

Session proposal Form in MS Forms



Conference Session Proposal Form

Thank you for your interest in American Farmland Trust's *Saving America's Working Lands* National Conference scheduled for April 7-9, 2027. We are accepting proposals for conference sessions and look forward to creating a valuable and celebratory conference agenda. All proposals are due by (new date!) **August 31, 2026**. Questions? Contact Beth Fraser, National Agricultural Land Network Deputy Director, bfraser@farmland.org.

Proposed questions (* means required):

- First Name: *
 - [Open Text]
- Last Name: *
 - [Open Text]
- Job Title: *
 - [Open Text]
- Organization/Company: *
 - [Open text]
- Organization/Company's .url
 - [Open text]
- City: *
 - [Open text]
- State: *
 - [Drop down]
- Zip: *

- **[Open text]**
- Email: *
 - **[Open text]**
- Did you attend the 2025 Saving America's Working Lands National Conference?*
 - **[Yes/No]**
- Are you submitting a proposal on someone else's behalf?
 - **[Yes/No]**
- **Are you proposing a conference session or facilitated discussion session?**
 - **Drop-down menu**
- Proposed session title:*

Give your session a brief and clear title for conference marketing and registration materials. If you exceed the 100-character limit, your title will be edited down to meet the limit. Please note, SAWL organizers may have suggestions on title adjustments.

 - **[Small open text with limit]**
- Session description: *

Descriptions should include session format (panel, roundtable, presentation, etc.) as well as content that will be presented. Please do not exceed 500 characters. Please note, SAWL organizers may have suggestions on description adjustments.

 - **[open long-text with character limit]**
- Learning Objectives:*

*Please identify at three (3) learning objectives participants will gain from this session. Learning objectives should describe what attendees will learn and/or be able to do as a result of attending. Please avoid repeating the session description. **

 - **[open long-text]**
- Session speakers

List below the name, title, organization, and email address of the speakers you propose to cover the session content.

 - #1: Name, title, organization, email address
 - #2: Name, title, organization, email address
 - #3: Name, title, organization, email address

Below is a list of the conference tracks. Please read each one and afterward indicate which track your proposed session falls within.

Areas of Focus/Conference Tracks

Conference sessions are divided into six conference tracks. These tracks each focus on a separate aspect of America's working lands; proposals are meant to guide session proposals - not limit creativity, ideas, or suggestions. You will be asked to choose the track that best represents your proposal. The conference organizers may change the track of accepted proposals.

Conference Tracks and Descriptions:

Track 1: Community Solutions: Planning and Zoning Tools to Support Local Agriculture

Largely the purview of local government, comprehensive plans, zoning ordinances and local land use policies can be harnessed to foster resilient and profitable local farms and ranches. This track showcases communities that are trying to balance planning, zoning, and other local policies to build an infrastructure of support for local agriculture and minimize the loss of working lands.

Track 2: Agriculture IS Economic Development

Agriculture is rarely front-of-mind when economic development authorities seek to attract new businesses. As working lands are developed into warehouses, data centers, and energy production, farms and ranches are increasingly fragmented, threatening their profitability, agricultural viability, regional supply chains, and rural economies. This track explores ways to quantify the economic, environmental, and social impacts of farmland loss, policies and strategies that can further agriculture as economic development, and examples or successful approaches that demonstrate agriculture as not just a land use but also an engine for economic development.

Track 3: Changing Hands: Land Transfer, Access, and Affordability

Land access and affordability are primary barriers for entry and expansion, especially for young, beginning, and small producers. Senior farmers, ranchers, and landowners face their own challenges in affording retirement and finding successors. This track looks at ways resources and public policies are being or could be deployed to address these interconnected issues and to keep working lands in agriculture as they change hands.

Track 4: Managing Working Lands for Economic and Ecosystem Resiliency

Economic and environmental resiliency go hand in hand. America's working lands are essential to maintaining robust ecosystems—filtering our air and water, providing diverse habitats for plants and animals, and storing carbon and cycling nutrients. This track explores voluntary conservation tools and funding mechanisms that are helping farmers, ranchers, and landowners build economic and ecosystem resiliency by adapting for changing weather and water conditions.

Track 5: Forever Working Lands: A Deep Dive Into Agricultural Conservation Easements

Agricultural conservation easements and the programs that purchase them are popular among landowners who wish to see their land conserved for future generations. Nearly 8 million acres of farmland and ranchland are under easements held by hundreds of public agencies and conservation organizations. This track explores elements of agricultural conservation easements, compares and contrasts public Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement (PACE) and conservation tax credit programs, and tackles innovations and emerging challenges in the world of purchased and donated easements.

Track 6: Advocating for Farm and Ranchland

As the U.S. continues to lose productive farmland and ranchland at alarming speed, the need to make the case for agriculture's "factory floor" is more important than ever. We must step up efforts to build support among community leaders, policymakers, and agribusiness for policies that protect America's working lands while creating economic opportunities for farmers, ranchers and rural communities. This track looks at tools and advocacy strategies that individuals, organizations, and communities can use to make a difference at all levels of government and corporate decision making.

More session details

- Who do you see as your target audience for this session*:
 - **[open short text]**
- Session outline: *
Please share a brief agenda/overview of your session. This can include the use of Q&A time, survey questions, breakouts, etc.
 - **[open long-text]**

More details about you

- Please tell us a little about yourself as well as your fellow presenters, including experience relevant to your proposed session topic.*
 - **[open long-text]**
- Feel free to include any additional comments regarding your proposal for the *Saving America's Working Lands* Content Committee to consider:
 - **[open long-text]**

Agreements

The *Saving America's Working Lands* conference programming committee will be making final decisions regarding which proposals are selected, and where appropriate, presenters may be asked to collaborate with others or shift the content of their proposal. *

- **[check box]** I understand that the committee may contact me to alter my proposal or seek changes in content or collaborators.
- **[check box]** If selected, I understand that I will be asked to provide session materials (title, description, learning objectives, etc.), as well as my photo and bio, for marketing/promotion that will be made public via the conference website, downloadable Whova conference app, and social media.
- **[check box]** If selected, I understand that I will be asked to join a 30-minute virtual prep-session with a designated session host prior to the conference.

Miscellaneous

Are you interested in being a sponsor or exhibitor at the 2027 *Saving America's Working Lands* National Conference? Please share your email here and we will contact you with additional details. **[open-short text]**

Help us spread the word! If you would like a media kit to assist us in promoting the 2027 *Saving America's Working Lands* National Conference, please share your email here and we will contact you with additional details. **[open-short text]**

How did you hear about this RFP? **[open long-text]**

Anything else you'd like to add? **[open long-text]**

[Submit]