

## AEA ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. Acres claimed must be located in a farmland preservation area identified in the county farmland preservation plan.
2. Claimants must have \$6,000 in gross farm revenue in the past year or \$18,000 in the past three years. Income from rental or farm acreage does not count toward gross farm revenue.
3. Property taxes on the land must be paid by the claimant.
4. Farmers claiming farmland preservation tax credits must certify on their tax form that they comply with state soil and water conservation standards. New claimants must also submit a certification of compliance with soil and water conservation standards that has been issued by the county Conservation, Education, and Economic Development Committee through the Land and Water Conservation Department.



## HOW TO APPLY

If you have any questions about Farmland Preservation, AEAs, or would like assistance with the application process, please contact Shane Wucherpfennig Wood County Land and Water Conservation Department at [715-421-8475](tel:715-421-8475) or email at [landcons@co.wood.wi.us](mailto:landcons@co.wood.wi.us)



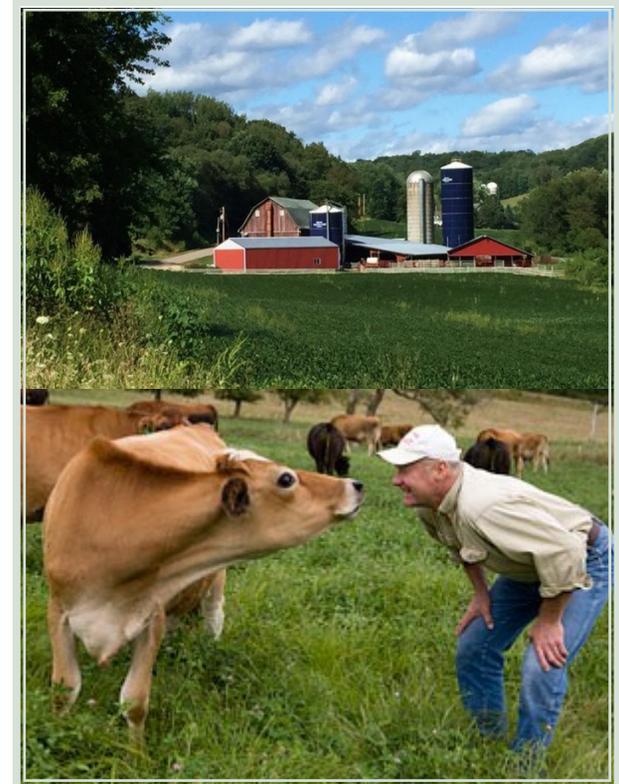
## HOW HAS THE FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM CHANGED AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Before 2009, landowners were receiving approximately \$2.00 per acre, depending on the size of their farm and their income. Under the new legislation, farmers can receive up to \$10.00 per acre, regardless of the size of their farm or income.

The main goal of Farmland Preservation is to protect against farm fragmentation and avoid future land use conflicts in the area. As communities recognize the role that agriculture plays in their economy and way of life, local governments seek ways to protect farmland for the future.

Revised 6/2016

# FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM & AEAS



## WISCONSIN FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM

The purpose of the program is to provide property tax relief to farmland owners while at the same time preserving Wisconsin farmland through local land use planning. This planning incorporates soil and water conservation practices that strive to keep soil erosion at tolerable levels and our area's groundwater and surface water clean. About half of Wisconsin's farmland is currently protected by the program.



## CHANGES IN THE FARMLAND PRESERVATION TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

Big changes have taken place in the way landowners can receive Farmland Preservation Tax Credits. The FPP (Farmland Preservation Tax Credit Program) is now under the Wisconsin Working Lands Initiative. Currently, \$27 million is available statewide to provide farmland preservation tax credit annually.

## ELIGIBLE AMOUNTS A LANDOWNER CAN COLLECT

Eligible landowners may collect one of the following per acre amounts.

1. \$5.00 for farmers with a farmland preservation agreement signed after July 1, 2009 and located in an AEA (agricultural enterprise area). An AEA is an area in which five or more landowners have agreed to keep land in agriculture.
2. \$7.50 for farmers in an area zoned for farmland preservation.
3. \$10.00 for farmers in an area zoned for farmland preservation and also in an AEA, with a farmland preservation agreement signed after July 1, 2009.



## WHAT IS AN AEA?

An "agricultural enterprise area" (AEA) is a tool that can help communities meet locally identified goals for preserving agricultural land and encouraging agricultural economic development.

An AEA is an area of contiguous land primarily in agricultural use that has been designated by the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) in response to a locally developed petition.

## WHAT AN AEA DOES NOT DO

The designation of an AEA does not, by itself, control or limit land use within the designated area. Designation of an AEA also does not specifically protect areas from encroaching development or land use conflicts. Local designation of an AEA, however, can be used as part of a local land use and development strategy designed to preserve, protect and promote agricultural enterprises. This local strategy may include a variety of local initiatives including farmland preservation planning and zoning, voluntary farmland preservation agreements, agricultural and conservation easements, private land use covenants and donations, economic development grants, cooperative agreements, financial incentives and more.

It is up to local initiative to design a strategy that adequately addresses local conditions and the community's vision for the area. All components should work together to contribute to the success of any designated AEA.



For more information about AEAs visit [http://datcp.wi.gov/Environment/Working\\_Lands\\_Initiative/](http://datcp.wi.gov/Environment/Working_Lands_Initiative/) or contact the Wood County Land and Water Conservation Department at 715-421-8475