

## **Ag Law Infoline established for farmers**

The Agriculture Law Education Initiative recently launched an Infoline phone number for the agricultural community. The Infoline phone number will direct callers to legal information resources related to their agricultural operation. The Infoline, (410) 706-7377, is currently answered by staff at the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law.

“A central goal of the initiative is to assist in the preservation of family farms. The Infoline will help link family farmers with useful resources to further this goal,” said Barbara Gontrum, associate dean at the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law.

“This important step is a testament to our sincerity in providing resources and guidance for Maryland’s agriculture community,” said Dr. Moses Kairo, dean of the UMES School of Agricultural and Natural Sciences. “The Infoline will be another tool for the Maryland agricultural community to access legal information to guide them in managing their operations.”

Dr. Cheng-i Wei, dean and director of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, notes that “the Infoline will be a valuable resource to the Maryland agricultural community. By being able to connect callers with legal information, it will help agricultural producers better understand their legal issues.”

In 2011, the Maryland General Assembly gave the University System of Maryland a new assignment: preserve Maryland’s family farms by helping their owners address the complicated legal issues associated with agricultural [estates and trusts](#), [regulatory compliance](#) and other agricultural law issues. The Infoline will run as an initial six-month pilot to gauge its effectiveness in serving Maryland’s agriculture community. To learn more about the Agriculture Law Education Initiative, visit [www.umaglaw.org](http://www.umaglaw.org).

The Agriculture Law Education Initiative is a collaboration under [University](#) of Maryland: MPowering the State. The Initiative combines the expertise and efforts of three Maryland institutions – the Francis King Carey School of Law at the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB), the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Maryland, College Park (UMD), and the School of Agricultural and Natural Sciences at the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore (UMES). It is committed to providing Maryland farmers with the information they need to prosper while complying with the complex network of laws and policies protecting the integrity of the state’s food system and environment.