



---

## Law School

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 30, 2015

Contact: Ann Allen

(515) 271-4958

[ann.vanhemert@drake.edu](mailto:ann.vanhemert@drake.edu)

### **Iowa Farmers and Landowners Can Partner with Taxpayers to Find Public Policy Solutions to Climate Change**

**Des Moines, Iowa** – The Drake University Agricultural Law Center released information about their research project regarding non-operator land owners and tenant farmers facing extreme weather earlier this month. The research provides a qualitative look at how land owners and farmers need to work together to provide solutions for adapting to the challenges of climate change. The political climate around climate change is rapidly evolving according to today's New York Time's poll. The poll suggests the Iowa agricultural community has an opportunity to partner with American taxpayers to support farming practices that can play an important role in dealing with greenhouse gas emissions.

"Climate change is a critical issue with special implications for American agriculture and landowners as extreme weather events become more frequent," says Neil Hamilton, director of the Agricultural Law Center and professor of law at Drake University. "Drake's research reveals important opportunities to engage farmers and landowners in implementing practices to respond to climate change, now the challenge is developing public policies to make that a reality."

The research, supported from the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture at Iowa State University, indicates the agriculture community in Iowa has been slow to embrace the evidence that human activity is causing climate change. However, the research identifies the need for farmers and land owners to work together to share the benefits and costs of practices that in the short run can make Iowa farmland more resilient to extreme weather. In the long run, farmers and land owners working more closely together can implement practices for carbon farming on Iowa farms essentially going beyond reducing greenhouse gas emissions to actually pulling CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere and using it to improve the soil.\*

Related links:

Climate Extremes and Farm Leases

<http://sustainablefarmlease.org/climate-extremes-farm-leases/>

Homepage for the Sustainable Agricultural Land Tenure Initiative

<http://sustainablefarmlease.org/>

New York Time's poll shows majority of Americans support government action on climate change.  
[http://www.nytimes.com/2015/01/31/us/politics/most-americans-support-government-action-on-climate-change-poll-finds.html?emc=edit\\_na\\_20150130&nid=69682967](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/01/31/us/politics/most-americans-support-government-action-on-climate-change-poll-finds.html?emc=edit_na_20150130&nid=69682967)

Drake Times Delphic student newspaper covering the Iowa Environmental Council conference on campus in October. The panel discussion focused on Iowa's potential contributions for combating climate change.

<http://timesdelphic.com/2014/10/29/iowa-considers-carbon-negative-economy>

**Drake Agricultural Law Center:**

Founded in 1983, the Drake Agricultural Law Center is internationally recognized for providing opportunities to study how the legal system shapes our food system and influences the ability of the agricultural sector to produce, market and utilize agricultural products. The Drake Law School supports an array of courses, publications, conferences, research initiatives, and a certification program in food and agricultural law.

###

\*This sentence was edited on February 4, 2015 from the original release.

For more information, contact Matt Russell, [matt.russell@drake.edu](mailto:matt.russell@drake.edu) or 515-689-8219.