

Draft Farmland Preservation Goals and Objectives Review

St. Croix County Workshop April 26 & 27, 2011

On December 31, 2011, the St. Croix Farmland Preservation Plan is set to expire. St. Croix County is in the process of developing a new plan. Chapter 91, Subchapter II, of WI State Statutes specifically identifies several planning requirements the new farmland preservation plan must address to obtain state certification, including:

1. All plans must clearly state the county's goals and policies related to:
 - a. farmland preservation; and
 - b. agricultural development, including development of enterprises related to agriculture;
2. Identification of farmland preservation areas; and
3. The county's strategy to increase housing density outside of farmland preservation areas.

The April workshops will provide an opportunity for farm operators, agri-businessmen, local officials and the public to review and respond to draft goals, objectives and policies proposed for the new plan. Below is the first draft of these materials. If you are unable to attend either of the workshops to provide feedback, please feel free to comment electronically or print this document and send by regular mail.

Goal 1: *Preserve farmland to maintain and grow St. Croix County's agricultural industry and to enhance the rural landscape.*

Like/Dislike/Depends Why: _____

- 1A. Preserve productive soils identified by county land evaluation system.

Like/Dislike/Depends Why: _____

- 1B. Support public and/or private initiatives that preserve farmland.

Like/Dislike/Depends Why: _____

- 1C. Minimize the loss and fragmentation of farmland in rural areas.

Like/Dislike/Depends Why: _____

- 1D. Encourage preservation of open space and scenic areas and structures.

Like/Dislike/Depends Why: _____

Goal 2: *Promote agricultural development to support St. Croix County producers, businesses, and communities.*

Like/Dislike/Depends Why: _____

- 2A. Maintain and strengthen a farm operator's right to farm using accepted practices that do not threaten public health or safety.

Like/Dislike/Depends Why: _____

- 2B. Support economic incentives for landowners to keep productive agricultural land in agricultural use.

Like/Dislike/Depends Why: _____

- 2C. Support efforts which increase the viability and diversity of agriculture throughout the county.

Like/Dislike/Depends Why: _____

- 2D. Encourage bio-energy production to diversify energy resources and the agricultural economy.

Like/Dislike/Depends Why: _____

2E. Support agricultural processing and marketing initiatives for local, regional, and global markets

Like/Dislike/Depends Why: _____

2F. Maintain and strengthen the county farm economy

Like/Dislike/Depends Why: _____

2G. Identify, develop, and maintain agricultural infrastructure to support agricultural operations.

Like/Dislike/Depends Why: _____

2H. Provide assistance to farmers seeking to innovate or modernize their operations.

Like/Dislike/Depends Why: _____

Goal 3: Guide or manage development patterns that will preserve farmland and promote agricultural development

Like/Dislike/Depends Why: _____

3A. Guide urban growth into developed areas consistent with the community's willingness and ability to accommodate growth.

Like/Dislike/Depends Why: _____

3B. Discourage rural nonfarm development on productive agricultural land

Like/Dislike/Depends Why: _____

3C. Guide rural development to locations that will not convert productive agricultural land.

Like/Dislike/Depends Why: _____

3D. Encourage conservation design development and private conservancy as methods for preserving productive agricultural land

Like/Dislike/Depends Why: _____

3E. Guide low density rural development to non-productive agricultural land

Like/Dislike/Depends Why: _____

3F. Discourage isolated non-agriculture commercial and industrial uses in agricultural areas.

Like/Dislike/Depends Why: _____

Goal 4: Conserve availability and quality of natural resources for agriculture.

Like/Dislike/Depends Why: _____

4A. Encourage the conservation of groundwater and surface water quality and quantity.

Like/Dislike/Depends Why: _____

4B. Encourage and promote farming and forestry operations to follow best management practices and maintain strong stewardship principles.

Like/Dislike/Depends Why: _____

4C. Maintain soil productivity through appropriate agricultural practices.

Like/Dislike/Depends Why: _____

4D. Discourage the conversion of agricultural land adjacent to established habitat areas.

Like/Dislike/Depends Why: _____