



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

# Farmland Preservation Workshop Summary

May 19, 2010

Star Prairie

(Response Count =15)

# 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. Dairy/livestock/poultry production (36)
2. Row Crops (35)
3. Game farms, wildlife conservation (6)
4. Nutrient Application (manure) (4)
5. Vegetable/fruit production (3)
6. Tree farms (2)
7. Open space (2)
8. Horses (1)
9. Pasture (1)
10. Bee keeping (0)

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

1. Availability of land (33)
2. Quality/productivity of soils (29)
3. Groundwater quantity/quality (22)
4. Uncontaminated soil and groundwater (6)
5. Weather patterns (negative...drier) (3)
6. Wildlife habitat for pollinators (2)

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

- 1. Larger farms east, smaller farms west (26)**
- 2. Competition for land from housing (24)**
- 3. Concern about water issues (20)**
- 4. More irrigation (9)**
- 5. Sustainable Ag practices (7)**
- 6. Fewer suppliers and processors (6)**
- 7. More use of available acres (3)**
- 8. Need for new infrastructure and maintenance (1)**
- 9. Self sufficiency for person's family (0)**
- 10. Bigger machinery (0)**

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

1. Elevators/feed/chemical suppliers (26)
2. Milk processors (17)
3. Irrigation (12)
4. Implement dealers (11)
5. Rail/highway transportation (8)
6. Meat processors (5)
7. Technology/GPS (5)
8. Education facilities WITC/UW (5)
9. Utility suppliers and green energy (1)

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

1. Conservation of soil/water (TMDL's) (35)
2. Maintain ag land uses (17)
3. Ag suppliers (14)
4. Good roads (12)
5. Ag services (Baldwin center) (6)
6. Localize/expand farmers markets (5)
7. Internet services (3)
8. Expand youth Ag education (2)
9. Expand organic Ag/CSA's (2)
10. Biofuels, production (0)

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

1. Population growth from Twin cities (31)
2. Real estate taxes/future increases (20)
3. Urban sprawl (annexation issues) (15)
4. Retirement age of producers (14)
5. Large scale farms buying up land (9)
6. Unavailable small & medium size farmland due to county policies/zoning (3)
7. High rental rates (0)

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

- 1. World markets (20)**
- 2. Price structure for commodities (19)**
- 3. Government regulations/restrictions (15)**
- 4. Lack of local markets/processing (10)**
- 5. Negative environmental impacts (Nitrates/herbicides) (8)**
- 6. Sustainability of farms (local markets) (7)**
- 7. Technology (computers, equipment) (5)**
- 8. Need for collator/s (3)**
- 9. Increasing demand for locally grown food selling directly to restaurants (1)**
- 10. Increasing of farm stores/roadside stands (0)**

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

1. Promote wise use of groundwater (27)
2. Promote ag areas and control/exclude development (19)
3. Provide for mix of ag and housing (16)
4. Selective use of lands based on capability/sustain (8)
5. Continue or enhance CRP (7)
6. Support farmer access to the equity in their property (6)
7. Promote large tracts of Ag (3)
8. Promote ag educational resources (0)
9. Support time for entry farmers (0)
10. Promote improved fencing law (0)

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

1. Promote farm business areas (27)
2. Support incentives for ag related businesses (21)
3. Support on-farm businesses (14)
4. Show concern for the neighbors (10)
5. Increase off farm employment (8)
6. Diversity of number and size of ag businesses (options) (7)
7. Promote study of new ag products (6)
8. Make use of railroad transportation (0)