Agrarian Law

encompasses all legal aspects related to agriculture. It includes, for example, food, feed, species, and animal protection law, as well as, as a cross-cutting legal matter, the regulations relevant to agriculture in many legal fields such as leasing, construction, corporate, or tax law.

Conception

The use of the term 'Agrarian Law' in its current sense only developed in Germany from 1928 onwards. In that year, a lecture with this title was held for the first time at the University of Berlin. Until the 18th century, people spoke of 'Peasant Law'. In the 19th century, 'Agrarian Law' was primarily understood as legislation in the context of the emancipation of peasants, while the term 'Agricultural Law' was used for special legal provisions in land, labour, and leasehold law.

Systematically, it is necessary to distinguish between agricultural-specific civil law, administrative law, and the nowadays EU law, which will not be mentioned here.

Civil Law

The most important civil law areas of agricultural law are the special inheritance rights in agriculture, regulated in northern Germany by the Hofordnung, and otherwise for rural estates as well as land transaction and lease law. With the agricultural courts, special departments have been set up in the courts for these legal areas.

Administrative Law

Even in the field of public law, there are special regulations for agriculture, such as land consolidation procedures, privileges for building in rural areas, and agricultural subsidies. Also worth mentioning are animal disease and animal protection laws, seed trade laws, and agricultural environmental laws. In Germany and Austria, there is also a special social law for members of agricultural professions, known as agricultural social law.

Finally, agricultural law also includes regulations from the fields of forestry, fisheries, and hunting law.