

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to all the specialty crop producers who continue to provide insight into their values, decision-making, concerns, and hopes. And, thank you to the authors of the narratives in continuing editions of this workbook. Finally, thank you to those who found previous editions of this workbook useful in their planning and took the time to make improvements to this updated edition.

The original version of *Planning the Future of Your Farm* was created and developed by Robert Andrew Branan, an attorney in Hillsborough, North Carolina who concentrates his law practice in many things farming. The Washington State edition of this workbook, the first edition prepared for a western state, was prepared with help from Josh Giuntoli, Project Coordinator at the Washington State Conservation Commission's Office of Farmland Preservation, and from Washington State attorneys Duncan Greene of Van Ness Feldman and Dennis Brislaw of the Private Client Group, Ron Shultz, Policy Director at the Washington State Conservation Commission, and Laura Johnson, Communications Coordinator at the Washington State Conservation Commission. Supporting worksheets were inspired by numerous sources and have evolved through preceding editions of the workbook.

Funding for this edition was provided by The Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. The Specialty Crops Competitiveness Act of 2004 authorized the United States Department of Agriculture to make grants available to provide assistance for specialty crops, while the 2008 Farm Bill amended the act and authorized the USDA to provide grants to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops. This workbook is the result of one of those grants and is meant to address estate planning for specialty crop growers in the state of Washington. It includes chapters on managing risk in the farm transfer process, improving family communication, evaluation farm resources, tools for farm transfer, and meeting with your professional advisors.

Farm estate planning is a tool for the preservation of farms in our state. Farm planning can provide for the continuation of farm operations in Washington, which contributes to the health of our state's specialty crops, overall agricultural economies, and local communities.

The information contained within this book is intended for use solely as an educational tool and research aid. It is not intended to be legal advice, nor is it intended to be a substitute for legal services from a competent professional. To obtain legal advice, please contact and consult with a licensed, practicing attorney. Further, the information provided in this publication is educational in nature and, as such, contains hypotheticals and other information for purely educational value that is fact-sensitive and results in different outcomes based on varying circumstances. Readers of this publication are encouraged to contact the authors for additional questions that may arise based on the educational content of this publication.

This book will also be available online at the Washington State Office of Farmland Preservation [<http://ofp.scc.wa.gov/>] and Cascade Harvest Coalition [<http://www.cascadeharvest.org/>].

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