

# 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 and Village of Germantown (32 responses) (approx. 22% response rate)

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

94.03 acres (average)

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

A. Typically farmed yourself 19.88 ac B. Rented out for farming 52.03 ac (averages)

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

3 Yes 28 No No response: 1

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

13 Yes 8 No 11 Not sure No response: 0

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

A. Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA) 3 Yes 11 No 16 Not sure No response: 2

B. Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement (PACE) program? 3 Yes 10 No 18 Not sure  
No response: 1

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

18 Everything my operation needs is close enough  
8 Most of what's needed is close enough  
3 Most of what's needed is NOT close enough No response: 3  
0 Nothing my operation needs is close enough

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

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <u>  1  </u> Food processing facilities                  | <u>  1  </u> Transportation facilities |
| <u>  2  </u> Storage facilities                          | <u>  2  </u> Agricultural suppliers    |
| <u>  2  </u> Co-ops                                      | <u>  1  </u> Veterinarian services     |
| <u>  1  </u> Other (please specify) <u>  see below  </u> | No response: 22                        |
- > Technical Assistance/Consulting.

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

- 16  Scattered where appropriate  
 3.5  Concentrated in a few specified areas  
  5  There should be little or no non-ag growth in rural areas  
  4  Not sure  
 3.5  Other (please specify)   see below   No response: 0
- > A person should be able to develop their land as they please, as long as it complies with the municipal's master plan  
> Non-Ag expansion should not be scattered. Effort needed to preserve both high quality farm acreage and farm related business. The business side of farming also needs to be supported.  
> Follow 2020 plan for Germantown  
> Within existing urbanized areas

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

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <u> 10 </u> Same as it is today   | <u>  4 </u> Gradually phase out farms               |
| <u>  4 </u> Hobby farms predominate                                     | <u>  1 </u> Larger farms                            |
| <u>  6 </u> Organic or niche farming play a significant role            | <u> 14 </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>  6 </u> Not sure  |   |
| <u>  2 </u> Other (please specify) <u>  see below  </u>                 | No response: 1                                      |
- > No more residential development  
> More cooperative at the local government level

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

- 5.25  Plenty of small and medium-sized farms  
  5   Farms of all sizes and types, including larger operations  
 2.33  Scattered, large-lot, well-landscaped subdivisions  
 2.58  Green space consisting of a mix of woodlands, wetlands, etc.  
11.58  A mix of uses including farms, subdivisions, home businesses, and nurseries  
  3   Not sure  
 1.25  Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_ No response: 1
- > More definition between rural and residential.  
> Concentrated residential growth to minimize impact on school and muni services

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

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <u>7</u> Traffic  | <u>6</u> Loss of prime farmlands               |
| <u>2</u> Stormwater flow problems                                   | <u>4</u> Vandalism or other crimes             |
| <u>5</u> Encroaching non-ag development pressures                   | <u>4</u> Change in "fabric" of rural community |
| <u>8</u> Lack of tolerance for ag-related noises, odors, activities | <u>12</u> No significant issues                |
| <u>0</u> Other (please specify _____)                               | No response: 7                                 |

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

- 7 Keep farming in Washington County until my retirement
- 0 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
- 2 Increase the size of the farm
- 0 Decrease the size of the farm
- 2 Seek to put/keep farm in a Farmland Preservation zoning district
- 1 Seek to put the farm in an Agricultural Enterprise Area
- 3 Preserve the farm with a conservation easement on all or part of it
- 6 Split off part of the land for development
- 5 Other (please specify) see below No response: 6

- > Need more information
- > Continue renting land out
- > We own land/no buildings
- > Sell as a small farm in total
- > Assuming aquaculture is considered Agriculture. Keep property as pristine as possible (possible coservancy)

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