

# 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!*

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

Town/Village of Town of Erin (25 responses) (approx. 14% response rate)

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

58.3 acres (average)

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

A. Typically farmed yourself 16.72 ac B. Rented out for farming 19 ac (averages)

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

1 Yes 23 No No response: 1

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

8 Yes 5 No 11 Not sure No response: 1

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

A. Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA) 4 Yes 7 No 13 Not sure No response: 1

B. Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement (PACE) program? 2 Yes 11 No 11 Not sure  
No response: 1

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

12 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 No response: 8  
0 Nothing my operation needs is close enough



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

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <u>6</u> Traffic  | <u>6</u> Loss of prime farmlands               |
| <u>2</u> Stormwater flow problems                                   | <u>3</u> Vandalism or other crimes             |
| <u>5</u> Encroaching non-ag development pressures                   | <u>5</u> Change in "fabric" of rural community |
| <u>5</u> Lack of tolerance for ag-related noises, odors, activities | <u>8</u> No significant issues                 |
| <u>2</u> Other (please specify <u>see below</u> )                   | No response: 4                                 |
- > Garbage along the road
  - > Trespassing

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

- 3 Keep farming in Washington County until my retirement
  - 1 Move elsewhere in order to keep farming until my retirement
  - 9 Pass the farm on to my children or others in the next generation
  - 1 Get out of farming as soon as practical
  - 1 Increase the size of the farm
  - 0 Decrease the size of the farm
  - 4 Seek to put/keep farm in a Farmland Preservation zoning district
  - 1 Seek to put the farm in an Agricultural Enterprise Area
  - 6 Preserve the farm with a conservation easement on all or part of it
  - 7 Split off part of the land for development
  - 2 Other (please specify see below)
- No response: 7
- > Perhaps subdivide for children only
  - > Go with the flow of change for southern Washington County

This survey was mailed by the Washington County Planning & Parks Department to all landowners in the Town of Erin 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.