



CARING FOR THE
FACES & SPACES
OF WISCONSIN

Farmland Preservation Plan Update Workshop Summary

May 20, 2010

Emerald

(Response Count =12)

Process Used to Generate and Score Responses

- Farmland Preservation Plan Requirements
 - statutory requirements were turned into 9 specific questions
- Large Group Discussion
 - There were insufficient numbers to break into small groups at the start of the workshop. As a result, staff facilitated a discussion with the entire group using responses from the Baldwin and Star Prairie workshops. Participants modified (added/deleted/revised/left alone) the responses in order to develop a set of responses unique for Emerald.
- Voting
 - Participants used electronic clickers to prioritize responses for each question. They were given three votes (1st, 2nd, 3rd choices) for each question.
- Scoring
 - The numbers in parentheses for each response were calculated using the following weighting system: each 1st place vote received 3pts, each 2nd place vote received 2pts, and each 3rd place vote received 1pt.

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

1. Dairy (23)
2. Crops: (Corn, Soybeans, Hay) Traditional Row Crops (13)
3. Livestock (12)
4. Bees (6)
5. Community Supported Agriculture (5)
6. Forestry (4)
7. Canning Crops (3)
8. Nurseries (1)
9. Pasture/Grazing (1)
10. Energy Crops (0)

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

1. Land is productive/high capability (24)
2. Good surface and groundwater quality & quantity (16)
3. Land is available (10)
4. Favorable precipitation/growing conditions (8)
5. Sustainable energy resources available (3)
6. Favorable terrain (1)
7. Significant amount of timber/forest land (1)
8. Some open space (0)

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

1. Fragmented land/Parcel size increases difficulty (14)
2. Smaller profit margins (13)
3. World or global marketing -- good & bad (11)
4. Health insurance – off-farm jobs necessary (10)
5. Disconnect of people from ag production (9)
6. Mergers of enterprises – lack of competition & options (3)
7. Consumers demanding more (3)
8. Climate change (2)
9. Labor availability may be inadequate (2)
10. Population growth (0)

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

1. Good roads & highway system (12)
2. Machinery dealers/repair (10)
3. Financial Institutions (10)
4. I-94 (8)
5. Colleges/Technical Institutions (6)
6. Railroad (5)
7. Storage elevators/private storage (4)
8. Fertilizer dealers (3)
9. Vet services (3)

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

1. Land availability for agriculture (20)
2. Knowledgeable Ag loan professionals (13)
3. Parts depot for ag equipment (9)
4. Experience labor supply (9)
5. Finishing facilities for raw materials/crops (7)
6. Increase rail loading capacity (7)

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

1. Selling farmland for development (land values) (13)
2. Farm size increasing/small farms disappearing (13)
3. Population growth (12)
4. Commodity price/cost of production (7)
5. Transitioning farms to next generation (4)
6. Labor availability (3)
7. Land use conflicts with nonfarm, recreation, etc. (3)
8. Manure spreading/product./Nutrient management challenges (costs) (1)
9. Technology – size of equipment larger (1)

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

1. Competition between large & small farms (12)
2. Farmers retiring not being replaced (12)
3. Too much government intervention (9)
4. Loss of private property rights (8)
5. Full & part-time farmers with outside incomes (5)
6. Increased demand for nonfarm development (5)
7. New roads splitting property/fragmenting (4)
8. Foreclosures of farm & ag enterprises (3)
9. Cost/lack of supplier availability (0)
10. More no till & reduced till occurring (0)

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

1. Protect farms with better financial incentives (9)
2. Keep as much viable ag land as possible (9)
3. Protect working farms from encroachment from non-ag/Keep development in designated areas (9)
4. Let landowners make their own decisions (8)
5. Plan for farming with less restrictions/Get out of NR151 (8)
6. Flexible planning/plans adjust over time (7)
7. Easier transition to farm easements (4)
8. Better disaster assistance (3)

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

1. Encourage/support ag businesses (16)
2. Profitable ag for all sizes to help support local businesses (13)
3. Help support small suppliers for small farms (12)
4. Employment opportunities (7)
5. Enough farming capacity to support businesses (critical mass) (4)
6. Cooperative agreements for supplies (2)