

# FARMLAND PRESERVATION SURVEY



*Washington County, in cooperation with the local UW-Extension Office, has developed this survey to obtain your opinions about farmland preservation in your municipality. The results will help guide your town or village as it decides whether to participate in Wisconsin's new Working Lands Initiative. Thank you for your input!*

---

## 1. Where do you own most or all of your land?

Town/Village of Town of Barton (18 responses) (approx. 16% response rate)

## 2. Approximately how many total acres do you own within Washington County?

100.1 acres (average)

## 3. In the last few years, how many of these acres have you:

A. Typically farmed yourself 71.94 ac    B. Rented out for farming 20.11 ac (averages)

## 4. Do you currently receive farmland preservation tax credits?

6 Yes                      12 No                      No response: 0

## 5. Would you like to receive tax credits in the future for preserving your farmland?

4 Yes                      7 No                      7 Not sure                      No response: 0

## 6. Would you consider participating in one or both of the following?

A. Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA) 5 Yes 7 No 6 Not sure    No response: 0

B. Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement (PACE) program? 2 Yes 6 No 8 Not sure  
No response: 2

## 7. Is the agricultural infrastructure (co-op, veterinarian, etc.) you need close enough to your operation? (check one)

9 Everything my operation needs is close enough

5 Most of what's needed is close enough

0 Most of what's needed is NOT close enough

0 Nothing my operation needs is close enough

No response: 4

**8. What type of infrastructure, if not already present, would help increase your operation's efficiency? (check all that apply)**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <u>  0  </u> Food processing facilities   | <u>  0  </u> Transportation facilities |
| <u>  0  </u> Storage facilities           | <u>  0  </u> Agricultural suppliers    |
| <u>  0  </u> Co-ops                       | <u>  0  </u> Veterinarian services     |
| <u>  1  </u> Other (please specify) _____ | No response: 17                        |
- > Private businesses not co-ops

**9. How should non-ag development occur in rural areas? (check one)**

- 4   Scattered where appropriate  
  3   Concentrated in a few specified areas  
  6   There should be little or no non-ag growth in rural areas  
  4   Not sure  
  0   Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_ No response: 1

**10. How would you like to see the future (next 10-20 years) of agriculture in Washington County? (check all that apply)**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <u>  9  </u> Same as it is today   | <u>  0  </u> Gradually phase out farms               |
| <u>  1  </u> Hobby farms predominate                                     | <u>  1  </u> Larger farms                            |
| <u>  3  </u> Organic or niche farming play a significant role            | <u>  9  </u> In general, a farm-friendly environment |
| <u>  3  </u> Several Agricultural Enterprise Areas in existence          |  |
| <u>  2  </u> Multiple easements or similar farmland protections in place |  |
| <u>  2  </u> Not sure  | No response: 0                                       |
| <u>  2  </u> Other (please specify) <u>see below</u>                     |  |

- > Farmland should be used for growing or preservation of future growing need—not development  
> No AEA or easements - when will farmers realize that with less controls on their operations the more opportunity for advancement and profit they will have! Enough has been done with use-value assessment unfortunately taxpayers are tired of providing tax credit to farmers. Free enterprise is the answer not easements and controls.

**11. What is your preferred vision of "rural character"? (check one)**

- 7   Plenty of small and medium-sized farms  
 5.5   Farms of all sizes and types, including larger operations  
  0   Scattered, large-lot, well-landscaped subdivisions  
  0   Green space consisting of a mix of woodlands, wetlands, etc.  
  3   A mix of uses including farms, subdivisions, home businesses, and nurseries  
  2   Not sure  
 0.5   Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_ No response: 0
- > Keep houses near town

**12. If you own a farm, please identify current issues you have, if any, with non-ag landowners? (check all that apply)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4 Traffic  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 8 Loss of prime farmlands               |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 Stormwater flow problems                                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5 Vandalism or other crimes             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6 Encroaching non-ag development pressures                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6 Change in "fabric" of rural community |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 7 Lack of tolerance for ag-related noises, odors, activities | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 No significant issues                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 Other (please specify <u>see below</u> )                   | No response: 1  |

- > 4-Wheeler trespassing
- > Pressure to build too many homes and subdivisions
- > My nicest and best friends are non-ag landowners!

**13. If you own a farm, what, generally speaking, are your future plans? (check all that apply)**

- 8 Keep farming in Washington County until my retirement
- 1 Move elsewhere in order to keep farming until my retirement
- 10 Pass the farm on to my children or others in the next generation
- 1 Get out of farming as soon as practical
- 3 Increase the size of the farm
- 0 Decrease the size of the farm
- 6 Seek to put/keep farm in a Farmland Preservation zoning district
- 2 Seek to put the farm in an Agricultural Enterprise Area
- 3 Preserve the farm with a conservation easement on all or part of it
- 0 Split off part of the land for development
- 4 Other (please specify) see below

No answer: 3

- > Will never retire - enjoy farming. Washington County is an URBAN county! Not a farming county. It is too late for Washington County to return to an agricultural county.
- > Donate to charity such as Ride & Reins
- > Go back to old plan
- > Keep farm as is and continue to rent land for farming.

This survey was mailed by the Washington County Planning & Parks Department to all landowners in the Town of Barton who own at least one property that is 20 acres or greater in size.

Survey questions were developed by UW-Extension. Survey results were tabulated by UW-Extension.