



St. Croix County Farmland Preservation Plan Update Summary of May, 2010 Workshops

The top four choices for each workshop and question are summarized below.
(Low/no vote common themes are included in italics for each question)

| Question | Workshop | | | |
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| | Baldwin | Troy | Star Prairie | Emerald |
| <p>#1 What are the important agricultural uses of land in St. Croix County?</p> <p><i>Low/no vote common themes (Vegetable/fruit production, tree farms/nurseries)</i></p> | <p>a. Dairy b. Row Crops c. Beef d. Specialty crops (nurseries, CSA's, canning crops)</p> | <p>a. Row Crops b. Dairy c. CRP d. Livestock</p> | <p>a. Dairy/livestock b. Row Crops c. Game farm/Wildlife conservation d. Nutrient application</p> | <p>a. Dairy b. Row Crops c. Livestock d. Bees</p> |
| <p>#2 What are the key natural resources that support agriculture?</p> <p><i>Low/no vote common themes (forest/timber land, sustainable energy resources)</i></p> | <p>a. Land is available b. Land is productive/high capability c. Groundwater quality and quantity d. Favorable terrain</p> | <p>a. Availability of good farmland is limited b. Limited water supply/groundwater quality/quantity c. Good productivity of soils d. Good terrain/slopes of land</p> | <p>a. Availability of land b. Quality/productivity of soils c. Groundwater quantity/quality c. Uncontaminated soil and groundwater</p> | <p>a. Land is productive/high capability b. Good surface and groundwater quality and quantity c. Land is available d. Favorable precipitation/growing conditions</p> |
| <p>#3 What are the anticipated changes in the nature, scope, location, and focus of agriculture related to production, processing, supply, and distribution?</p> <p><i>Low/no vote common themes (Sustainable ag practice, disconnect between farm and non-farm populations)</i></p> | <p>a. Consumers demanding more b. Mergers of enterprises-lake of competition & options c. Smaller profit margins d. Fragmented land/parcel size increases difficulty in farming</p> | <p>a. Farm sizes to 2 extremes-bigger & smaller b. More restrictions than we want or need--govt., neighbors, etc. c. Greater efforts to protect water resources quality and quantity d. Products will be closer to markets</p> | <p>a. Larger farms east, smaller farms west b. Competition for land from housing c. Concern about water issues d. More Irrigation</p> | <p>a. Fragmented land/parcel size increases difficulty in farming b. Smaller profit margins c. World or global marketing—good and bad d. Health insurance—off farm jobs necessary</p> |
| <p>#4 What are key pieces of agricultural infrastructure that currently exist?</p> <p><i>Low/no vote common themes (Educational institutions like UWEX & WITC, I-94, railroads)</i></p> | <p>a. [Grain] Storage elevators/private storage b. Good roads & hwy system c. Machinery dealers/repair d. Financial institutions</p> | <p>a. Good transportation system b. Have grain storage c. Seed/fertilizer dealers d. Have implement dealerships</p> | <p>a. Elevators/fed/chemical suppliers b. Milk processors c. Irrigation d. Implement dealers</p> | <p>a. Good roads & hwy system b. Machinery dealers/repair c. Financial institutions d. Colleges/technical institutions</p> |

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| | Baldwin | Troy | Star Prairie | Emerald |
| <p>#5 What are key pieces of agricultural infrastructure that are needed?</p> <p><i>Low/no vote common themes (Finishing facilities, food processing facilities, ag education, expand localized farm markets)</i></p> | <p>a. Land availability for agriculture b. Experienced labor supply c. Finishing facilities for raw materials/crops d. Parts depot for ag equipment</p> | <p>a. Maintain land base b. Manure management-shared storage and digestion c. Farmers markets d. Experienced labor</p> | <p>a. Conservation of soil and water. (TMDL's) b. Maintain ag land uses c. Agriculture suppliers d. Good roads</p> | <p>a. Land available for agriculture b. Knowledgeable Ag loan professionals c. Parts depot for ag equipment d. Experienced labor supply</p> |
| <p>#6 What are the significant trends affecting agricultural land use and the conversion of agricultural land to other uses?</p> <p><i>Low/no vote common themes (taxes, farm/non-farm conflict)</i></p> | <p>a. Population growth b. Selling farmland for development c. Transitioning farmland to the next generation d. Farm size increasing/small farms disappearing</p> | <p>a. Farm transition to next generation—Age/retirement sell for development b. Off farm jobs are needed for income/benefits c. Updating technology-farm equipment larger, dairy infrastructure outdated d. Significant start-up cost—machinery dealers, transportation</p> | <p>a. Population growth from Twin Cities b. Real estate taxes/future increases c. Urban sprawl (annexation issues) d. Retirement age of producers</p> | <p>a. Selling farmland for development (land values) b. Farm size increasing/small farms disappearing c. Population growth d. Commodity price/cost of productions</p> |
| <p>#7 What are the significant trends affecting agricultural production and enterprises related to agriculture?</p> <p><i>Low/no vote common themes (increasing demand for locally grown produce, negative impacts from ag{nitrates/herbicides})</i></p> | <p>a. Increased demand for nonfarm development b. Farmers retiring not being replaced c. competition between large & small farms d. Too much government intervention</p> | <p>a. Increasing high cost of inputs b. Yield increase needed/consumer demands c. More technology---computer, fuels, markets d. Negative impacts from general economic conditions</p> | <p>a. World markets b. Price structure for commodities c. Government regulations/restrictions d. Lack of local markets/processing</p> | <p>a. Competition between large & small farms b. Farmers retiring not being replaced c. Too much government intervention d. Loss of private property rights</p> |
| <p>#8 What should our goals be for agriculture in the county?</p> <p><i>Low/no vote common themes (farmland preservation plans should be flexible and adjust over time)</i></p> | <p>a. Keep as much viable ag land as possible b. Protect working farms from encroachment from non-ag. Keep development in designated areas c. Protect farms with better financial incentives d. Plan for farming with less restrictions/ Get out of NR 151</p> | <p>a. Plan locations for house—Consumes land & creates conflict when spread around b. Ag should not only survive but flourish c. Educate citizens about agriculture d. Change the pricing structure for milk</p> | <p>a. Promote wise use of groundwater b. Promote ag areas and control/exclude development c. Provide for a mix of ag and housing d. Selective use of lands based on capability/sustainability</p> | <p>a. Protect farms with better financial incentives b. Keep as much viable ag land as possible c. Protect working farms from encroachment from non-ag. Keep development in designated areas d. Let landowners make their own decisions</p> |

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| | Baldwin | Troy | Star Prairie | Emerald |
| <p>#9 What should our goals be for enterprises related to agriculture?</p> <p><i>Low/no vote common themes (Maintain critical mass of agriculture to support future expansion)</i></p> | <p>a. Encourage/support ag businesses</p> <p>b. Profitable ag for all size farms to help support local businesses</p> <p>c. Cooperative agreements for supplies</p> <p>d. Help support small suppliers for small farms</p> | <p>a. Lower energy costs for ag enterprises</p> <p>b. Encourage new technologies for new products –i.e. hydroponics \$ bacteria</p> <p>c. Work with suppliers to encourage them to stay in the county—seed, fertilizer, protein</p> | <p>a. Promote farm business areas</p> <p>b. Support incentives for ag related businesses</p> <p>c. Support on-farm businesses</p> <p>d. Show concern for the neighbors</p> | <p>a. Encourage/support ag businesses</p> <p>b. Profitable ag for all sizes to help support local businesses</p> <p>c. Help support small suppliers for small farms</p> <p>d. Employment opportunities</p> |