



CARING FOR THE  
**FACES & SPACES**  
OF WISCONSIN

# Farmland Preservation Plan Workshop Summary

May 13, 2010

Troy

(Response Count = 9)

# Process Used to Generate and Score Responses

- Farmland Preservation Plan
  - statutory requirements were turned into 9 specific questions
- Small Group Discussion
  - Participants were broken into three groups, each facilitated by County staff. Each group was asked to provide responses to 3 of the 9 questions
- Large Group Discussion
  - Small groups reported back to large group for discussion/revising so that there were no more than 10 responses per question.
- Voting
  - Participants used electronic clickers to prioritize responses for each question. They were given three votes (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> choices) for each question.
- Scoring
  - The numbers in parentheses for each response were calculated using the following weighting system: Each 1<sup>st</sup> place vote received 3pts, each 2<sup>nd</sup> place vote received 2pts, and each 3<sup>rd</sup> place vote received 1pt.

# #1 What are the important agricultural uses of land in St. Croix County?

1. Row Crop: Corn, soybean, hay, small grain (24)
2. Dairy (14)
3. Conservation Reserve Program (7)
4. Livestock -- Beef/Pigs/Chickens (5)
5. Pasture/grazing (3)
6. Canning crops & vegetables (2)
7. Forestry (3)
8. Christmas trees/grapes (1)
9. Horses (0)
10. Bison/specialty animals (0)

## #2 What are the key natural resources that support agriculture?

1. Availability of good farmland is limited (22)
2. Limited water supply, groundwater quantity & quality (13)
3. Overall productivity of soils is good (12)
4. Good terrain/slopes of land (7)
5. Good air quality (2)

#3 What are the anticipated changes in the nature, scope, location, and focus of agriculture related to production, processing, supply, and distribution?

1. Farm sizes to 2 extremes – bigger & smaller (15)
2. More restrictions than we want or need – government/neighbors/etc. (14)
3. Greater efforts to protect water resources quality & quantity (9)
4. Products will be closer to markets (8)
5. Processing services will be further away (5)

## #4 What are key pieces of agricultural infrastructure that currently exist?

1. Good transportation system (16)
2. Have grain storage (10)
3. Seed/fertilizer dealers (10)
4. Still have implement dealerships (5)
5. Have Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) (4)
6. Financial institutions (3)
7. Educational facilities – UW-RF/WITC (2)
8. Few food processing facilities i.e. cheese (1)

## #5 What are key pieces of agricultural infrastructure that are needed?

1. Maintain land base (20)
2. Manure management -- shared storage & digesting (12)
3. Farmers markets (6)
4. Experienced labor (6)
5. Better financing incentives (5)
6. Animal processing (4)
7. Renewable energy -- wind generators (1)
8. Make available localized food processing -- commercial kitchens (0)

## #6 What are the significant trends affecting agricultural land use and the conversion of agricultural land to other uses?

1. Farm transition next generation -- Age/retirement sell for development (20)
2. Off-farm jobs are needed for income/benefits (8)
3. Updating technology -- Farm equipment larger, dairy infrastructure outdated (6)
4. Significant start-up cost -- machinery dealers, transportation (6)
5. Future taxes – real estate/estate/etc. (4)
6. Non-farm neighbor conflicts (4)
7. Population shift to west end of County (2)

# #7 What are the significant trends affecting agricultural production and enterprises related to agriculture?

1. Increasing high cost of inputs (25)
2. Yield increase needed/consumer demands (7)
3. More technology – computer, fuels, markets (6)
4. Negative impacts from general economic conditions (5)
5. More locally grown products (5)
6. Demand for irrigation/groundwater supplies (2)
7. More government regulations/restrictions (2)
8. Global markets (2)
9. Size of farms are changing (0)
10. Lack of competition -- ag business (seed company mergers) (0)

## #8 What should our goals be for agriculture in the county?

1. Plan locations for housing – consumes land & creates conflict when spread around (19)
2. Ag should not only survive but flourish (15)
3. Educate citizens about agriculture (7)
4. Change the pricing structure for milk (7)
5. Encourage youth into ag through schools & 4-H – diminishing programs (6)

# #9 What should our goals be for enterprises related to agriculture?

1. Lower energy costs for ag enterprises (30)
2. Encourage new technologies for new products – i.e. hydroponics & bacteria (10)
3. Work with suppliers to encourage them to stay in the County – seed, fertilizer, protein (10)