NEW AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES LAW COURSE BEGINS NEXT SEMESTER

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12/14/2018

Brandon Willis - Assistant Professor of Applied Economics

The College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences (CAAS) is offering a new agriculture and natural resources pre-law minor beginning with a class spring semester 2019. Brandon Willis, who heads the new program, is an assistant professor of applied economics at Utah State University, co-director of USU’s Institute of Government and Politics, and served as a senior advisor to former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack.

“I don’t know if there is a need for more people in law, but there is certainly always a need for better,” Willis said. “The background that students will get from these classes will make them more effective advocates. Whether that is as a legal advocate or as a policy advocate, having an understanding of the laws on the topics you’re passionate about will benefit you.”

APEC 4300, Agriculture Law, is the first class of the 17 credits required for the minor. The class has no prerequisites and students do not have to be enrolled in CAAS to take the class or complete the minor. Willis said topics in the first course include legal contracts, property, federal land, water, the Endangered Species Act and other regulatory issues, and that the course and minor will benefit students in agriculture, natural resources, political science, business and others.

“What we hope to do is educate people so they at least know when to talk to an attorney or so that they have a basic understanding of the law,” Willis said.

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