



Planning for the Future of Farms 2026

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2026

Approved for 6.5 CLE credits (4.75 Law and Legal Procedure + 0.5 Ethics + 1.25 Other)

\$275 - Standard/Non-Section Members

\$250 - Section Member Discount Price

\$245 - New Members*

Washington State Bar Association

1325 Fourth Ave., Suite 600 | Seattle, WA 98101

WEBCAST
ONLY

DESCRIPTION

Presented in collaboration with the WSBA Real Property, Probate & Trust Section

Planning for farms and farm assets is a practice that requires specific knowledge and tools to ensure the best client representation. This seminar offers condensed information on the challenges and opportunities unique to agricultural land transfer and preservation. Topics covered include farmland succession within the family, non-familial farmland transition, estate planning, agricultural conservation easements, and farmland leasing. This program is designed to assist professional service providers who support the financial planning, estate planning, transfer, and management of agricultural land and family farm businesses in Washington.

CHAIR

Hilary Aten – *Washington State Conservation Commission, Seattle*

SCHEDULE

8:10 a.m. > Webcast Log-In Opens

8:25 a.m. > Welcome and Introductions

- **Hilary Aten** – *Washington State Conservation Commission, Seattle*

8:30 a.m. > Succession and Preservation of the Farm: Why It's Important and the Tools Available

30 minutes, 0.5 credits Other

Washington State is outpacing the rest of the nation in farmland loss, due to increasing development pressures, market dynamics, and generational farm transition. Farm and ranch land is the foundation of the State's vital agricultural sector, contributing over \$12.7 billion in the market value of crops and livestock and over \$20 billion in food processing revenue to the state's economy. In this session, presenters will provide an overview of the key factors impacting loss of farmland in Washington State, and the tools available to preserve productive agricultural land for the future.

- **Hilary Aten** – *Washington State Conservation Commission, Seattle*

9:00 a.m. > Personal Perspective on Farmland Preservation and Transition

45 minutes, 0.75 credits Other

This session explores farm succession and land transfer through the lens of agricultural producers and landowners. Drawing on her personal experience as the successor to a 40-year-old organic farm business, as well as case examples from American Farmland Trust's Land Transfer Support Program, Elizabeth will share insights into common challenges, key considerations, and best practices that help producers and landowners take meaningful next steps toward successful farmland and farm business transitions.

- **Elizabeth Bragg** – *American Farmland Trust, Bellingham*

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WSBA CLE #26443 WEB

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SCHEDULE

9:45 a.m. > Estate Planning

60 minutes, 1.0 credits L&LP

To effectively manage agricultural assets and estate planning goals concurrently, many tools and resources are available. Presenters will share insight into entity planning, estate planning tools, and tax strategies to optimize the approach and illustrate practical solutions for long-term security and succession in farm businesses.

- **Maria Schmidkofer** – *Schwabe, Williamson, & Wyatt, Portland*

10:45 a.m. > BREAK

11:00 a.m. > Estate Planning

60 minutes, 0.5 credits L&LP & 0.5 credits Ethics

Discover strategies and essential legal tools for farmland preservation including business structures, ethical considerations, and rules of professional conduct.

- **M. John Way** – *Schwabe, Williamson, & Wyatt, Seattle*

12:00 p.m. > LUNCH on Your Own

1:00 p.m. > Conservation Easements

75 minutes, 1.25 credits L&LP

Conservation easements are voluntary and legally binding agreements between a landowner and a qualified holder (typically either land trust or government resource agency) designed to permanently protect a property's agricultural, forest, habitat, historic and/or recreation/education conservation values. During this session, presenters will break down their essential components, examine their application for estate planning and succession planning purposes, and apply this vital tool to a farm case study.

- **Adam Draper** – *Draper Law PLLC, Seattle*
- **Duncan Greene** – *Cairncross & Hempelmann, Seattle*

2:15 p.m. > BREAK

2:30 p.m. > Farmland Leasing

60 minutes, 1.0 credits L&LP

Farmland Leasing is an integral component of agricultural production in Washington. During this session, presenters will review the law regarding lease formation and structure; farming-specific lease considerations; regulatory and environmental issues related to farm leasing; permitting and land use; operations and farming practices; and mitigating risk. The presenters will also have several farm lease examples for review and discussion.

- **Dylan LeValley** – *Adams & Duncan, Inc., PS, Everett*

3:30 p.m. > Legislative Update: 2022-2026

60 minutes, 1.0 credits L&LP

Join representatives from the Washington Farm Bureau and the Washington Department of Agriculture as they share recent changes in case law, legislation, and regulation pertinent to agricultural operators in Washington. Updates include watershed planning, the Climate Commitment Act after *WFB v WDOE*, and the Millionaire's tax impacts farm liquidation and retirements, and agricultural viability.

- **Kelly McLain** – *Washington Department of Agriculture, Olympia*
- **Breanne Elsey** – *Washington Farm Bureau, Olympia*

4:30 p.m. > Adjourn • Complete Online Evaluations

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REGISTRATION

To register online, please go to the [registration page](#). Click to add to cart and complete your purchase. You may pay by credit card, or via ACH. Alternatively, you may print and mail an invoice seven business days prior to the program along with your check payable to WSBA. Credit card payments by mail or fax are no longer accepted. Note, our service provider will charge you a separate, non-refundable transaction fee of 2.5% on all bank card transactions.

Effective Oct. 1, 2025, applicable sales tax will be applied to all live seminar registrations (in-person or virtual). For more information, refer to changes to [Washington sales tax law](#).

If special accommodations are needed, please email cle@wsba.org or call toll-free at 1-800-945-9722.

☐ Please omit my name from the networking list made available to exhibitors and/or attendees.

PRICING INFORMATION

☐ **#26443 WEB, attend via webcast, 9/23/26**

- ☐ \$275 - Standard
- ☐ \$250 - Section Member Discount Price
- ☐ \$245 - New Members*

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