The mission of the *Agricultural and Environmental Law* program is increased legal literacy through educational opportunities for persons to gain an understanding of legal concepts that relate to their activities and to gain the ability to continue learning about legal concepts.

There are five Great Plains IDEA Institutions participating in the Agricultural and Environmental Law program:

- Auburn University
- University of Georgia
- North Carolina State University
- North Dakota State University
- South Dakota State University

The Agricultural and Environmental Law program offers undergraduate students an opportunity to learn about a variety of legal concepts while achieving a 15-credit certificate. The program focuses on legal issues that arise in agriculture, rural communities, and the food industry. Legal concepts pertaining to water quality, land-use, and other environmental concerns will also be studied to help students appreciate the challenges of directing immediate and long-term implications of food production, renewable energy and an expanding population. The goal of the program is to provide undergraduate students an opportunity to gain a more complete understanding of the laws that may impact their careers and personal activities.

The collaborative, multi-institutional online program expands and diversifies the educational opportunities that universities can offer their students. Additional courses offered by instructors from other regions of the nation and an opportunity to interact with geographically-dispersed fellow students will broaden the perceptions of program participants. Many universities do not have the resources to individually offer such a rich and diversified program.

The Agricultural and Environmental Law program requires students to study a core set of legal concepts, and it offers students several emphasis areas or curriculum tracks by which to achieve the program's learning objectives, based on the students' interests and experiences. The range of legal questions individuals will encounter during their career and lifetime will continue to expand as more demands are placed on natural resources. A broader, more comprehensive understanding of a greater variety of legal concepts is needed to effectively participate in public and private decision making. The Agricultural and Environmental Law program expands the opportunity for degree-seeking students as well as life-long learners to enhance their knowledge of law, emerging legal issues, and the impact of nearly all private and public decisions.

**The Agricultural and Environmental Law Curriculum**

**Undergraduate certificate**

The undergraduate certificate in Agricultural and Environmental Law is designed for students who want coursework or a credential emphasizing Agricultural and Environmental Law. To qualify for the certificate,
students must be admitted to the certificate option at a participating university and complete the necessary coursework.

15 credits of coursework are required for the certificate in Agricultural and Environmental Law. Course descriptions and schedules may be found on the Great Plains IDEA website: http://www.agidea.org/programs/ag-law/. Students should consult with their academic adviser when selecting courses.

Core Course Requirement (choose at least one); students may choose to enroll in both core courses:
- Agricultural Law
- Environmental Law

Law Course Requirements (Choose at least two); students who complete both core courses may count one of those toward meeting this law courses requirement:
- Ethics in Agribusiness
- Food Law
- Public Health Law

Elective Course (Choose additional courses as necessary to meet certificate requirements):
- Agricultural Policy
- Cooperatives
- Resource and Environmental Economics

Certificate titles vary by institution:
- University of Georgia- Certificate in Agribusiness Law
- South Dakota State University- Agricultural and Environmental Law Certificate

Program Learning Outcomes for Students
- **Learning Outcome 1**: Ability to recognize, identify, and understand legal issues in agricultural and environmental law.
- **Learning Outcome 2**: Ability to communicate effectively in written format as an individual and as a team member.
- **Learning Outcome 3**: Ability to identify, research, and apply credible legal resources appropriate for agribusiness law and policy and environmental law and policy.
- **Learning Outcome 4**: Ability to reinforce analytical/critical thinking skills applicable to business or environmental policy related to the law.
Appendix A
STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM
GREAT PLAINS INTERACTIVE DISTANCE EDUCATION ALLIANCE (GREAT PLAINS IDEA)

The Great Plains Interactive Distance Education Alliance (Great Plains IDEA) sponsors multi-institution, online degree and certificate programs (gpidea.org). Students are provided with high quality instruction by faculty from multiple Great Plains IDEA partner universities. After admission to the partner institution of their choice, students enroll in courses sponsored by Great Plains IDEA directly through their home institution. Credits earned are counted at the home institution as regular, not transfer, credits.

Student Information Exchange. To register a student in a class, the home university enters student information into a secure Great Plains IDEA database. The information includes the student’s home institution, student identification number, name, address, phone number, e-mail address, date of birth, gender, ethnicity, citizenship, military status, academic history, and Great Plains IDEA academic records. Teaching institutions access this information for course enrollment and grade reporting. A limited number of member university employees are granted access to the database on a need-to-know basis. Great Plains IDEA does not share student information with outside parties.

Common Price. Great Plains IDEA courses are offered at a Common Price per credit hour. The Great Plains IDEA Financial Officers Functional Team reviews the Common Price annually and makes a recommendation to the Great Plains IDEA Cabinet for approval. The Common Price includes regular tuition and any course, program, facilities, or student services fees as well as distance delivery costs. This does not include additional administrative fees incurred by the student, for example, application fees, late enrollment, or late payment fees. The Common Price may be higher or lower than regular tuition at the home institution.

Degree Titles. The degree or certificate title printed on the diploma and/or the transcript is determined by each institution and may be different than the Great Plains IDEA title for the academic program. Students should consult their home institution for the title as it will appear on the diploma or certificate.

Grade Appeals. Grade appeals for all courses will be handled by the teaching institution. Students will not have access to the grade appeal process at their home institution unless it is also the teaching institution for the relevant course.

Academic Integrity. Academic dishonesty undermines the educational experience offered through Great Plains IDEA, lowers morale by engendering a skeptical attitude about the quality of education and negatively affects the relationship between students and instructors. Students are expected to understand and abide by the academic integrity policy found in the Great Plains IDEA policy and procedure manual. Teaching faculty members have the prerogative for determining the penalty for academic misconduct in their classes. The procedure for determining the penalty and the process of appeal for the academic penalty will follow the policies and procedures of the teaching institution. The student’s home institution may administer remedial action and institutional sanctions using its policies and procedures. Appeal of these additional sanctions will be adjudicated at the home institution.

I understand _____________________________ (home university name) will disclose my personal information in the manner outlined above and hereby consent to said release/use of education records under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

I understand the purpose of sharing student-specific information among my home and teaching universities.

I understand the Common Price may be higher or lower than the standard tuition at my home institution.

I agree to substitute the grade appeal process at the teaching institution for my home institution’s process.

I have read and understand the academic integrity policy of Great Plains IDEA and I agree to abide by this policy.

________________________________________ ______________________________
(Electronic Signature) (Date mo/dd/yy)

_______________________________________ _______  ____________________________
(Print Last Name)     (Print MI)  (Print First Name)

Revised 11-15-2005; Approved Great Plains IDEA Graduate Deans, 02-23-06; Approved Great Plains IDEA Board of Directors 03-02-06; Revised 10-14-11, 3-21-2013.