

Changes in Agriculture

Agriculture has constantly been undergoing change. I think of the changes my parents have seen in that they used horses and picked corn by hand. By the time they retired, they were using tractors with enclosed cabs and combines to harvest corn. My reaction is WOW! What changes they saw! But then I think of the changes that my brother will see occurring in agriculture. He began with cross-pollinated hybrid seed and saved seed. With the advent of large-scale use of chemicals to control pests and weeds he is now experiencing genetically modified organisms, contract production and non-point source pollution regulation. I will not venture a guess on what will be occurring at the time he retires.

The fact that changes are occurring in agriculture is not new, but the importance of pointing out changes occurring in agriculture is to make advisors to agriculture aware of what changes are occurring and the need for advice to keep pace with the changes. Woe to the professionals who do not adjust to the change.

The 20th Annual Educational Symposium of the American Agricultural Law Association focuses on the changes agricultures advisors need to make in order to meet the challenges in the production of food and fiber. The American Agricultural Law Association is the only association in the United States whose primary and only focus is agricultural law. As such, the Association has always been a leader in keeping its members, as well as the entire agricultural law community up to date. The materials in this symposium addition continue this tradition.