

*LEADING THE WAY
FORWARD: LEGAL
PERSPECTIVES*

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Law Students Addressing Food Recovery

Quinn Le Frois: Food Labeling

- Food Law Liaison, Drake Agricultural and Environmental Law Association
- B.S. in Food Science, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Katelin Gines: Regulations

- Projects Editor, Drake Agricultural Law Journal
- Forthcoming Note on food recovery in the Journal

Tess L. Pocock: Student Opportunities

- Food Law Liaison, Drake Agricultural and Environmental Law Association
 - Past Intern, Harvard Law School Food Law and Policy Clinic
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Food Labeling

QUINN LE FROIS

Problem Solving

- Dates are NOT an indicator of product's safety
 - General guidelines for public
 - Consumers should still visually inspect product
 - As of 2016, Federal Law did not require product dating
 - Should we require it?
 - Food can be donated even after date has passed
 - Get rid of stigma-no dumpster diving
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Food Waste: A Regulatory Game?

KATELIN GINES

(Forthcoming in the Drake Journal of Agricultural Law, Summer 2019)

Farm-to-Retail Food Loss

A. Food loss on this level stems from :

- Strict food grading standards requiring near “perfect food”
- Spills, damages, and equipment failure during transportation

B. The Regulatory Fix

- Change the grading system to embrace “ugly foods”
- Currently, retailers like Hy-Vee (locally) and Whole Foods (nationally) accept “ugly food” despite the grading standards



Retail Food Loss

A. Food Loss on this level stems from:

- Overstocking items (especially during the holidays)
- Inadequate storage facilities
- Damaged goods that don't sell

B. The Regulatory Fix

- Mandatory donations: Require stores and restaurants to donate excess food to food banks or other local charities that help distribute food to those in need



Consumer Food Loss

A. Food Loss on this level stems from:

- Confusion over food dating labels
- Demands for cosmetically pleasing food products
- Personal preference (i.e. refusing to eat or use certain items the consumer does not like or enjoy)

B. The Regulatory Fix

- Mandatory dating labels for all food products (currently the only food item legally required to have an expiration date is formula)
 - To reduce consumer confusion all dating labels should state “expires on”
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*Opportunities for
Students to Address
Food Loss*

TESS L. POCOCK



FOOD LAW
and POLICY CLINIC
HARVARD LAW SCHOOL

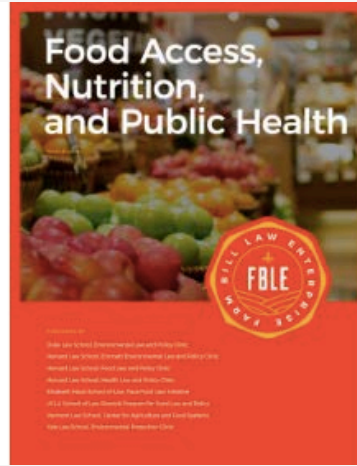
Harvard Law School Food Law and Policy Clinic

- FLPC is part of the Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation
- The Clinic educates law students about how law and policy can impact the food system.
- It provides legal and policy guidance to a range of clients (local, state, federal government, nonprofits)
- The Clinic's Main Areas: Sustainable food production, community food system planning, food access and nutrition, and reducing food waste.

U.S. Food Waste Summit 2018 Takeaways

- Language surrounding “Food Waste” and “Food Loss”
- Representation of all stakeholders
- Science of date labels
- Accelerating data collection and measurements
- Prioritizing prevention
- More sustainable funding sources for organizations addressing food waste





- FBLE is a national partnership of law schools working toward a farm bill that reflects the long-term needs of society.
- The enterprise aims to bridge the gap between the goals of the public and the policy solutions for achieving the goals.
- FLPC outlined 17 recommendations to be implemented to tackle food loss in the 2018 Farm Bill.
- Over the summer, FBLE tracked the progress of various recommendations, including those related to food waste.

Resources from Drake Law School



Drake Entrepreneurial/Transactional Law Clinic

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