.

As a follow up to the INCA 2007 Annual Local Food Conference, The Center joined a number of organizations in an ongoing dialogue with Senator Harkin to help him develop a local foods focus in the 2007 farm bill. Matt Russell and Prof. Hamilton both participated in meetings and follow up discussions with Sen. Harkin’s staff. Changes to the Value Added Producer Grant program reflect the work put forward by The Center and the other Iowa groups.

Food and Fitness
Matt Russell serves the State of Iowa in a number of capacities related to the emerging efforts combining food and fitness. He is on the steering committee of the Iowa Nutrition Network Advisory Team, on the Leadership Committee of the Iowans Fit for Life Partnership, and in 2007 offered support for the Northeast Iowa Local Food and Fitness Initiative including presenting the keynote at the Northeast Iowa RC&D Annual Appreciation Barbeque in Postville about the potential for using food policy to shape a preferred future.

Hunger in Iowa Report
The Center compiled and released the third Hunger in Iowa Report in 2007. In her report Susan Roberts shows more Iowans are skipping meals or eating cheaper and less healthy food because of food scarcity, as compared with data from reports released in 2001 and 2003. An increasing number of Iowa families are going hungry, according to the report. In addition, the report connects a lack of healthy food options and obesity in low-income households. The entire report can be downloaded here.
Local Food Systems

Buy Fresh Buy Local
Drake University and the Center coordinated the Greater Des Moines Buy Fresh Buy Local campaign. Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield (www.wellmark.com) partnered with Drake to provide major sponsorship for the campaign. Buy Fresh Buy Local is a national effort that is organized on a local and regional basis. In Iowa, there are eight chapters with a goal of eventually covering the entire state. Participants in 2007 included 1835 “pledged” consumers, 71 farms, and 18 food businesses. Farms and consumers were both surveyed. 40,000 BFBL directories were distributed in Greater Des Moines. We used the resources of Drake’s Marketing and Communication department to earn print, radio, and TV coverage throughout the summer market season. Click here for more information about Buy Fresh Buy Local. More information about Buy Fresh Buy Local can be found here.

Buy Fresh Buy Local interns Lauren Rusco and Whitney LeGrand brought the campaign to consumers at 20 Greater Des Moines farmers markets in 2007

Institutional Purchasing
During 2006, the Center and the office of Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack partnered to find new opportunities for Iowans to grow more of what they eat. The Iowa food products coordinator, a position created by the private-public partnership and housed in the Iowa Department of Administrative Services, worked for six months to identify opportunities and challenges for growing the Iowa food economy. The project culminated on January 10, 2007, with a press conference with Gov. Vilsack, Prof. Hamilton, and Matt Russell who served as the Iowa food products coordinator in 2006. The pilot program was designed to help implement recommendations of the Food Policy Council, which include increasing the amount of Iowa food used and purchased by the state. The Center, especially through the work of Matt Russell, continues to develop a focused effort to grow Iowa’s food economy. Lessons learned during this pilot are being utilized in the Center’s work to help farmers and food businesses develop
institutional markets as well as helping institutions source locally grown and produced foods. The idea for the pilot project came from Gov. Vilsack’s Iowa Food Policy Council that Drake hosted and Prof. Hamilton chaired during the last six years of the Vilsack administration. Click for copies of the Report to Gov. Vilsack, the case study, and a farm and business tool.

From left: Gov. Vilsack acknowledges the work of the Iowa Food Policy Council during his news conference with Neil Hamilton and Matt Russell.

**Farm to School**

In 2007, Iowa lawmakers passed legislation to create a farm to school program in the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. Matt Russell and Cesilie Garles, a Drake law student, explored challenges and possibilities for connecting Iowa schools with Iowa farms. Their work included a meeting with Teresa Nece, Director of Food & Nutrition Management for Des Moines Public Schools. In July, the Center hosted a meeting of officials from the Departments of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Public Health, Education, Human Services, and the Governor’s office to identify overlapping local food programs and ideas for implementing a farm to school program in Iowa.

Click here for a copy of Ms. Garle’s paper.

**Local Foods and College Campuses**

In June, Drake University Dining Services operated by Sodexho Campus Dining hosted a meeting of farms, food businesses and other educational and corporate Sodexho accounts in Iowa. The purpose was to kick start a local foods program for Sodexho in Iowa. The Center continues to provide support and encouragement to Sodexho. The Center worked closely with Drake Dining services to feature local and Iowa foods at on campus conferences and meetings in 2007. Matt Russell also serves on the Farm to ISU steering committee. Iowa State University Dining is going through a major transformation to create a program that connects farms and food businesses with ISU Dining. Farm to ISU hosted multiple meetings, workshops, and tours for farms and businesses in 2007. He also participated in the Sustainable Food Systems Project at the University of Iowa. The student led project brought together on and off campus food systems stakeholders to draft a strategic plan to identify more sustainable practices on campus.

**Regional Food System Working Group**

Quarterly gathering of small business owners; farmers; Iowa State University professors of business, agriculture, and engineering; representatives from community colleges and other Iowa universities; and representatives from several governmental agencies. In addition to the
RFSWG, Matt Russell also participates in the Small Meat Processors Working Group, which is another group supported by the Value Chain Partnerships.

**International Food, Agriculture, and Rural Development**

In addition to the international workshop sponsored by the Center in October and the visit of Professor Viti the Center had several other international activities in the past year.

In December 2006 the Director visited the Center for the Rural Economy at the university of Newcastle on Tyne in the U.K. He made a presentation to the staff on the development of the 2007 farm bill.

In March the Director met with Prof. Professor KOH Kheng-Lian, director of the Asian Pacific Center on Environmental Law at the National University in Singapore to discuss possible collaborations on issues involving agriculture and rural development.

In May, Prof. Hamilton was invited to travel to India by the USDA to participate in an education program on contract farming, the topic of his 1995 book. He gave two presentations on contract farming at a workshop held May 5-6 at India’s National Agricultural Science Centre Complex in New Delhi. The workshop, titled "Contract Farming: Methods and Experiences," was designed to provide information to Indian farmers, agribusiness entrepreneur and policy makers on contract farming; and to identify contract farming models and regulations that may accelerate the growth of contract farming in India in a sustainable way. The workshop brought together experts on contract farming from United States, India and its neighboring countries to share their experiences on linking farmers with markets. The USDA and the Indian Ministry of Agriculture invited Prof. Hamilton to take part in this important workshop. The conference was co-sponsored by the International Food Policy Research Institute and was opened by the Indian Minister of Agriculture.

On route to India, Prof. Hamilton stopped in Rome, Italy, for two days of meetings, including a session with Cary Fowler, executive director of the Global Crop Diversity Trust, which is part of the Food and Agriculture Organization. They discussed an international workshop the Drake Center is planning for the future on citizen efforts to conserve plant genetic resources.
World Food Prize Laureate Speaks at Drake

2001 World Food Prize Laureate Per Pinstrup-Andersen, the H.E. Babcock professor of food, nutrition and public policy at Cornell University, delivered a lecture on collective action to improve human health and nutrition through global food policy. A native of Denmark, Pinstrup-Andersen received the World Food Prize in 2001 for his outstanding contribution to food policy, agricultural research and work in reducing poverty figures worldwide.

Other Activities by the Director and Staff

Each year, Prof. Hamilton makes a number of presentations around the nation.
- In January he moderated a session on Agricultural Labor at the 2007 American Association of Law Schools annual meeting in Washington DC.
- In July he made a keynote talk at the 20th anniversary conference of the Leopold Center in Ames.
- In September and October he made keynote presentations at the two rural land conferences organized by the Center.
- In October he organized a session for the American Agricultural Law Association’s 28th annual conference in San Diego on an international perspective on rural development. The Center arranged for Domenico Viti, Chris Rodgers and Luc Bodiguel to speak at the session. Their papers will be published in a future issue of the Drake Journal of Agricultural law.
- In November he gave the keynote talk at the annual ISU Organic conference speaking on the 2007 Farm Bill and Organic Farming.

Matt Russell is State Food Policy Project Coordinator at the Center where he is responsible for projects relating to improving the opportunities in Iowa’s food system and rural economy. In addition to work mentioned early in the report, he participated in the following activities.

Talks

Iowa Institute for Social Action—Ankeny, IA, Food Democracy, January 14

All Things Organic—Chicago, IL, What Your Regional Government Can Do For You [Panel Discussion], May 8

Northeast Iowa RC&D Annual Appreciation Barbeque—Postville, IA, Food Policy: Working together to Shape a Preferred Future, August 30
Rural Lands Rural Livelihoods—Drake University Des Moines, IA, *Iowa’s Local Food Movement*, September 20

The Role of Law in Promoting Sustainable Farming and Rural Development: An International Perspective—Drake University Des Moines, *Using Food Policy to Support Sustainable Farming*, October 15

Iowa Farmers Union Food and Family Farm Presidential Summit—Des Moines

*Opportunities and Challenges for Local Foods*, November 10

The Changing Face of Agricultural Health and Safety: Biofuels, Food Safety, and Alternative Agriculture—Omaha, NE, *Everything But…: Alternative Agriculture in the Midwest*, November 14-15

Local Harvest Banquet—Community Market Coop in Carroll, IA, *Iowa’s Local Food Movement*, November 17

**Gatherings and meetings**

Practical Farmers of Iowa Annual Conference—Des Moines, January 12-13

12th Annual Local Foods Conference, Iowa Network for Community Agriculture—Marshalltown, IA, February 3

Iowa Meat Processors Association Annual Conference—Ames, February 17

Iowa Farmers Market Association Annual Conference—Des Moines, February 14

Tour of Community Owned Food Enterprises—Anita, Massena, Bridgewater, Fontanelle, March 20

Renewing Rural Iowa, Iowa Farm Bureau—Pella, March 22

Iowa River Rival Conference—Panora, March 29

W.K. Kellogg Foundation's Food and Society Networking Conference—Traverse City, Michigan, April 23-26

Leopold Center 25th Anniversary Tours and Conference—Whiterock Conservancy near Coon Rapids, The Homestead near Pleasant Hil, and Ames, July 10-11

Iowa Local Foods leaders meeting with Bob Lawrence hosted by Leopold Center—Ames, Oct 22
In addition to his work at Drake, he and a partner operate Coyote Run Farm, a 110 acre farm in rural Laconia and market fresh produce, eggs and meat at farmers markets and other local outlets. He also serves as the board chair for the Iowa Network for Community Agriculture.

Susan Roberts is a staff attorney at the Center working on food and nutrition policy. In 2007 she made over 20 talks and presentations around the nation on various aspects of food, nutrition and health policy. Her presentations included:


Contributions of US Food & Agriculture Policy to the Obesity Epidemic—Wingspread Conference Center, Racine, WI, Legal Analysis of Opportunities within Food & Agriculture Policy to Address Childhood Nutrition and Obesity, March 8, 2007

King County Public Health, Seattle, WA, Public Health and the Farm Bill, June 11, 2007


Healthy Foods Conference Natural Health Foods Expo East—Baltimore, MD, Food: Shaping the Health of Americans, September 26, 2007

American Dietetic Association Food and Nutrition Conference and Expo—Philadelphia, PA Local vs. Global: How are Farmers and Consumers Linked? The Local Foods Revolution, October 1, 2007

Doug O’Brien became Interim Co-Director at the National Agricultural Law Center in early 2007. He continued to serve in his joint appointment as senior staff attorney at the Drake Agricultural Law Center until leaving in March 2007 to advise Iowa Governor Culver on renewable energy issues and to help draft the Iowa Power Fund legislation, signed by the Governor in May. He then moved on to the Ohio Department of Agriculture where he now serves as the Assistant Director.

Timothy Whipple became the Agricultural Law Center Fellow in September to work on research in connection with the pork production project. He left the Center in December to become a bill drafter with the Iowa Legislative Services Agency.
2007 Publications, Articles, and Opinion Pieces


Neil Hamilton, Reflections on Twenty Years of Promoting the Idea and Ideal of Sustainable Agriculture, summer 2007, Leopold Letter.


Matt Russell, “Appetite for local foods presents ‘huge opportunity for Iowa,’” The Des Moines Register, May 12, 2007

Susan Roberts, “Eaters, Make Sure Farm Bill Focuses on Food,” The Des Moines Register, Jun. 4, 2007, 9A.


Neil Hamilton, “Iowans must work together to improve natural resources,” The Des Moines Register, Sept. 19, 2007

Recent Graduates and Alumni

Amber Brady is now the general counsel for the South Dakota Department of Agriculture.


Beth Crocker continues as the general counsel for the South Carolina Department of Agriculture.

Bill Even was appointed the Secretary of Agriculture for the State of South Dakota.

Veronica Franck is working as an attorney with Iowa Legal Aid.

Trent Hilding has become associated with Bill Penn with the Agricultural and Rural Advocates, P.C. working out of Edmore, Michigan.

Whitney LeGrand (December 2007) has moved to southwest Virginia where she will be working on local rural development opportunities.

Todd Langel has joined Faegre and Benson in Des Moines.

David Morain is practicing law in Jefferson with the Hoyt law firm.

Brian Oakey was appointed to be the deputy Secretary of Agriculture for Idaho.

Jesse Phelps (2007) – obtained a two year federal court clerkship with the International Court of Trade in New York City.

Mark Reisinger continues as the executive director of USDA Rural Development for Iowa.

Martha Sibbel has opened her own law practice in Carroll.

Garrett Thalgott (2007) – is working as an associate with Frilot Partridge LC in New Orleans.

Timothy Whipple (2007) – worked as a fellow in the Center and in November joined the Iowa Legislative Service Agency.

Jennifer Williams Zwageman finished her two-year clerkship with the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals and joined the Faegre and Benson law firm in Des Moines.
American Agricultural Law Association, San Diego

The 2007 annual meeting of the American Agricultural Law Association presented an opportunity to celebrate Drake's historic connection with AALA. Director Hamilton is the only member of the association to have attended all 28 of the organization’s meetings. In October, Drake took a delegation of ten students and staff who were joined by over a dozen Drake alumni members of the AALA and other alumni from the southern California area. The Drake Journal of Agricultural Law has published proceedings from the AALA meetings since the Journal’s creation 12 years ago. To recognize Drake's relationship with AALA, the Law School, Center, and Journal sponsored an evening reception in San Diego for more than 180 lawyers, guests and alumni who attended the 2007 annual meeting. AALA President Roger McEowen, LW’91, and former President Steve Halbrook, LW’79, attended the event.

Preview of 2008

This coming year should be another exciting and busy year for the Center. Here are just some of the activities the Director and staff have planned for 2008.

In January the Director attended the American Association of Law Schools conference in New York City and spoke about “Legal and Food Policy Issues in Ethanol Production” for the Agricultural Law Section. In February he will return to the University of Nantes to teach a seminar on an Introduction to American Agricultural Law and Policy. In March he will return to the University of Arkansas to teach a seminar on Legal Issues in Agricultural Biotechnology. His essay on Animal Welfare will appear in the on line version of the Michigan Law Review this spring. In May the Director will be speaking at Yale University at the Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity on the Role of Law in Shaping America’s Food Policy. The Center is also making plans for a two-day conference on the topic of The Role of State Law In Promoting Renewable Energy and Rural Development to be held September 4th and 5th. Please check the web site for more details.

Matt Russell has commitments for several presentations in 2008. In January he’ll speak at the Iowa Fruit and Vegetable Growers Annual Conference and for the American Culinary Federation Greater Des Moines Chapter. In February he’ll be in Wisconsin speaking at the 19th Annual Organic Farming Conference and at the 13th Annual Local Food Systems Conference of the Iowa Network for Community Agriculture. In March he will present at the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture’s Marketing and Food Systems Initiative Workshop and at an agri-tourism conference in Ames.