

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 Trenton (24 responses) (approx. 12% response rate)

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

96.12 acres (average)

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

A. Typically farmed yourself 32.77 ac B. Rented out for farming 33.25 ac (averages)

4. Do you currently receive farmland preservation tax credits?

4 Yes 20 No No response: 0

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

6 Yes 9 No 8 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 12 Not sure No response: 1

B. Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement (PACE) program? 3 Yes 10 No 10 Not sure
No response: 1

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

14 Everything my operation needs is close enough

4 Most of what's needed is close enough

0 Most of what's needed is NOT close enough

1 Nothing my operation needs is close enough

No response: 5

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

- | | |
|--|--|
| <u> 2 </u> Food processing facilities | <u> 1 </u> Transportation facilities |
| <u> 4 </u> Storage facilities | <u> 5 </u> Agricultural suppliers |
| <u> 1 </u> Co-ops | <u> 1 </u> Veterinarian services |
| <u> 2 </u> Other (please specify) <u> see below </u> | No response: 15 |
- > Rail
 - > All within 30 minutes

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

- 8 Scattered where appropriate
 3.5 Concentrated in a few specified areas
 7 There should be little or no non-ag growth in rural areas
 3 Not sure
 2.5 Other (please specify) see below No response: 0
- > Up to property owner
 - > Let land owner decide
 - > PUD's

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

- | | |
|---|---|
| <u> 13 </u> Same as it is today | <u> 1 </u> Gradually phase out farms |
| <u> 6 </u> Hobby farms predominate | <u> 1 </u> Larger farms |
| <u> 6 </u> Organic or niche farming play a significant role | <u> 12 </u> In general, a farm-friendly environment |
| <u> 5 </u> Several Agricultural Enterprise Areas in existence | |
| <u> 4 </u> Multiple easements or similar farmland protections in place | |
| <u> 0 </u> Not sure | |
| <u> 5 </u> Other (please specify) <u> see below </u> | No response: 0 |
- > Allow residential development with minimum 5 acre parcels
 - > Ag Enterprise: I don't think this is possible in my area anymore.
 - > Let economy decide—not government
 - > Farming and areas for home building
 - > Diversity in different farming areas best

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

- 7 Plenty of small and medium-sized farms
 6 Farms of all sizes and types, including larger operations
 0 Scattered, large-lot, well-landscaped subdivisions
 1.5 Green space consisting of a mix of woodlands, wetlands, etc.
 8 A mix of uses including farms, subdivisions, home businesses, and nurseries
 0 Not sure
 1.5 Other (please specify) see below No response: 0
- > Let economy decide—not government
 - > Large lots create more sprawl

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"/> 6 Traffic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5 Loss of prime farmlands |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5 Stormwater flow problems | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5 Vandalism or other crimes |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4 Encroaching non-ag development pressures | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 Change in "fabric" of rural community |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6 Lack of tolerance for ag-related noises, odors, activities | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 7 No significant issues |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 0 Other (please specify) _____ | No response: 4 |

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

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4 Keep farming in Washington County until my retirement | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 0 Move elsewhere in order to keep farming until my retirement | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 9 Pass the farm on to my children or others in the next generation | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 Get out of farming as soon as practical | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 Increase the size of the farm | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 Decrease the size of the farm | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 Seek to put/keep farm in a Farmland Preservation zoning district | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 0 Seek to put the farm in an Agricultural Enterprise Area | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 0 Preserve the farm with a conservation easement on all or part of it | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6 Split off part of the land for development | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 Other (please specify) <u>see below</u> | No response: 3 |
- > Don't yet know
- > Keep all options open when time to sell as in the past

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