PRINCIPLES OF AGRICULTURAL LAW

by

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IN MEMORIAM

This book is dedicated

To the Memory of my parents

H.D. (Mac) McEowen

7/19/18 - 1/26/77

and

Nedra R. McEowen

5/31/18 - 8/9/09

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Roger A. McEowen
Ankeny, Iowa
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PREFACE

Although legal problems involving agriculture producers, rural landowners and ag-related businesses have existed for centuries, agricultural law has been developed as an area for study largely in the twentieth century. Over the past 60 years, agricultural law courses have been developed and are offered widely at land grant universities, law schools, junior colleges and two-year vocational-technical institutions.

Agricultural law covers a wide array of topics and issues that illustrate the many areas where agriculture intersects the law. The reader will note how the law often treats "agriculture" and "farmers" and "ranchers" in a unique manner. But, the legal concepts and principles addressed in this text have application that is broader than simply to agriculture, and the reader will find that fact apparent upon reading the material.

A one-semester academic course could be created out of many of the individual chapters of this text. However, a one-semester course that covers the full volume (or numerous chapters thereof) can only realistically accomplish the objectives of (1) providing students with an ability to identify legal problems and an understanding of the steps that can be taken to avoid such problems; (2) illustrating how legal decisions are made; and (3) building an appreciation in students for the difficulty inherent in many legal issues based on the facts of each situations, and the various statutory and common-law factors that may be involved in any particular situation. However, a one-semester survey course cannot hold, as an objective, the development of abilities sufficient to yield confidence in one's own legal problem solving ability. But, students' awareness of the need for legal counsel should be enhanced, and students should develop an ability to make effective use of available legal materials.

It is my hope that students find the material in this text enjoyable and much more than a mere academic exercise. While numerous college courses don't have much relevance to real-life situations, that is not true of agricultural law. This text addresses real-life issues faced by real persons. Agricultural law is reality, and students will benefit from having used this text in a course on agricultural law, whether or not they pursue a career in law or in agriculture in general.

As you use this text (instructors, students, lawyers CPAs and others), please let me know of any suggestions for future revisions. I update the full volume twice annually, including copies in use for which the updates are available on a subscription basis. Abridged versions of the full volume are available such that the book can be tailored for any use an instructor may desire. The book is also available on CD and, for instructors and other interested persons, Powerpoint slides are available for each chapter.

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Ankeny, Iowa
January 2017

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