

# 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 Wayne (34 responses) (approx. 18% response rate)

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

103.79 acres (average)

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

A. Typically farmed yourself 45.29 ac B. Rented out for farming 41.74 ac (averages)

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

6 Yes 27 No No response: 1

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

11 Yes 10 No 12 Not sure No response: 1

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

A. Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA) 7 Yes 11 No 14 Not sure No response: 2

B. Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement (PACE) program? 7 Yes 10 No 16 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

12 Most of what's needed is close enough

1 Most of what's needed is NOT close enough

1 Nothing my operation needs is close enough

No response: 6

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

- |  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| <u>4</u> Food processing facilities              | <u>0</u> Transportation facilities |
| <u>3</u> Storage facilities                      | <u>3</u> Agricultural suppliers    |
| <u>5</u> Co-ops                                  | <u>2</u> Veterinarian services     |
| <u>3</u> Other (please specify) <u>see below</u> | No response: 20                    |

- > Solar, wind, fiber alcohol mill
- > Fiber alcohol plant
- > Keep government out

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

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

- > Wherever someone chooses. Should be able to sell your land when you want.
- > Where the market bears it to be.
- > At the owner and town decision
- > Up to current land owner (willing buyer-willing seller)

**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>0</u> Gradually phase out farms                |
| <u>3</u> Hobby farms predominate                                     | <u>4</u> Larger farms                             |
| <u>6</u> Organic or niche farming play a significant role            | <u>19</u> In general, a farm-friendly environment |
| <u>8</u> Several Agricultural Enterprise Areas in existence          |   |
| <u>9</u> Multiple easements or similar farmland protections in place |   |
| <u>1</u> Not sure  |   |
| <u>4</u> Other (please specify) <u>see below</u>                     | No response: 0                                    |

- > Whatever someone wants to do with their land.
- > Whatever the market bears.
- > Whatever the market dictates (free enterprise)
- > Don't want the large herds over 1,000 head

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

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

- > Whatever someone wants to do with their land
- > Rural character is the character of how the land owner wants it to be
- > Whatever the market dictates (free enterprise)

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

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <u>  8  </u> Traffic   | <u> 14 </u> Loss of prime farmlands               |
| <u>  1 </u> Stormwater flow problems                                   | <u>  3 </u> Vandalism or other crimes             |
| <u>  5 </u> Encroaching non-ag development pressures                   | <u>  8 </u> Change in “fabric” of rural community |
| <u> 12 </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: 5                                    |
- > Too many cattle on land with runoff going to ditches
  - > Train horns

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

- |   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| <u> 16 </u> Keep farming in Washington County until my retirement               |                 |
| <u>  0 </u> Move elsewhere in order to keep farming until my retirement         |                 |
| <u> 16 </u> Pass the farm on to my children or others in the next generation    |                 |
| <u>  0 </u> Get out of farming as soon as practical                             |                 |
| <u>  6 </u> Increase the size of the farm                                       |                 |
| <u>  0 </u> Decrease the size of the farm                                       |                 |
| <u>  9 </u> Seek to put/keep farm in a Farmland Preservation zoning district    |                 |
| <u>  5 </u> Seek to put the farm in an Agricultural Enterprise Area             |                 |
| <u>  5 </u> Preserve the farm with a conservation easement on all or part of it |                 |
| <u>  4 </u> Split off part of the land for development                          |                 |
| <u>  7 </u> Other (please specify) <u>  see below  </u>                         | No response : 4 |
- > It’s all hunting land with a river running through it
  - > Wooded—not farmland acreage
  - > No plans—the town tells you what you can and cannot do
  - > Whatever the market bears
  - > Presently land is up for sale
  - > Most of my farm is in a hamelet (sp)
  - > Already retired—very likely sell to a hobby farmer when I no longer can maintain the property.

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