

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 West Bend (8 responses) (approx. 14% response rate)

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

87.8 acres (average)

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

A. Typically farmed yourself 11.88 ac B. Rented out for farming 28.38 ac (averages)

4. Do you currently receive farmland preservation tax credits?

1 Yes 7 No No response: 0

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

3 Yes 2 No 3 Not sure No response: 0

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

A. Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA) 4 Yes 1 No 3 Not sure No response: 0

B. Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement (PACE) program? 4 Yes 2 No 2 Not sure
No response: 0

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

5 Everything my operation needs is close enough

1 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: 2

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

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food processing facilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation facilities |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Storage facilities | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural suppliers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Co-ops | <input type="checkbox"/> Veterinarian services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____ | No response: 7 |

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

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

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

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

> Farmland should be used for growing or preservation for future growing need - not development

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

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

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

- | | |
|---|--|
| <u> 3 </u> Traffic | <u> 2 </u> Loss of prime farmlands |
| <u> 0 </u> Stormwater flow problems | <u> 2 </u> Vandalism or other crimes |
| <u> 3 </u> Encroaching non-ag development pressures | <u> 2 </u> Change in "fabric" of rural community |
| <u> 1 </u> Lack of tolerance for ag-related noises, odors, activities | <u> 1 </u> No significant issues |
| <u> 0 </u> Other (please specify _____) | No response: 2 |

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

- 1 Keep farming in Washington County until my retirement
- 0 Move elsewhere in order to keep farming until my retirement
- 6 Pass the farm on to my children or others in the next generation
- 0 Get out of farming as soon as practical
- 2 Increase the size of the farm
- 0 Decrease the size of the farm
- 3 Seek to put/keep farm in a Farmland Preservation zoning district
- 3 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
- 1 Other (please specify) see below No response: 1

> I think the main thing here is preservation of farm land to feed the people

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