

ORDINANCE NO.: Z-5—2023-24

TO THE HONORABLE, THE OUTAGAMIE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

MAJORITY

1 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE OUTAGAMIE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE
2 PLAN. The subject matter of the ordinance having been duly referred and considered by
3 the Outagamie County Agriculture, Extension Education, Zoning and Land Conservation
4 Committee and public hearing having been held after giving requisite notice of said
5 hearing, and a recommendation as required by Section 66.1001(4) of the Wisconsin State
6 Statutes.

7
8 Outagamie County Planning Staff review recommends approval of proposed
9 comprehensive plan amendment. The Agriculture, Extension Education, Zoning and Land
10 Conservation Committee recommends approval.

11
12 NOW THEREFORE, the undersigned members of the Agriculture, Extension Education, Zoning
13 and Land Conservation Committee recommend adoption of the following ordinance.

14 BE IT ORDAINED that the Outagamie County Board of Supervisors does approve the attached
15 proposed amendment to the Outagamie County Comprehensive Plan related to Addendum 2: Farmland
16 Preservation, as reflected in the review of Exhibit 1, which by reference is made a part hereof:

- 17
- 18 ■ Repeal and replace Addendum 2: Farmland Preservation Plan,
 - 19 ■ Remove the Town of Greenville Future Land Use Map 35, Page Vol. II- 37 and Update Map
20 Exhibit Reference Numbers for Map 36 through Map 39,
 - 21 ■ Add Language to Volume II of the Comprehensive Plan to Manage Consistency Between the
22 Comprehensive Plan and the Farmland Preservation Plan

23 BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that this ordinance shall be in full force and effect in Outagamie
24 County upon approval by the Outagamie County Board of Supervisors, publication per State Statute 59.14
25 and 66.0103, and

26 BE IT FINALLY ORDAINED, that the Outagamie County Clerk be directed to forward a copy of
27 this Ordinance to the Outagamie County Department of Development and Land Services Director.

28 Dated this ____ day of October 2023.

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Respectfully Submitted,

AGRICULTURE, EXTENSION
EDUCATION, ZONING & LAND
CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Debra Vander Heiden

Daniel Rettler

Dustin Koury

Sarah Weinberg

Rick Lautenschlager

Duly and officially adopted by the County Board on: _____

Signed: _____
Board Chairperson

County Clerk

Approved: _____

Vetoed: _____

Signed: _____
County Executive

ZONING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION NO.: PL202300376

**RECOMMENDING AN AMENDMENT TO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR
OUTAGAMIE COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

WHEREAS, pursuant to 59.69(3) of the Wisconsin Statutes, Outagamie County is authorized to prepare and adopt a comprehensive plan as defined in Section 66.1001(1)(a) and 66.1001(2) of the Wisconsin Statutes, and

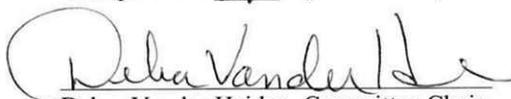
WHEREAS, Outagamie County has developed a process to allow for amendments to the Comprehensive Plan, and

WHEREAS, the State Comprehensive Planning Law requires that the County follow the same administrative procedures for adoption defined under Wisconsin Statutes, Section 66.1001(4), to amend the Comprehensive Plan, and

WHEREAS, Outagamie County has held at least one public hearing on this amendment, in compliance with requirements of Section 66.1001(4)(d) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Outagamie County Zoning Committee hereby recommends to the County Board that the attached Comprehensive Plan Amendment be adopted pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes Section 66.1001(4).

Adopted this 19 day of October, 2023


Debra Vander Heiden, Committee Chair


Daniel Rettler, Committee Secretary

Adopted: 5 - 0

ZONING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION NO.: PL202300376

**RECOMMENDING AN AMENDMENT TO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR
OUTAGAMIE COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

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WHEREAS, the State Comprehensive Planning Law requires that the County follow the same administrative procedures for adoption defined under Wisconsin Statutes, Section 66.1001(4), to amend the Comprehensive Plan, and

WHEREAS, Outagamie County has held at least one public hearing on this amendment, in compliance with requirements of Section 66.1001(4)(d) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Outagamie County Zoning Committee hereby recommends to the County Board that the attached Comprehensive Plan Amendment be adopted pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes Section 66.1001(4).

Adopted this ____ day of October, 2023

Debra Vander Heiden, Committee Chair

Daniel Rettler, Committee Secretary

Adopted: _____ - _____



Department of Development and Land Services
Planning & Zoning | GIS & Land Information
320 S. Walnut St. | Appleton, WI 54911
Outagamie County Government Center, 3rd Floor
Phone: (920) 832-5255 Fax: (920) 832-4770
www.outagamie.org

MEMORANDUM

TO: Zoning Committee
FROM: Sadie DiNatale Burda, Principal Planner
DATE: August 22, 2023
RE: PL202300376: Proposed Outagamie County Comprehensive Plan Amendment related to Farmland Preservation

BACKGROUND

The *Outagamie County Comprehensive Plan 2040: A Shared Path Forward* (hereinafter the Comprehensive Plan) was adopted in 2020. Occasionally, amendments to the Comprehensive Plan are needed to ensure the document remains up-to-date, relevant, and statutorily compliant. This memorandum discusses three proposed changes to the Comprehensive Plan.

Proposed Change 1:

Repeal and Replace Addendum 2: Farmland Preservation Plan

Repeal Addendum 2: Farmland Preservation Plan, originally adopted in 2011, and replace it with Addendum 2: *Preserving our Roots, Securing our Future*, Outagamie County's Farmland Preservation Plan for the 2023–2023 Planning Horizon.

Wisconsin's Farmland Preservation Program began in 1977. To participate in the state's program, Outagamie County has maintained a farmland preservation plan since 1982. The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) requires Counties to update and recertify their farmland preservation plans every 10 years. *Preserving our Roots, Securing our Future* serves as the County's next plan update. The plan update is required to be recertified by the end of this 2023 to maintain compliance with Wisconsin's Farmland Preservation Program.

Development of the Plan update allowed the County to take stock of existing agricultural resources, and relevant changes that have occurred over the past decade. It has allowed the County to improve and reshape our policies and maps to ensure we continue to support farmers, preserve farmland for future generations, and mitigate environmental and/or land use conflicts that have arisen or may arise in the future.

The County's existing Farmland Preservation Plan is posted on the County's Farmland Preservation Plan [website](#). The **proposed** Farmland Preservation Plan including Appendix A is attached as Exhibit 1. For reference, a summary of outreach and engagement activities that informed the plan update is attached as Exhibit 2.

Per DATCP’s application for farmland preservation plan certification, DATCP reminds applicants that “if the County has a Comprehensive Plan, the County must include the Farmland Preservation Plan in its Comprehensive Plan under s. 91.10(2), Wis. Stats.” Outagamie County does have a Comprehensive Plan, and our Farmland Preservation Plan is included in the Comprehensive Plan as Addendum 2.

Proposed Change 2:

Remove the Town of Greenville Future Land Use Map (Map 35, Page Vol. II – 37) and Update Map Exhibit Reference Numbers for Map 36 through Map 39

The County’s Comprehensive Plan (Volume 2) still contains a Town of Greenville Future Land Use (FLU) map from before the jurisdiction became a Village (see Exhibit 3). County planning staff recommends removing this outdated map. The map would not be replaced as the County’s Comprehensive Plan does not contain FLU maps for incorporated communities. For organizational purposes, County planning staff then recommends updating the map exhibit reference numbers throughout the remainder of the Comprehensive Plan.

This proposed change is relevant from a farmland preservation perspective, because the Village of Greenville does participate in state farmland preservation programs (e.g., farmland preservation zoning and agricultural enterprise areas). Because the Village participates in these programs, they are required to be included in our Farmland Preservation Plan. Removing Greenville’s outdated FLU map from our Comprehensive Plan helps to mitigate inconsistencies between both planning documents as instructed in Wis. Stats. 91.10(2)... “ensure that the farmland preservation plan is consistent with the [County] comprehensive plan.”

Proposed Change 3:

Add Language to Volume II of the Comprehensive Plan to Manage Consistency Between the Comprehensive Plan and the Farmland Preservation Plan

The County’s Comprehensive Plan and the County’s Farmland Preservation Plan are required to be consistent. In DATCP’s application for farmland preservation plan certification, DATCP specifically states:

“If there are inconsistencies [between the County’s Comprehensive Plan and Farmland Preservation Plan], the County may clarify that the Farmland Preservation Plan supersedes the Comprehensive Plan and any and all inconsistencies between the two shall be resolved in favor of the Farmland Preservation Plan. The County must include a statement in both the Comprehensive Plan and the Farmland Preservation Plan declaring that the Farmland Preservation Plan supersedes the Comprehensive Plan so that a person referring to either plan will be aware of each plan’s relationship to the other.”

Accordingly, the following language is proposed to be added to Page Vol. II – 2 of the Comprehensive Plan as a new sub-section labeled “Consistency with the County Farmland Preservation Plan” within the existing “Planning Context” section:

“If there are inconsistencies between the County Comprehensive Plan and the County’s Farmland Preservation Plan, the Farmland Preservation Plan supersedes the Comprehensive Plan and any and all inconsistencies between the two shall be resolved in favor of the Farmland Preservation Plan for matters related to agricultural planning and development.

Concluding Summary

It is County planning staff's opinion that the proposed amendments are consistent with the Comprehensive Plan. In particular, the amendments are consistent with the Comprehensive Plan's future land use maps as well as its goals and recommendations:

- Goal 3: Cooperative, intergovernmental land-use decisions.
 - Recommendation 3.1 Create a routine community-based process to evaluate key land use issues and how best to address through regulatory instruments or other means.
- Goal 6: Wise land development and conservation practices.
 - Recommendation 6.3 Encourage more intense development patterns to occur on public sewer, within the limitations of the RF-121 Sewer Serve Area Plans where applicable, and water systems, whenever possible.
 - Recommendation 6.4 Continue to maintain the Farmland Preservation Program. Consider adding a "food systems" element to the next Farmland Preservation Plan Update. Explore creating additional Agriculture Enterprise Areas (AEAs) when desired by local communities, and when county resources are available.
- Goal 8: Proactively anticipating the future becomes standard practice for Outagamie County.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Planning staff recommends adoption of the proposed County Comprehensive Plan amendments, as discussed above. To do this, the following action is required pursuant to Wis. Stats. 66.1001:

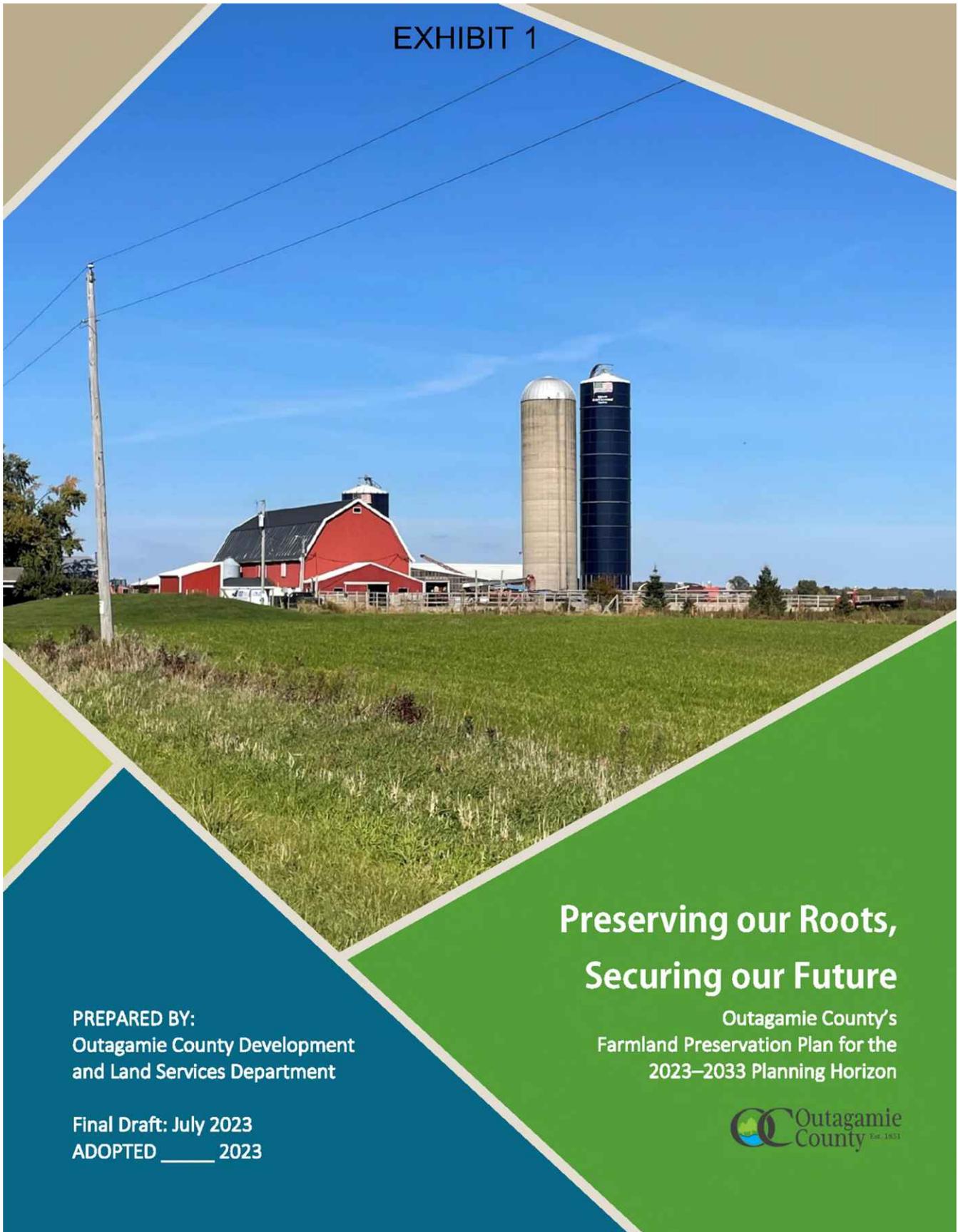
- Zoning Committee adopts a Resolution authorizing the amendments and advancing them to the County Board (Wis. Stats. 66.1001(4)(b)).
- County Board approves an Ordinance adopting the amendments (Wis. Stats. 66.1001(4)(c)).

**** LOCK IN REQUEST ** Due to a pending Town Rezoning related to this proposal, County staff requests that the Board's decision for this Comprehensive Plan Amendment be locked-in at the first County Board meeting where this proposal is considered.**

EXHIBITS:

- Exhibit 1: *Preserving our Roots, Securing our Future*, Outagamie County's Farmland Preservation Plan for the 2023–2023 Planning Horizon, to include Appendix A
- Exhibit 2: Farmland Preservation Plan Update: Summary of Outreach and Engagement Activities
- Exhibit 3: Town of Greenville Future Land Use Map (Map 35)

EXHIBIT 1



**Preserving our Roots,
Securing our Future**

Outagamie County's
Farmland Preservation Plan for the
2023–2033 Planning Horizon

PREPARED BY:
Outagamie County Development
and Land Services Department

Final Draft: July 2023
ADOPTED _____ 2023



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HOW TO USE THIS PLAN:		
PART I DECISION-MAKING GUIDANCE	PART 2 CONDITIONS and CONSIDERATIONS	PART 3 FARMLAND PRESERVATION MAPS
Part 1 explains the purpose of this plan and it presents the County’s farmland preservation goals and policies. This section also presents a series of recommendations (strategies and actions) to implement this plan’s goals and policies.	Part 2 summarizes existing agricultural conditions and trends in Outagamie County, and in Wisconsin to offer additional context. This section also documents issues that Outagamie County should plan for over the next 10 years.	Part 3 delineates the County’s farmland preservation areas. A farmland preservation map is included for every Town in Outagamie County as well as the Village of Greenville.

PART 1



INTRODUCTION

Wisconsin’s farmland preservation program began in 1977. To participate in the state’s program, Outagamie County has maintained a farmland preservation plan since 1982. This document, *Preserving Our Roots, Securing Our Future*, updates the County’s farmland preservation plan which was last certified by the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection in 2012.

Purpose of the Plan

The purpose of this plan is to protect agricultural land uses within Outagamie County. It is also to help the County plan for the future agricultural needs of the county and state.

Development of this plan allowed the County to take stock of existing agricultural resources, and relevant changes that have occurred over the past decade. It has allowed the County to improve and reshape our policies to ensure we continue to support farmers, preserve farmland for future generations, and mitigate any environmental and land use conflicts that have arisen or may arise in the future.

This plan addresses Wisconsin’s farmland preservation planning requirements, which are documented in Wis. Stats. 91.10. At a high-level, and among other required content, this plan includes:

- The county’s goals and policies related to farmland preservation and the development of enterprises related to agriculture.
- Information documenting the county’s agricultural trends and resources.
- Information about development trends, plans, or needs that may affect farmland preservation and agricultural development in the county.
- Strategies to preserve farmland and promote agriculture development.
- Maps delineating agricultural preservation areas countywide.

This plan ensures that Outagamie County and its Towns remain eligible to participate in other farmland preservation programs such as [Agricultural Enterprise Areas](#) and [Farmland Preservation Zoning](#). It also ensures that eligible farmers have a pathway to collect [Farmland Preservation Tax Credits](#). As of 2023, the Village of Greenville and seven of Outagamie County’s Towns participated in the farmland preservation zoning program (Black Creek, Cicero, Deer Creek, Hortonia, Kaukauna, Maple Creek, and Seymour). As of 2023, the County contained three Agricultural Enterprise Areas (Cicero Blackmour AEA, Greenville Greenbelt AEA, and Three Rivers AEA).

THE WORKING LANDS INITIATIVE:

The passage of the “Working Lands Initiative” in 2009 revamped Wisconsin’s Farmland Preservation Program of 1977.

The existing program is administered by the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP).

DATCP allows counties to participate in its Farmland Preservation Program by developing farmland preservation plans. Plans must be updated and recertified every 10 years.

Consistency with the County Comprehensive Plan

Outagamie County's Farmland Preservation Plan serves as Addendum 2 of the County's Comprehensive Plan. At the time of this plan's adoption in 2023, the mapped farmland preservation areas, documented in Part 3 of this plan, were consistent with the future land use maps documented in the County's Comprehensive Plan. Changes to the farmland preservation plan, including mapped farmland preservation areas, may occur via an amendment to the County's Comprehensive Plan.

If there are inconsistencies between the County Comprehensive Plan and the County's Farmland Preservation Plan, the Farmland Preservation Plan supersedes the Comprehensive Plan and any and all inconsistencies between the two shall be resolved in favor of the Farmland Preservation Plan for matters related to agricultural planning and development.

The Planning Process

To summarize the development of this plan, Outagamie County's Development and Land Services Department carried out four major tasks:

- **Data Analysis and Examination of Trends.** County staff analyzed data and reviewed relevant reports to document and better understand agricultural and development trends affecting the county. County staff also assessed specific trends impacting Wisconsin overall as a point of comparison. Some of the primary data sources used included the U.S. Census of Agriculture, USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, and the U.S. Decennial Census. This research helped to inform what changes to anticipate in the nature, scope, location, and focus of agricultural production, processing, supply, and distribution needs in the county.
- **Public and Stakeholder Engagement.** County staff provided opportunities for the public and stakeholders to offer input. Key opportunities included two online surveys, updates at Outagamie County Town's Association meetings, and ongoing correspondence with Towns to review draft work at key stages of the planning process. Findings from these outreach efforts allowed County staff to evaluate what was uncovered through technical analysis against the perspectives held by members of our community.

For more information about the public and stakeholder engagement activities conducted as part of this planning process, please see the *Farmland Preservation Plan, Record of Outreach and Engagement*. This record includes all the responses to the two online surveys.

- **Spatial Analysis.** County staff established a framework using objective criteria and modeled spatial and land use data to inform the development of its farmland preservation area maps. The County relied on feedback from municipality representatives and DATCP to refine and streamline the mapping framework.
- **Best Practice Research.** County staff reviewed literature, publications/reports, and other Wisconsin County's farmland preservation plans to understand how best to preserve farmland and support farmers. This research helped to inform the development of this plan's goals, policies, and strategies.

GOALS

This plan highlights four farmland preservation planning goals. These goals represent general statements of the future conditions considered desirable for the Outagamie County community.

Goal 1	Goals 2	Goal 3	Goal 4
			
Agricultural, forest, and open lands are abundant.	Agricultural enterprises are successful.	New occurrences of incompatible land uses are rare.	Locating urban development near public facilities is standard practice.

Source: image: www.flaticon.com.

In addition to these goals, this plan upholds the four planning themes / guiding principles of the County's Comprehensive Plan.

- Advancing Health, Safety, and Opportunity
- Good Governance, Collaboration, and Creativity
- Sustainability, Resilience, and Resource Stewardship
- Equitable, Interconnected, and Community Sensitive

POLICIES

This plan highlights eight policies to guide decision-making through 2033. These policies are intended to provide guidance, consistency, accountability, efficiency, and clarity for County government when making decisions associated with farmland preservation matters.

- Policy 1** Outagamie County will continue to participate in farmland preservation planning and related activities, consistent with recommendations in the County’s Comprehensive Plan.

- Policy 2** Development of non-farm uses which are incompatible with farm uses should be discouraged in farmland preservation areas.

- Policy 3** When the conversion of a certified farm parcel to a non-certified farm parcel (or portion thereof) is warranted or requested, the size of the conversion should preserve the maximum amount of remaining farmland of the parent farm parcel; the location and configuration of the conversion should not substantially impair or limit current or future agricultural use of surrounding parcels of land. In addition, the location and configuration of the conversion should minimize the impairment to future agricultural use of surrounding parcels of land. See recommendation 2.3 for further guidance.

- Policy 4** Development of community, regional, national, and international markets for agricultural products should be encouraged to promote the county’s agricultural industry.

- Policy 5** The creation of conventional, organic, and regenerative agricultural practices and enterprises in Outagamie County should be supported.

- Policy 6** Participation in Certified Farmland Preservation Zoning and the Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA) Program shall be encouraged and supported.

- Policy 7** Urban development, including residential subdivisions, should be encouraged to locate in incorporated communities of the county or in identified growth areas that are consistent with the County’s Comprehensive Plan.

- Policy 8** The County should continue to manage consistency between the future land use maps within the County’s Comprehensive Plan, the farmland preservation maps within the County’s Farmland Preservation Plan, and town and county zoning district maps.

FARMLAND PRESERVATION STRATEGY

This section presents recommended strategies and actions and programs to implement the goals and policies of this plan. A schedule is offered to estimate when specific tasks should be completed during the planning period. Unless otherwise noted, the implementation “lead” for many of these actions will be Outagamie County’s Development and Land Services (DLS) Department.

Recommended Action		Lead	Schedule
Strategy 1: Maintain compliance with the State’s Farmland Preservation Program and maintain the use value of Outagamie County’s Farmland Preservation Plan.			
1.1	Review this plan annually.	DLS, Zoning Committee	Annually
1.2	Submit annual rezone reports for farmland preservation zoning districts to DATCP.	DLS, Appl. Towns	Annually
1.3	Work with DATCP to recertify the County’s and Towns’ farmland preservation zoning ordinances.	DLS, Appl. Towns	2024
1.4	When 2022 and 2027 USDA Agricultural Census data is released (estimated: February 2024 and 2029), conduct and publish a brief analysis to assess changes to the agricultural landscape in Outagamie County.	DLS	2024 & 2029
1.5	Update this plan in its entirety, and adopt the revised plan, before December 31, 2033.	DLS	2032 – 2033
Strategy 2: Actively and intentionally manage the preservation of farmland.			
2.1	Engage Towns and landowners to promote Farmland Preservation Zoning and Agricultural Enterprise Areas Programs.	DLS	Periodically
2.2	Evaluate the standards set forth in the County’s certified farmland preservation zoning ordinance to ensure the County’s Exclusive Agriculture District continues to be effective in meeting the purpose of the district. If issues are identified, work with towns under County Zoning Authority to evaluate potential amendments.	DLS, Appl. Towns	Near-term
2.3	Consistently apply decision-making guidance (documented in Exhibit 1) when the conversion of a certified farm parcel to a non-certified farm parcel (or portion thereof) is warranted or requested.	DLS	As needed

Recommended Action		Lead	Schedule
2.4	Collaborate and partner with municipalities and groups to support and encourage farmland preservation programs, practices/concepts, and initiatives.	DLS	As needed
Strategy 3: Proactively mitigate conflict between agricultural and non-agricultural uses.			
3.1	Evaluate changes to the County’s Zoning Ordinance to better manage growth and development. In particular, evaluate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zoning efficiency measures that can be implemented in residential zoning districts, for the purpose of increasing housing densities in areas designated for growth. • Appropriateness of the permitted uses and special exception uses in the General Agriculture District. If issues or opportunities are identified, work with towns under County Zoning Authority to evaluate potential amendments.	DLS, Appl. Towns, Zoning Committee	2023, and As needed
3.2	Assist in the development of cooperative boundary agreements and extraterritorial zoning.	DLS, Village/City, Appl. Towns	As needed
Strategy 4: Support existing and new agricultural producers, and expanding and new agricultural businesses or enterprises.			
4.1	Promote programs that make local farming operations more sustainable and economically viable.	DLS, LCD	Ongoing
4.2	Promote agritourism by identifying opportunities to amend the County’s Zoning Ordinance to allow agritourism uses outright or as a special exception in the General Agricultural District.	DLS	Near-term
4.3	Identify ways to encourage farm succession planning.	DLS	Mid-term
4.4	Identify ways to help promote the 4-H program.	DLS	Mid-term
4.5	Develop marketing strategies to inform the general public of the importance of agriculture and of supporting existing, local agricultural businesses/enterprises.	DLS	Mid-term
Strategy 5: Continue to explore evolving topics, issues, and programs that are related to the agricultural industry and farmland preservation.			

Recommended Action		Lead	Schedule
5.1	Monitor the impact of solar and wind facility installation on agricultural lands in the County and across the state.	DLS	Ongoing
5.2	Identify preferred locations for solar and wind facility installations that minimize impacts to county agricultural lands.	DLS	Near-term
5.3	Explore water management opportunities to mitigate drainage issues and address water quality issues.	DLS, LCD	Ongoing
5.4	Explore provisions, efforts, or programs related to voluntary climate-smart agricultural and forestry practices and renewable energy opportunities for agricultural producers.	DLS	Long-term
5.5	Continue to explore food system research opportunities, possibly through partnerships with adjacent counties.	DLS	Long-term
5.6	Explore agricultural resource protection tools and programs such as conservation subdivisions, conservation easements, purchase of and transfer of development rights programs, and right to farm deed restrictions.	DLS, Appl. Towns	Ongoing

Decision-Making Guidance for Certified Farm Parcels

Per Policy 3 and Recommendation 2.3, consistently apply the following decision-making guidance when the conversion of a certified farm parcel to a non-certified farm parcel (or portion thereof) is warranted or requested.

Exhibit 1. Decision-Making Guidance for Rezoning Certified Farm Parcels

Recommended Criteria to Consider for Required Findings ¹		YES	NO
Finding 1: The rezoned land is better suited for a use not allowed in the AED exclusive agricultural district.			
1a.	The rezoned land is not prime farmland.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1b.	The rezoned land is directly adjacent to land that is not zoned AED.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1c.	The rezoned land is within 3-miles of a first-, second-, or third-class city or is within 1.5-miles of a fourth-class city or village.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Finding 2: The rezoning is consistent with any applicable comprehensive plan.			
2a.	The rezoning is consistent with the Future Land Use Map of the applicable comprehensive plan.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2b.	The rezoning is consistent with goals of the comprehensive plan.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Finding 3: The rezoning is substantially consistent with the county farmland preservation plan, which is in effect at the time of the rezoning.			
3a.	On a per Town-basis, the lands within a certified farmland preservation zoning district are at least 80% consistent with the lands planned for farmland preservation in the County’s Farmland Preservation Plan.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Finding 4: The rezoning will not substantially impair or limit current or future agricultural use of other protected farmland.			
4a.	The rezoned land is two or fewer acres.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4b.	The rezoned land is located adjacent to road frontage and adjacent to a corner of the parent parcel.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4c.	If the rezoned land cannot be located within the corner of the parent parcel, the distance between the rezoned land and the parent parcel’s lot lines are sufficiently spaced to maintain the future use value of the parent parcel.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4d.	The rezoned land is square or rectangular in shape, not overtly elongated, and compact, unless certain topographical or environmental circumstances prevent it.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4e.	The rezoned land does not isolate farmland parcels that would further fragment areas of agricultural lands.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

¹ Findings derive from Wis Stat 91.48 and Sec. 54-105 of Outagamie County’s Zoning Ordinance.

PART 2



RESOURCES SUPPORTING AGRICULTURE

This section considers land, soil, and water resources which are each necessary building blocks to support the County’s agricultural industry. This section also considers the human-made resources supporting agriculture in this county (e.g., key infrastructure and enterprises).

Available Land

While Outagamie County contains much of the Fox Cities (a cluster of urban and urbanizing cities, towns, and villages along the Fox River), it maintains strong roots in agriculture. This is primarily due to the fact that most of the county – in terms of geographic area – remains rural in nature and comprises extensive and contiguous agricultural acreage.

According to the U.S. Census of Agriculture, the county had 236,963 acres of farmland as of 2017 – accounting for roughly 57 percent of the county’s total land area. Due to development pressure over the years, the county has experienced a loss of its agricultural land supply. For example, Exhibit 2 shows that the county lost over 13,000 farm acres between 2012 and 2017. Looking over a longer time period, the county lost over 26,000 farm acres between 2002 and 2017.

Exhibit 2. Change in Total Farmland Acreage in Outagamie County - 2002, 2007, 2012, and 2017

Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture, 2002, 2007, 2012, and 2017 (Table 8).

Total Farmland Acres				Change in Total Farmland Acres			
2002	2007	2012	2017	2002 to 2017		2012 to 2017	
				#	%	#	%
263,485	247,482	250,748	236,963	-26,522	-10%	-13,785	-5%

Exhibit 3 depicts land use distribution trends in Outagamie County, to further assess the county’s agricultural land base. The exhibit uses GIS data from the County and land use data from the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.

It shows that, between 2003 and 2015, the county’s share of land classified as “Agricultural & Vacant” decreased by three percentage points. This has occurred as the share of developed lands (e.g., residential, commercial/institutional, and industrial) increased.

Exhibit 3. Land Use Distribution in Outagamie County - 2003 and 2015

Source: Outagamie County Comprehensive Plan (Summary of Table 24).

Category	2003	2015
Agricultural & Vacant	61%	58%
Woodland	21%	22%
Residential	7%	8%
Commercial / Institutional	2%	3%
Industrial	1%	2%
Other	7%	7%
Total	100%	100%

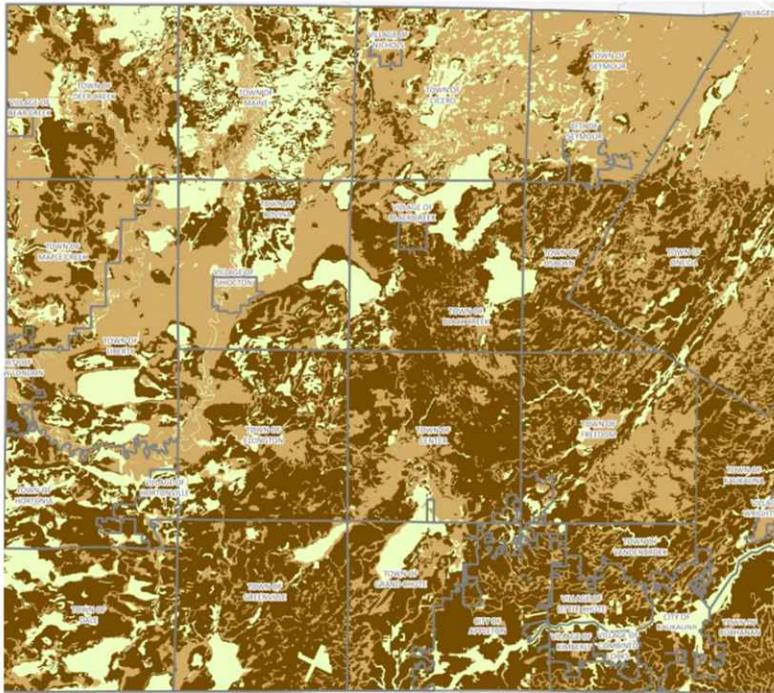
Soil Resources

Prime farmland, as defined by the USDA, is land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops and is available for these uses. Because of these characteristics, prime farmlands are important to preserve for agricultural purposes.

Exhibit 4 shows the location of prime farmland in Outagamie County. Of the county's total land area, roughly 47% is classified as prime farmland, 36% as prime farmland (if drained/protected), and 17% as not prime farmland. See Exhibit 5 to review soil quality data at a more granular level (by municipality).

Exhibit 4. Prime Farmland in Outagamie County

Source: Outagamie County, using data from NRCS Soil Survey.



Prime Farmland Classification

- Prime Farmland
- Prime Farmland (If Drained, If Protected)
- Not Prime Farmland

Exhibit 5. Prime Farmland Characteristics in Outagamie County (by Municipality)

Source: Outagamie County, using data from NRCS Soil Survey.

Municipality	Prime Farmland		Prime Farmland (If Drained / Protected)		Not Prime Farmland	
	Acres	Share	Acres	Share	Acres	Share
Unincorporated Communities						
Black Creek	12,794	57%	4,695	21%	4,965	22%
Bovina	7,369	34%	9,066	42%	5,205	24%
Buchanan	6,912	71%	1,917	20%	877	9%
Center	14,625	65%	6,851	31%	879	4%
Cicero	3,414	15%	13,665	60%	5,601	25%
Dale	11,040	57%	2,862	15%	5,536	28%
Deer Creek	7,509	33%	10,494	46%	4,666	21%
Ellington	13,153	59%	6,140	27%	3,118	14%
Freedom	11,423	52%	9,115	42%	1,400	6%
Grand Chute	8,794	61%	3,251	23%	2,320	16%
Hortonia	6,160	51%	2,382	20%	3,442	29%
Kaukauna	7,192	68%	2,493	24%	829	8%
Liberty	5,249	27%	9,602	49%	4,868	25%
Maine	6,929	29%	5,908	25%	11,188	47%
Maple Creek	4,361	31%	8,073	58%	1,412	10%
Oneida	15,594	40%	20,485	53%	2,801	7%
Osborn	6,864	63%	3,455	32%	499	5%
Seymour	1,441	7%	16,380	84%	1,588	8%
Vandenbroek	3,515	72%	1,202	24%	196	4%
Incorporated Communities						
C. Appleton	10,478	74%	1,675	12%	2,005	14%
C. Kaukauna	3,034	56%	1,089	20%	1,279	24%
C. New London	901	57%	542	34%	142	9%
C. Seymour	420	24%	1,171	66%	193	11%
V. Bear Creek	88	15%	174	56%	591	29%

Municipality	Prime Farmland		Prime Farmland (If Drained / Protected)		Not Prime Farmland	
	Acres	Share	Acres	Share	Acres	Share
V. Black Creek	423	66%	23	31%	642	4%
V. Combined L.	640	52%	559	2%	1,220	46%
V. Greenville	15,989	70%	2,962	17%	22,892	13%
V. Hortonville	1,344	61%	611	12%	2,214	28%
V. Kimberly	1,157	75%	256	9%	1,545	17%
V. Little Chute	2,849	66%	557	21%	4,334	13%
V. Nichols	85	15%	45	77%	565	8%
V. Shiocton	27	3%	99	88%	1,068	9%
V. Wrightstown	144	20%	29	76%	711	4%
Total	191,930	47%	70,322	36%	412,490	17%

Water Resources

According to the United Nations, agriculture is the largest consumer of the world’s freshwater resources, and – demand for water is rising due to population growth, urbanization, and a significant dietary trend from a starch-based diet toward a more water-intensive meat- and dairy-based diet.²

Given the county’s location within the Great Lakes region, water scarcity tends not to be a major concern, relative to other regions of the United States. In fact, too much water (and lack of proper drainage, due to our flat terrain) is often where the County sees community consternation. For example, upon examining survey comments received as part of this project, **agricultural producers and county residents have both cited drainage issues as a growing problem in the county.**

The blame for drainage issues is wide ranging from too much government interference to not enough government regulations and enforcement, from agricultural practices to new development, and from weather pattern changes to improper treatment of the environment. To better understand root causes, the county may need to further explore drainage issues over this plan’s planning horizon.

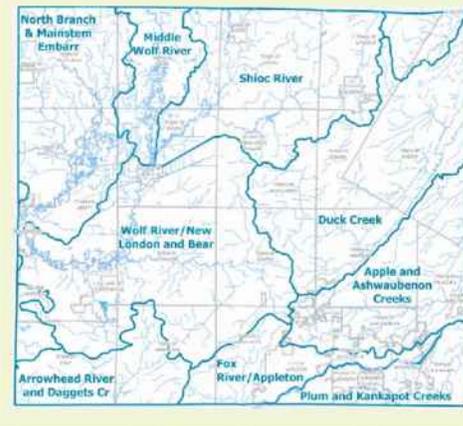
Equally as important as drainage is managing the quality of our water resources. Water quality shares a nexus with public and environmental health and is a worthwhile topic to explore in relation to agriculture, as agricultural runoff and some farming practices contribute to water pollution. Too much manure, fertilizers, and/or sediment as well as the improper use or disposal of pesticides, herbicides, and/or livestock medicines can pollute our surface water and groundwater.³ The excess nutrients from manure and other agricultural runoff can raise the amount of nitrogen and phosphorus in the water which can create algae bloom, reduce oxygen levels in the water (impacting aquatic species), and increase plant growth at unsustainable rates. The County should continue to encourage sustainable agriculture practices to reduce the runoff of sediment, nutrients, bacteria, pesticides, and other pollutants.

WATER RESOURCES IN THE COUNTY:

Outagamie County’s Land and Water Resources Management Plan (2018) indicates that the county contains nine watersheds, about 1,250 miles of streams and river, and 237 acres of lakes and impoundments.

The western half of Outagamie County is in the southeastern section of the Wolf River Basin (see Exhibit 5). In this basin alone, there are 33 county lakes. Most of these are unnamed and small; however, Black Otter Lake and one unnamed lake are larger than 25 acres.

Exhibit 6. Watersheds in Outagamie County
Source: Outagamie County Comprehensive Plan (Map 6).



² United Nations. [Water, Food and Energy](#).

³ Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. [Environmental Impacts of Agricultural Runoff](#).

Infrastructure and Enterprises

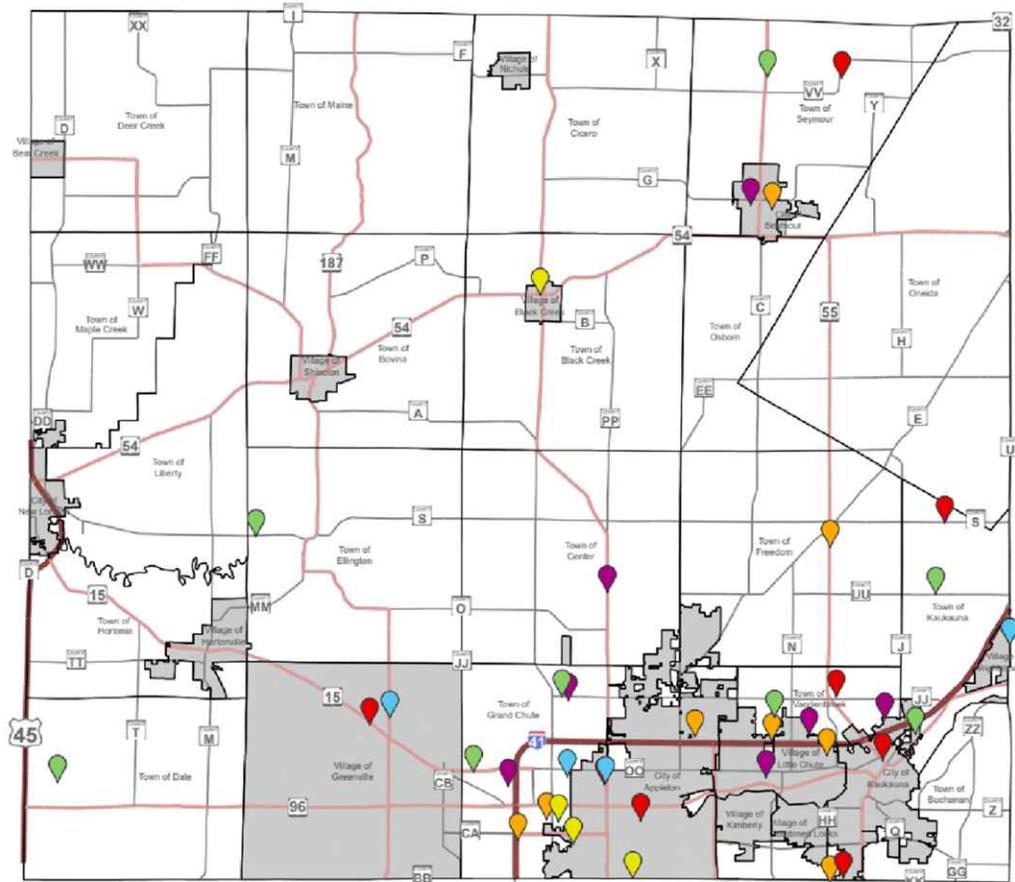
Outagamie County and the surrounding area contains the necessary balance of services and suppliers for the agriculture industry to remain competitive. Key agricultural infrastructure and enterprises that support the industry in the county include:

- **A robust transportation network** that enables the efficient movement of agricultural products, farm labor, and goods/services required to support farm operations. The County contains the I-41 interstate, several US highways, and many county trunk highways that traverse throughout the County and link to local road networks. The County is also served by freight rail.
- **Ample processing, storage, and supply facilities**, as documented in Exhibit 7 and Exhibit 8. The county contains dealers and suppliers of equipment, parts, and repair service; feed and fertilizers; fuel; and livestock. The county also contains an ample supply of storage facilities and manufacturing/processing plants for meat, dairy, animal byproduct, and other agricultural products.

According to the data displayed in Exhibit 7, most of the county's key processing, storage, and supply facilities are located in the county's incorporated communities to access the region's employment base. They are also in close proximity to I-41 to ensure efficient access to the region's primary transportation outlets. Following an analysis of the data presented in Exhibit 7 and Exhibit 8, as well as findings from a survey of the county's agricultural producers, the county's existing processing, storage, and supply facilities are adequately available.

- **Agricultural cooperatives (co-ops)**, of which Outagamie County contains several. According to the UW Center for Cooperatives (as of Summer 2021), Outagamie County has 13 co-ops. Three co-ops are agriculture cooperatives (located in Appleton, Black Creek, and Seymour) and one co-op is a grocery cooperative (located in Kimberly).
- **Concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs)**, of which Outagamie County contains 10 CAFO permittees. According to WDNR (as of May 2022), nine of the permits are held for dairy operations and one permit is held for a beef operation.
- **Other agriculture-related enterprises** including grocery stores and farmers markets as well as consulting, veterinary, delivery/hauling, and soil testing services. According to the Wisconsin Farmers Market Association, Outagamie County has six farmer's markets. They are located in Appleton, Kaukauna (city), Seymour (city), Greenville, Buchanan (Darboy), and Oneida.

Exhibit 7. Location of Key Processing, Storage, and Supply Facilities in Outagamie County - 2023
 Source: Yellow Pages and internet research.



Legend

- City/Village Boundary
- Processing, Storage & Supply Facilities
 - Processing - Dairy & Cheese
 - Processing - Meat
 - Processing - Other
 - Storage
 - Supply - Farm Equipment
 - Supply - Other

Exhibit 8. Details of Key Processing, Storage, and Supply Facilities in Outagamie County - 2023

Source: Yellow Pages and internet research.

Facility	Location	Type (Mapped)	Type - Detail
McCain Foods	555 N Hickory Farm Ln	Processing - Other	Processing - Potatoes & Snack Foods
GLK Foods, LLC	3912 N Lightning Dr	Processing - Other	Processing - Sauerkraut (Cabbage)
Produce With Purpose Marketplace	W5072 Amy Ave Unit 6 (Just outside county border in Calumet Co.)	Processing - Other	Processing - Fruits & Vegetables
Freedom Feed Mill Warehouse	W2093 Industrial Dr	Processing - Other	Processing - Animal Feed
Cargill Inc	1800 E Elm Dr	Processing - Other	Processing/Supply - Grains and Oilseeds
CP Feeds	361 County Road U	Processing - Other	Processing - Animal Feed
Trust Local Foods	3000 Apostolic St	Processing - Other	Processing - Locally Produced Beverages, Dairy, Meat, Ready Made & Shelf Stable Products (Chips & Canned Produce)
Product Handling Concepts	4010 W Spencer St	Processing - Other	Processing - Other Food
Lakeside Foods Inc	530 E Wisconsin St	Processing - Other	Processing/Supply - Canned & Frozen Veggies, Frozen Appetizers & Seafood, Canned Meats, Canned Beans, Whipped Toppings & Sauces
Jacobs Market	544 N Lawe St	Processing - Meat	Processing - Meat
Geckosus Inc	730 W Frances St	Processing - Meat	Processing - Sausage
The Meat Block LLC	N1739 Lily of the Valley Dr	Processing - Meat	Processing/Supply - Meat
Haen Meat Packing, Inc.	600 W County Road KK	Processing - Meat	Processing/Supply - Meat
Roskom Meats	W803 County Road S	Processing - Meat	Processing/Supply - Meat
Beck's Meat Inc	W2012 County Road JJ	Processing - Meat	Processing - Meat

Facility	Location	Type (Mapped)	Type - Detail
Kaukauna Meats Inc	310 Delanglade St	Processing - Meat	Processing - Meat
Provimi Veal Corporation	W2103 County Rd	Processing - Meat	Processing/Supply - Meat
MCT Dairies, Inc.	2358 W Packard St	Processing - Dairy & Cheese	Processing - Dairy
Foremost Farms USA	1815 W Spencer St	Processing - Dairy & Cheese	Processing - Cheese
Saputo Cheese USA Inc.	307 N Clark St	Processing - Dairy & Cheese	Processing - Cheese
Malcore Foods Inc.	237 E Calumet St	Processing - Dairy & Cheese	Processing - Cheese
Nestle USA Inc	1022 Washington St	Supply - Other	Supply - Wide variety of Food and Beverage Products
Infinity Feeds	440 Morrow St	Supply - Other	Processing/Supply - Animal Feed
Hubbard Feeds	1915 W Edgewood Dr	Supply - Other	Supply - Animal Feed
Midwest Perlite Inc	4280 W Parkway Blvd	Supply - Other	Supply - Fertilizer
Oh Snap! Pickling Company	1725 E Evergreen Dr	Supply - Other	Processing/Supply - Pickled Goods
Frito - Lay	2350 Northridge Dr	Supply - Other	Supply - Snack products
Van De Loo Feed & Grain	W24244 Wege Rd	Supply - Other	Supply - Grain Elevator
Tesch Brothers Implement Inc	N9060 WI-55	Supply - Farm Equipment	Supply - Farm Equipment
Kozlovsky Dairy Equipment Inc	712 County Road UU	Supply - Farm Equipment	Supply - Farm Equipment
DeLaval Dairy Service NE WI - Kaukauna	360 E Farmland Dr	Supply - Farm Equipment	Supply - Dairy Farm Equipment
Swiderski Power Inc.	5500 Clairemont Dr	Supply - Farm Equipment	Supply - Farm Equipment
Dale Hay Farm & Imp	N1177 Shakey Lake Rd	Supply - Farm Equipment	Supply - Farm Equipment
Knuth Farm Equipment	W8315 County Road S	Supply - Farm Equipment	Supply - Farm Equipment
Krone Wisconsin	5085 N Wren Dr	Supply - Farm Equipment	Supply - Farm Equipment

Facility	Location	Type (Mapped)	Type - Detail
R & M Farm and Lawn	N1894 Vandenbroek Rd	Supply - Farm Equipment	Supply - Farm Equipment
Country Visions Cooperative	359 County Road U	Storage - Other	Supply/Storage - Variety of Services
Americold Logistics Appleton	2000 W Pershing St	Storage - Other	Storage - Cold
Food Storage Sales	2125 N Richmond St	Storage - Other	Storage - Misc.
United Cooperative	N1868 Municipal Dr	Storage - Other	Processing/Supply/Storage - Seed and Fertilizer & Grain Storage

STATE AGRICULTURAL TRENDS

A review of state agricultural trends, as presented in this section, can provide an understanding of macro-level changes that may influence Outagamie County over the next 10 years. This assessment finds that in Wisconsin:

- **Agricultural land has decreased in total acres.** According to the U.S Census of Agriculture, Wisconsin’s agricultural land supply is decreasing. Between 2012 and 2017, farmland declined by 250,296 acres (-1.7 percent), from 14,568,926 acres in 2012 to 14,318,630 acres in 2017.
- **Farm operations have declined in total number, while the average farm increased in size.** According to the U.S. Census of Agriculture, between 2012 and 2017 Wisconsin lost 4,961 farm operations (-7.1%). As agricultural producers leave the business or retire, some sold their farmland to other farmers. Some of these new farmers consolidated their purchased land into their existing farm operations, making them larger and more expansive. Between 2012 and 2017, the average farm operation increased in size by 12 acres, from 209 acres in 2012 to 221 acres in 2017.
- **Agricultural land (without buildings and improvements) has increased in value.**⁴ According to data from the USDA, in 2021, agricultural land sales that continued as an agricultural use sold for an average of \$6,202 per acre, compared to \$5,221 per acre in 2016 (\$981 increase). During this same period, agricultural land sales that diverted to another use sold for an average of \$32,158 per acre, compared to \$7,558 in 2016 (\$24,600 increase). DATCP explains that “the steep climb in values for agricultural land being diverted to other uses came primarily from land being developed for commercial uses in southeastern Wisconsin.”
- **The number of farm production jobs decreased, while food processing jobs grew.**⁵ Since 1969, the average annual rate of farming jobs has declined by 0.3 percent while the average annual rate of food processing jobs has increased by 0.5 percent in this same time. For comparison, the average annual rate of growth for all employment in Wisconsin was about 1.9 percent in this time. UW-Extension explains that the downward trend in farm labor is a result of “two driving forces: (1) a decline in the number of farms, and (2) the rise of productivity enhancing technologies.” UW-Extension also highlights the importance of growth in the state’s food processing sector, stating:

From 2011 [to 2017] total employment in Wisconsin increases by 13.6% but for food processing employment increased by almost 16.5%. This surge in food processing employment is reflective of the growth in specialty food processing, generally those associated with local foods such as craft beers and artisan cheese, and growing demand by consumers for prepared meals (outside of restaurants). If we compare Wisconsin to our neighboring Great Lake States and the nation, this upward swing in food processing is not unique to Wisconsin.

- **Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) are an expanding agricultural practice.** According to WDNR permit data, Wisconsin contained six permitted CAFOs prior to 1995, which grew to 274

⁴ United States Department of Agriculture, National Agriculture Statistics Service: [WI Agricultural Land Sales, 2021](#).

⁵ UW-Extension, Center for Community Economic Development: [Trends in Wisconsin Agriculture Employment](#).

CAFOs in 2017.⁶ Recent data shows that Wisconsin is now home to 327 permitted CAFOs (2022) with the majority specializing in dairy cows (90 percent).⁷ There are trade-offs associated with CAFO growth. In terms of benefits, CAFOs maximize food production, create operational efficiencies, and help to keep food prices more affordable. However, they also produce pollutants which impact air, groundwater, surface water, and soil quality. They can also introduce potential odor/noise nuisances, and they are commonly associated with animal welfare concerns. Moreover, as CAFO's expand, they tend to push smaller farms out of business.

- **Agritourism is increasingly popular.** According to DATCP, agritourism is broadly defined as any agricultural-based activity that brings visitors to a farm or ranch to encourage a connection or reconnection to agriculture.⁸ A number of social trends are making agritourism an increasingly popular industry in Wisconsin and nation-wide. For example: there is a growing respect for “making/makers” versus consumption, a growing interest in knowing the source of one’s food and how it is produced, a growing interest in food and travel as a sought out cultural experience, and a growing societal desire to mitigate against technology overload by unplugging and reconnecting with traditional skills and lifestyles.⁹
- **Consumer preferences are driving demand for healthier and more sustainable food products,** and agricultural producers are responding in effective ways. To take one example, organic foods are becoming more of a staple as consumers continue to show an interest in organic eating for health and/or environmental reasons. As of 2021, Wisconsin had 1,516 certified organic operations, up from 1,334 certified organic operations in 2015 (14 percent increase).¹⁰ These figures make Wisconsin a national leader in organic agriculture. In fact, of all US states, Wisconsin ranks #2 with the largest number of organic farms. Wisconsin ranks #4 with the largest amount of certified organic land (250,000 acres).
- **The agricultural industry remains strong.** According to agricultural statistics compiled by DATCP for Wisconsin (as of April 2022), farming is still a large part of Wisconsin commerce, as explained below:¹¹
 - Wisconsin agriculture contributes \$104.8 billion annually to our state’s economy. Food processing activity contributes \$82.7 billion to industrial sales.
 - Agriculture provides 435,700 jobs or 11.8% of the state’s employment base. On-farm production contributes 154,000 jobs. Processing contributes 282,000 jobs.
 - Wisconsin is one of the top states in the production of major processing vegetables (e.g., snap beans, carrots, and green peas). The state ranks third in the nation in potato production and the state produces 59 percent of the nation's cranberry crop making Wisconsin the top cranberry producing state in the country.

⁶ Zach Raff and Andrew Meyer (2021). *CAFOs and Surface Water Quality: Evidence from Wisconsin*, Agricultural & Applied Economics Association.

⁷ Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. [CAFO and CAFO WPDES Permit Statistics](#).

⁸ Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. [Agritourism](#).

⁹ Travel Oregon. [Market Trends for Agritourism: Information from Other Regions](#).

¹⁰ UW-Extension, Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems. [Organic Agriculture in Wisconsin: 2021 Status Report](#).

¹¹ Copied and summarized from DATCP’s webpage titled “Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics,” on May 3, 2022.

<https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Publications/WIAgStatistics.aspx>

- Wisconsin is home to approximately 6,500 dairy farms, more than any other state, and 1.28 million cows. The dairy industry itself contributes \$45.6 billion to Wisconsin's economy each year. The feed mills, dairy equipment manufacturers and technicians, veterinarians, construction companies, genetics companies, milk haulers, dairy plants, and dairy software companies - create a wave of economic impact across the entire state.
- Wisconsin produces 25 percent of the nation's cheese. Nearly 1,200 licensed cheesemakers produce over 600 types, styles and varieties of cheese – nearly double the number of any other state.
- Wisconsin exported \$3.96 billion of agricultural and food products in 2021 to 146 countries. Wisconsin ranks first in the export of ginseng roots, prepared/preserved cranberries, raw furskins, bovine semen, whey, and sweet corn. The state's top agricultural export markets include Canada, China, Mexico, Korea, and Japan.

COUNTY AGRICULTURAL PROFILE

Outagamie County is developing and its population is growing. However, agriculture continues to play a key role in shaping the county’s land base, economy, and culture. This section documents the county’s agricultural profile and trends to assess the local agricultural industry and how it is changing.

Farm Operations

As of 2017, Outagamie County contained over 1,100 farm operations, operating on 236,963 farm acres. The average farm operation in the county was approximately 210 acres in size, 11 acres smaller than Wisconsin’s average farm size of 221 acres.

Exhibit 9 shows that from 2012 to 2017, the county lost 40 farm operations and 13,785 farm acres.

In this time, the average farm size in the county shrank (by about five acres), despite the average farm size in Wisconsin growing overall (by about 12 acres).

Exhibit 9. Change in Total Farm Operations and Farmland Acreage in Outagamie County - 2012 and 2017

Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture, 2012 and 2017 (Table 8).

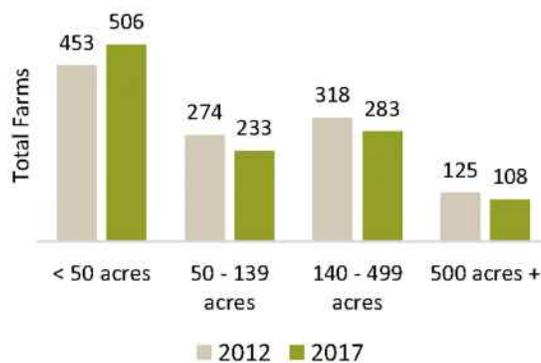
	Total Farm Acres	Total Farm Operations	Average Farm Size
2012	250,748	1,170	214.3
2017	236,963	1,130	209.7
Change (2012 to 2017)			
Number	(13,785)	(40)	(4.6)
Percent	-5%	-3%	-2%

When assessing individual operations disaggregated by size, this analysis finds that most of the county’s farm operations declined in size, except for operations smaller than 50 acres, which grew by 12 percent (Exhibit 10).

These trends represent a shift in the kinds of operations that comprise Outagamie County’s agricultural industry.

Exhibit 10. Change in Farm Operations by Farm Size (Acres) in Outagamie County - 2012 and 2017

Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture, 2012 and 2017 (Table 8).



Farm Labor

Farm workers are a critical resource for farming operations. As of 2017, 338 of the county’s 1,130 farm operations (30 percent) relied on hired farm labor.

The number of farm laborers in the county declined from 1,652 workers in 2012 to 1,328 workers in 2017 (Exhibit 11). This experience is consistent with state trends.

Of the county’s 1,328 farm laborers, 55 percent worked more than 150 days per year and 45 percent worked less than 150 days per year.

Total payroll for these workers was \$23.5 million, which is an average, annual salary of about \$17,696 per worker (2017).

Exhibit 11. Change in Farm Workers in Outagamie County - 2012 and 2017

Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture, 2012 and 2017 (Table 7).

Farm Workers	
2012	1,652
2017	1,328
Change (2012 to 2017)	
Number	(324)
Percent	-20%

Agricultural Uses of Land

A majority of farm acres in Outagamie County is used for crops (Exhibit 12). As of 2017, cropland accounted for 87 percent of all agricultural land in the county and 51 percent of the total land area in the county. Cropland acreage declined by about 3,922 acres (about 2 percent) from 2012 to 2017.

Exhibit 12. Changes in Agricultural Uses of Land in Outagamie County - 2012 and 2017

Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture, 2012 and 2017 (Table 8).

	Acres (2012)	Acres (2017)	Change (2012 to 2017)	
			Number	Percent
Cropland	210,085	206,163	-3,922	-2%
Harvested	201,680	196,099	-5,581	-3%
Pastured	1,514	1,037	-477	-32%
Other	6,891	9,027	2,136	31%
Woodland	20,718	16,029	-4,689	-23%
Pastureland	5,194	5,060	-134	-3%
Other	14,751	9,711	-5,040	-34%
Total	250,748	236,963	-13,785	-5%

Agricultural Inventory and Production

Exhibit 13 shows livestock inventory in the county. From 2012 to 2017, the only commodities which increased in number were beef cattle/cows (by 27 percent) and chicken and egg-laying chickens (by 78 percent).

Exhibit 13. Change in Livestock Inventory in Outagamie County - 2012 and 2017

Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture, 2012 and 2017 (Table 1).

	2012	2017	Change (2012 to 2017)	
			Number	Percent
Cattle, incl. Calves	99,409	88,951	-10,458	-11%
Cattle, Cows, Dairy	38,017	33,760	-4,257	-11%
Cattle, Cows, Beef	2,202	2,797	595	27%
Hogs	2,053	1,691	-362	-18%
Chicken, Layers	1,986	3,536	1,550	78%
Sheep, Lambs	805	465	-340	-42%

Exhibit 14 shows crop production in the county between 2012 and 2017. Of the core crops produced in the county, only soybeans and corn/silage grew in total volume, by three and 10 percent respectively.

Exhibit 14. Change in Crop Production in Outagamie County - 2012 and 2017

Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture, 2012 and 2017 (Table 1). Note: BU stands for bushels.

	2012	2017	Change (2012 to 2017)	
			Number	Percent
Corn, Grain (BU)	9,419,427	8,854,831	-564,596	-6%
Soybeans (BU)	2,611,627	2,686,904	75,277	3%
Corn, Silage (tons)	500,444	551,855	51,411	10%
Wheat (BU)	488,330	312,955	-175,375	-36%
Hay, Haylage (BU)	149,362	136,431	-12,931	-9%
Oats (BU)	87,962	56,567	-31,395	-36%
Barley (BU)	12,272	5,090	-7,182	-59%

Agricultural Specialties

According to the USDA, as of 2021, Outagamie County ranked eleventh in the state with the most dairy cows. This makes the county a leader in the state in terms of dairy production. As of 2021, the average dairy cow in Outagamie County produced 27,700 pounds of milk, compared to 24,884 pounds on average in Wisconsin overall.

Another important agricultural specialty in the county is cabbage. Agriculture census data shows that Wisconsin farmed 4,593 total acres of cabbage in 2017. Of that total acreage, approximately 1,578 acres (34 percent) was located in Outagamie County. This makes Outagamie County a leading producer of cabbage in the state. In fact, Outagamie County holds a lot of joy and pride in its cabbage production. For example, a “World Championship Cabbage Chuck” (see Exhibit 15) is an event held annually in Shiocton Lake Park. The event includes cabbage chucking, a contest for the largest cabbage, raffles, and other family-friendly activities.

Exhibit 15. Images from World Championship Cabbage Chuck

Source: www.stdenis-shiocton.org/photos.



Commodity Sales

According to the U.S. Census of Agriculture, in 2017, farms in Outagamie County generated \$263.7 million in total sales, down from \$302.2 million in 2012 (Exhibit 16).

The average farm generated \$233,388 in total sales, down from \$258,319 in 2012.

Exhibit 16. Change in Nominal Commodity Sales in Outagamie County - 2012 and 2017

Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture, 2012 and 2017 (Table 2).

	Commodity Total Sales	Average Sales per Farm Operation with Sales
2012	\$302.2 million	\$258,319
2017	\$263.7 million	\$233,388
Change (2012 to 2017)		
Number	(\$38.5 million)	(\$24,930)
Percent	-13%	-10%

More farming operations are generating less in sales from 2012 to 2017.

Exhibit 17 shows that between 2012 and 2017, operations that generated less than \$25,000 per year or between \$25,000 and \$49,999 per year increased by six percent and 58 percent respectively.

During the same period, operations that generated between \$50,000 and \$99,999, \$100,000 and \$499,999, and \$500,000 or more per year decreased by 24 percent, 13 percent, and 36 percent respectively.

Exhibit 17. Change in Farm Operations by Nominal Commodity Sales in Outagamie County - 2012 and 2017

Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture, 2012 and 2017 (Table 2).

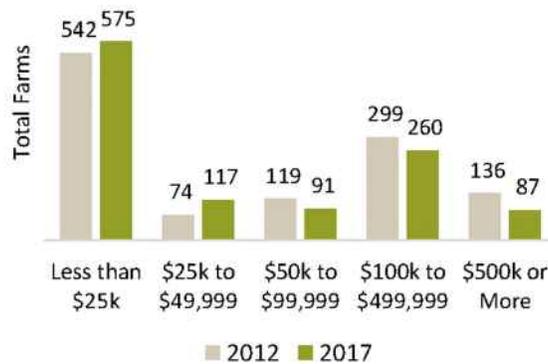


Exhibit 18 and Exhibit 19, on the following page, shows the nominal value of agricultural products produced and sold in Outagamie County in 2012 and 2017. It shows that, in Outagamie County, and:

- **Of the crop products listed in Exhibit 18**, grain generated the most in total sales (\$55.8 million), followed by corn (\$30.3 million), (2017). Between 2012 and 2017, and without adjusting for inflation, all products decreased in total sales with the exception of horticulture, which increased by about \$2.1 million.
- **Of the livestock products listed in Exhibit 19**, milk products generated the most in total sales (\$146.5 million), followed by cattle and calves (\$44.1 million), (2017). Between 2012 and 2017, and without adjusting for inflation, all products grew in total sales with the exception of cattle/calves, which declined by about \$5.2 million.

Exhibit 18. Nominal Value of Ag. Products (Crops) Sold in Outagamie County - 2012 and 2017

Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture, 2012 and 2017 (Table 2).

Note: Exhibit includes products with at least \$100,000 in total sales in 2017.

	2012	2017	Change (2012 to 2017)	
			Dollars	Percent
Grain	\$89.1 m	\$55.8 m	(\$33.3 m)	-37%
Corn	\$53.0 m	\$30.3 m	(\$22.7 m)	-43%
Soybeans	\$32.4 m	\$24.2 m	(\$8.3 m)	-26%
Horticulture (except cut trees)	\$6.6 m	\$8.7 m	\$2.1 m	32%
Vegetables	\$5.7 m	\$3.6 m	(\$2.1 m)	-37%
Other field crops, including hay	\$3.6 m	\$3.6 m	(\$36k)	-1%
Wheat	\$3.2 m	\$1.2 m	(\$2.0 m)	-63%
Fruit, nut trees	\$535k	\$319k	(\$216k)	-40%
Other grain	\$244k	\$107k	(\$137k)	-56%

Exhibit 19. Nominal Value of Ag. Products (Livestock) Sold in Outagamie County - 2012 and 2017

Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture, 2012 and 2017 (Table 2).

	2012	2017	Change (2012 to 2017)	
			Dollars	Percent
Milk	\$146.5 m	\$146.6 m	\$39k	0%
Cattle, calves	\$49.3 m	\$44.1 m	(\$5.2 m)	-11%
Hogs	\$308k	\$335k	\$27k	9%
Sheep, goats	\$282k	\$286k	\$4k	1%
Specialty animals	\$75k	\$159k	\$84k	112%
Poultry, eggs	\$37k	\$130k	\$93k	251%

Value of Agricultural Assets

The value of agricultural assets in Outagamie County is increasing. Between 2012 and 2017, and after adjusting for inflation, the county’s total agricultural asset value increased by 21 percent (about \$293.7 million). The average asset value per farm operation increased by 25 percent (about \$302,730), and the average asset value per acre increased by 28 percent (about \$1,567).

In 2017, Outagamie County recorded \$1.7 billion in agricultural assets (Exhibit 20), which was approximately 2.4 percent of the total value of agricultural assets in Wisconsin.

The average farm operation in Outagamie County recorded \$1.5 million in total assets in 2017, compared to \$1.1 million for the average farm operation in Wisconsin.

Exhibit 20. Inflation-Adjusted (2017 dollars) Value of Assets (Ag. Land, including Buildings) in Outagamie County – 2012 and 2017

Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture, 2017 (Table 8). Note: asset value includes agricultural land, including buildings.

	2012 (2017 \$)	2017
Total Asset Value	\$1.4 billion	\$1.7 billion
Per Farm Operation	\$1.2 million	\$1.5 million
Per Ag. Acre	\$5,640	\$7,207

Agricultural Land Transactions

Between 2000 and 2020, agricultural producers sold 45,936 acres of agricultural land in Outagamie County. This land is increasingly being sold to other agricultural producers. For example, Exhibit 21 shows the distribution of agricultural land sold between 2000 and 2020, by subsequent use. In 2010 and onward, the county saw a shift in sales, with most agricultural land being sold to owners who continued to use the land for agriculture. This trend may be caused by several factors, including:

- Farmland preservation efforts are taking hold in the county and state.
- A glut of land purchased for development prior to 2010 on speculation has taken years to develop through lot inventories.
- Housing trends have moved the market towards multifamily housing in urban areas and housing in proximity to urban services.
- Consolidation of farms and CAFO growth have increased demand for smaller tracts of land by larger farm operators to expand, grow feed, or spread manure.

Exhibit 21. Share of Ag. Land (Acres) Sold by Subsequent Use in Outagamie County - 2000 through 2020

Source: USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service.

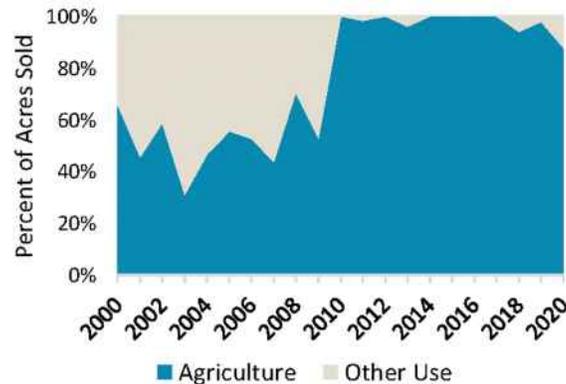


Exhibit 22 and Exhibit 23 show the average, per acre cost of agricultural land sold in Outagamie County.

Exhibit 22 examines agricultural land sold **with** improvements. Between 2000 and 2020, agricultural land diverted to other uses often sold for a premium. However, between 2010 and 2017 and in 2019, all agricultural land with improvements sold to owners that continued to use the land for agriculture.

Exhibit 22. Average Cost per Acre of Agricultural Land (with Improvements) Sold by Subsequent Use in Outagamie County - 2000 through 2020

Source: USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service.

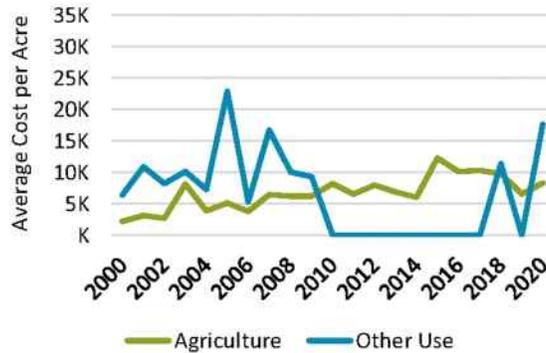
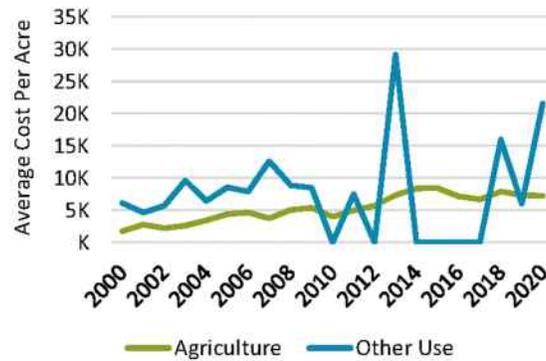


Exhibit 23 looks at agricultural land **without** improvements. Between 2000 and 2020, agricultural land diverted to other uses often sold for a premium. However, in 2010, 2012, and between 2014 and 2017, all agricultural land without improvements sold to owners that continued to use the land for agriculture.

Exhibit 23. Average Cost per Acre of Agricultural Land (without Improvements) Sold by Subsequent Use in Outagamie County - 2000 through 2020

Source: USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service.



DEVELOPMENT TRENDS & NEEDS

This section identifies, describes, and documents other development trends, plans, and needs that may affect farmland preservation and agricultural development in Outagamie County.

Factors Affecting Development

New development spreading from more urbanized areas of the county can put added pressure on agricultural and open land. This section highlights a few factors that may contribute to growing development pressures.

POPULATION GROWTH

Outagamie County’s population is growing.

From 2000 to 2020, the county’s population grew by 29,734 people (about 18 percent), (Exhibit 24).

According to Wisconsin’s Demographic Services Center, county population is projected to continue growing by another 24,585 people or about 13 percent between 2020 and 2040.

Exhibit 24. Population Trends and Projections in Outagamie County - 1980 through 2040

Source: U.S. Decennial Census (1980 to 2020); Wisconsin DOA, Demographic Services Center (2030 and 2040).

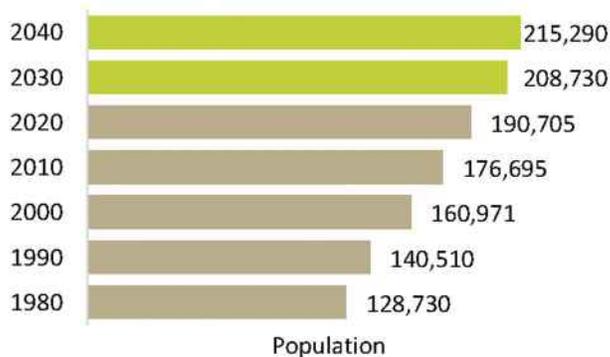


Exhibit 25, on the following page, presents more granular population trend data to analyze change at the municipal level between 2010 and 2020. The data show marginal growth (less than 200 people) or declining growth in most of the county’s townships.

Some of the county’s Towns have, however, experienced more growth which could potentially create land use issues in the future if growth management practices are not followed. For example, between 2010 and 2020, the Town of Grand Chute’s population increased by 2,912 people (14 percent change), which is a level of growth commensurate with many of the county’s incorporated communities. The Towns of Ellington, Freedom, and Center added a fair amount of people to their populations in this time as well (416, 374, and 220 people respectively). Population growth is associated with housing and business growth and these findings show that urbanization from the Fox Cities is continuing to expand north, deeper into rural Outagamie County. To mitigate potential land use issues while preserving farmland, the County should implement the policies and recommendation set forth in this Plan and its Comprehensive Plan to guide growth and development to planned growth areas.

Exhibit 25. Population Change in Outagamie County Towns and Incorporated Areas - 2010 and 2020
 Source: U.S. Decennial Census, 2000 and 2020. Note: Data for Appleton, New London, and Wrightstown represent the portion of the community in Outagamie County only.

Towns in Outagamie County	Total Pop. 2010	Total Pop. 2020	Population Change (2010 – 2020)	
			Number	Percent
Black Creek	1,259	1,251	-8	-1%
Bovina	1,145	1,153	8	1%
Buchanan	6,755	6,857	102	2%
Center	3,402	3,622	220	6%
Cicero	1,103	1,008	-95	-9%
Dale	2,731	2,869	138	5%
Deer Creek	637	630	-7	-1%
Ellington	2,758	3,174	416	15%
Freedom	5,842	6,216	374	6%
Grand Chute	20,919	23,831	2,912	14%
Hortonia	1,097	1,052	-45	-4%
Kaukauna	1,238	1,306	68	5%
Liberty	867	826	-41	-5%
Maine	866	851	-15	-2%
Maple Creek	619	591	-28	-5%
Oneida	4,678	4,579	-99	-2%
Osborn	1,170	1,200	30	3%
Seymour	1,193	1,191	-2	0%
Vandenbroek	1,474	1,627	153	10%
Total Pop. – Unincorporated	59,753	63,834	4,081	7%
Total Pop. – Incorporated	116,942	126,871	9,929	8%
Total Pop. – Outagamie Co.	176,695	190,705	14,010	8%

HOUSEHOLD GROWTH

The county is experiencing increased household formations and shrinking household sizes. From 2000 to 2020, the county added 15,707 households and is projected to continue growing through 2040 (Exhibit 26).

The county’s average household size declined from 2.66 in 2000 to 2.54 in 2010, and then to 2.50 in 2020.

As the county’s population grows and household sizes shrink, greater demand for new housing will exist.

EMPLOYMENT GROWTH

The number of jobs in the county has increased since 2010, even with the sharp decline in employment in 2020 resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Between 2010 and 2021, total jobs increased by 4,910, from 99,450 jobs in 2010 to 104,360 jobs in 2021. This represented a five percent change (Exhibit 27).

Outagamie County is located in the Bay Area Workforce Development Area. Non-farm jobs in this region are projected to grow through 2028 (Exhibit 28). As employment growth occurs, some of these new jobs will be absorbed in Outagamie County.

As the job base grows, the region will become a more desirable place to live and demand for developable lands will increase.

Exhibit 26. Household Trends and Projections in Outagamie County - 2000 through 2040

Source: U.S. Decennial Census (2000, 2010, 2020); Wisconsin DOA, Demographic Services Center (2030 and 2040).

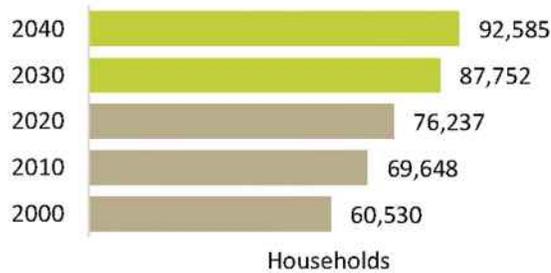


Exhibit 27. Employment Growth in Outagamie County - 2010 through 2021

Source: QCEW. Note: Jobs in the estimate include all jobs covered by State unemployment insurance laws and Federal workers covered by the UCFE.

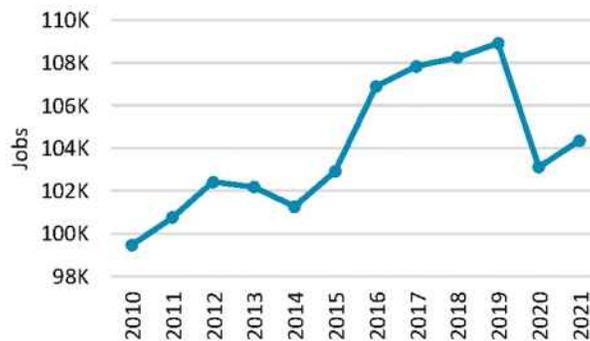


Exhibit 28. Non-Farm Employment Projections in the Bay Area Workforce Development Area - 2018 to 2028

Source: Wisconsin, Department of Workforce Development.

	Non-Farm Jobs
2018	457,622
2028 (Projected)	474,451
Change (2018 to 2028)	
Number	16,829
Percent	3.7

Factors Affecting Farmland Preservation

This section discusses development trends and community needs that may affect farmland preservation and agricultural development in Outagamie County.

HOUSING

Population growth (Exhibit 24) and the formation of new households (Exhibit 26) will result in demand for new housing in Outagamie County. The delivery of new residential dwelling units can put pressure on more rural areas of the county, as development sprawls from existing urban areas, toward more undeveloped areas of the county (i.e., agricultural and natural areas).

Exhibit 29 shows that, between 2000 and 2020, Outagamie County’s housing stock increased by 16,517 units (26 percent).

According to projections developed by the state, Outagamie County is forecast to need 10,320 units between 2020 and 2040.

According to the *Fox Cities and Greater Outagamie County Housing Strategy* (2022), the larger region will need 10,910 to 17,738 new dwelling units through 2030 to accommodate housing underproduction and population growth.

Between 2011 and 2020, approximately 7,937 dwelling units were permitted in Outagamie County, averaging 722 new units per year (Exhibit 30).

In this time, approximately 56 percent of the dwelling units were permitted in incorporated areas (cities or villages) and 44 percent in unincorporated areas.

Exhibit 29. Dwelling Unit Growth and Projections in Outagamie County - 2000 through 2040

Source: U.S. Decennial Census; Wisconsin DOA, Demographic Services Center. Note: Projections use DOA population projections and assumptions for average household size (2.5) and residential vacancy (5%).

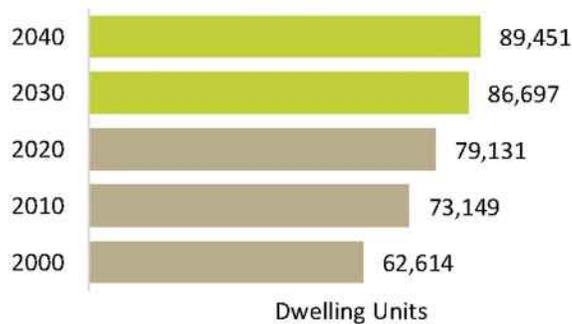
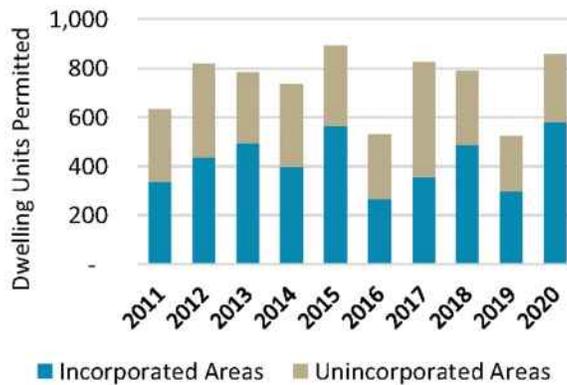


Exhibit 30. Residential Dwelling Units Permitted in Outagamie County - 2010 through 2020

Source: U.S. Department of HUD, SOCDS. Note: The analysis includes all of Appleton, New London, and Wrightstown.



TRANSPORTATION

Outagamie County’s transportation network will influence development countywide, as will the local transportation networks developed by towns, villages, and cities. In terms of County infrastructure, completion of CTH CB is the County’s last planned route needed to complete its network. The County plans to extend CTH CB north from STH 15 in the Village of Greenville, to Mayflower Drive in the Town of Grand Chute, and then north to CTH JJ. Development of this route will unlock additional development potential in an already, quickly urbanizing portion of the county.

The County is also slowly urbanizing its highways on an ongoing basis. As part of this process, roadways are improved to handle increased traffic flow, and multimodal transportation options through the development of multi-use paths, sidewalks, or bicycle paths to accommodate pedestrians and cyclists. The urbanization of roadway segments may draw development interest in adjacent areas.

Wisconsin’s Department of Transportation (WisDOT) is also embarking on a large project (design, acquisition, and reconstruction) along the I-41 corridor from WIS-96 (Wisconsin Avenue) in Appleton to County Road F (Scheuring Road) in De Pere. Construction is anticipated to complete by 2030. The improvements WisDOT implements will make traveling into Outagamie County more accessible, thereby making the county a more attractive place to live, work, and/or visit.

UTILITIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES/SERVICES

Utilities including electric, natural gas, sewer, water, and telecommunications are important services that residents and businesses rely on to meet basic needs. Community facilities include parks and recreational areas, public facilities and centers (government buildings, libraries, schools, etc.), healthcare and social service facilities, and other educational facilities. For more information, Outagamie County’s Comprehensive Plan identifies, describes, and in many cases maps the utilities and community facilities found in the county.

Like the County’s transportation system, utilities and community facilities largely impact growth patterns in Outagamie County. For example, development tends to locate in areas with access to utilities and services, making agricultural lands near cities and villages (with greater concentrations of these resources) more enticing to developers.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Renewable energy sources are receiving increased attention around the State, including in Outagamie County. Agriculture and renewable energy industries are linked in many respects, for example:

- According to a 2016 study, Wisconsin had 136 operating anaerobic digesters, of which 34 were agriculture related.¹² Anaerobic digesters can produce renewable heat and electricity from animal waste, crop residue, or byproducts from milk and cheese. An advantage of these digesters is that they can reduce environmental problems associated with manure waste such as stream and groundwater contamination.
- Production of corn to create ethanol, a common biofuel that is renewable and a cleaner alternative to petroleum-based fuels, is on the rise. According to the Wisconsin Corn Growers Association, “Wisconsin’s eight ethanol plants produce more than 500 million gallons a year – making Wisconsin the ninth-largest ethanol producing state in the country. These plants use

¹² Wisconsin Office of Energy Innovation (2016). [Wisconsin Biogas Survey Report](#).

more than 180 million bushels of corn each year – about 37 percent of the state’s corn crop. Ethanol production in Wisconsin generates \$4.2 billion in economic activity, impacting 19,000 jobs, with \$982 million in wages, and generates \$306 million in taxes.”¹³

- Wind turbines are becoming more popular for electricity generation and it is possible that the increased number of turbines will have an impact on farmland preservation as wind turbines are typically installed in rural areas. However, an unintended outcome of wind farm placement is that they provide deterrence to non-farm residential development, helping to preserve agricultural activities in and around the wind farm locations.
- Another growing trend in Wisconsin is small- and large-scale solar farms. Like wind turbines, solar farms are typically installed in rural areas, and therefore, can impact the agricultural landscape.

As demand for renewable energy grows, farmers may become increasingly incentivized to sell or lease their lands to accommodate wind and solar facilities, especially if renewable energy companies are willing to pay a premium for the space. The locational characteristics that may be more desirable for solar and wind companies are those areas which:

1. Are in proximity to existing electrical grid infrastructure, such as transmission lines and substations.
2. Have slopes that are five percent or less.
3. Have minimal environmental constraints.

In the last several years, the County has become aware of two solar facility inquiries: (1) a 100+ Megawatts Solar Facility inquiry on approx. 1,100 acres in the Town of Maple Creek and (2) a 100+ Megawatt Solar Facility inquiry on approx. 750 acres in the Town of Deer Creek and Waupaca County. Both projects are considered “large facilities” (see sidebar above). Both of these projects are located in farmland preservation areas, which impacts the County’s efforts to preserve existing and prime farmlands.

**REGULATORY FRAMEWORK:
SOLAR AND WIND FACILITIES**

In regards to the installation of wind energy and solar energy systems, Outagamie County follows Wisconsin Statutes (66.0401).

Outagamie County has some regulatory control over small wind and solar generation facilities, but has no control over the installation of large facilities (projects producing over 100 Megawatts of power). Large facilities are controlled by the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC). The PSC coordinates their review with WisDOT and DATCP, and may take local ordinances into consideration. While Outagamie County does not have local control or discretion to approve/deny these projects, they can provide input at public hearings held by the PSC.

Local governments may enter into a developer’s agreement with the developer, but this is optional. The agreement can provide the County assures related to road maintenance, hours of operation, decommissioning responsibilities, and other concerns.

¹³ Wisconsin Corn Growers Association. [Ethanol](#).

COMMUNICATION

Following the development of *Outagamie County’s Broadband Study Report (2022)*, the County is working to improve access to and the reliability of broadband internet services and cellular connectivity countywide.

As broadband and communication services expand into more rural areas of the county, development in rural areas could become more attractive as they will be able to better accommodate business and household demands (which increasingly require high-quality, uninterrupted internet and cellular access). However, farms that rely on the internet for business deals and operations can also benefit from improved communication services.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

The local agricultural industry has historically remained an important component of Outagamie County’s economy. The 1,130 farms in the county produce products that provide economic security to other local businesses such as food processors, manufacturers, veterinarians, garden centers, grocery stores, and restaurants. In addition, the farmers of these operations support county businesses by purchasing products, equipment, and services. The success of these farming operations enables a strong economy.

Continued growth of the county’s agricultural industry (including the development, retention, and expansion of agricultural businesses) will be influenced by many factors, including:

- Availability and cost of farm labor.
- Availability and cost of land to lease or buy.
- Availability and cost of farming equipment, material, and supportive services (e.g., veterinary care, etc.).
- Ability to obtain needed financing.
- Market volatility, production costs, commodity prices, and profit margins.
- The amount of non-agricultural development encroaching in agricultural areas.

In addition, business development and industry growth will be influenced by the changing demographics of our existing agricultural producers. For instance, according to the farmland preservation survey, taken by agricultural producers:¹⁴

- Approximately 61 percent of respondents were 60 years or older; 29 percent were 70 years or older.
- A third of respondents indicated they will discontinue farming in less than 10 years; another third of respondents will discontinue farming in 10 to 20 years.

COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVE:

According to Outagamie County’s farmland preservation community survey (taken by primarily residents / non-farmers), 10% of respondents believe agriculture in the county is a growing industry, 63% believe it has some growth potential, and 27% believe it is a declining industry with no future growth potential.

¹⁴ Outagamie County’s Farmland Preservation Agricultural Producer Survey (question 7, 9, 10, 11, and 22). The survey received responses from 81 agricultural producers in Outagamie County.

- In the past five years, most respondents (91 percent) did not expand their operations – primarily due to satisfaction with their current size or due to the owner/operator nearing retirement.
- When asked about respondents’ plans for their operation once they retire, 19 percent said they did not know and another 19 percent said they plan to sell their land to the highest bidder.
- A majority of respondents (63 percent) do not have a farm transition plan or estate plan in place.

When agricultural producers were asked about how the County could better support the protection of agricultural operations, survey respondents provided ample suggestions including: restrict urban sprawl (particularly for rural subdivisions/residential uses), reduce taxes on farmland, reduce government regulations, help farmers navigate the various rules and regulations to create a business, develop marketing strategies to inform the general public of the importance of agriculture, reward small farmers, help get youth involved in agriculture, provide low interest-loans, and provide education.¹⁵ Engaging in some of these activities over the planning period can guide future business development objectives.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Brown, Outagamie, and Winnebago Counties signed an agreement in 2007 to develop a single-stream recycling facility. The partnership has created waste management services, including landfill and recycling efficiencies, for the benefit of all residents.

The Tri-County Recycling Facility, operated by Outagamie County Recycling & Solid Waste, was completed in 2009 and is one of the largest publicly owned and operated, single-stream recycling facilities in the United States. The facility is capable of processing up to 100,000 tons of material each year, so the facility’s service area could be expanded in the future. The facility not only serves all Brown, Outagamie, and Winnebago communities, but it also serves most of Northeast Wisconsin (nearly 16% of the state’s population).

The Outagamie County Recycling & Solid Waste Department also provides solid waste disposal by providing extensive landfill operations management. The landfill site encompasses 450 acres of existing and future landfill development potential. In 2001, Brown, Outagamie, and Winnebago Counties regionalized landfill operations. In 2012, Outagamie County became the host regional landfill with the creation of the Northeast Landfill. Annually, the Northeast Landfill safely and responsibly services the needs of over 200,000 households and manages over 500,000 tons of municipal solid waste from the Tri-County region and has a capacity to hold over 7 million cubic yards of refuse. The landfill employs state-of-the-art compaction and alternative daily cover methods to insure the value of the air space is maintained allowing the landfill to maximize its capacity over its 10 plus years of site life.

Outagamie County Recycling & Solid Waste also maintains a transfer station which opened in 2005 and a resource recovery park which opened in 2020.

MUNICIPAL EXPANISON

Municipal expansion, described here, involves the expansion of cities or villages into towns via annexation. The county contains four cities and eight villages. As they continue to experience population and business growth, existing lands in cities and villages may become insufficient to accommodate demand for housing and business locations. As this occurs, developers will begin establishing plans to

¹⁵ Outagamie County’s Farmland Preservation Agricultural Producer Survey (question 19).

develop adjacent to these communities – where larger tracts of land are available to develop in proximity to city/village services and utilities. This reality can sometimes create land use issues, particularly if urban development and/or sprawl occurs absent annexation and that development results from incompatible development locating near agricultural enterprises. Further, development pressure from cities and villages into unincorporated areas can sometimes jeopardize farmland preservation efforts since development in unincorporated areas typically occurs at lower densities than they would have in incorporated areas. Finally, it makes promoting agricultural development more challenging (i.e., when development infringes on prime agriculture lands, it can make that agricultural land and/or agricultural enterprises less valuable).

Development pressure in towns may be alleviated, to a certain extent, through land use efficiency measures and improved growth management policies adopted by the County, towns, and cities/villages. Development pressures could also be alleviated through thoughtful boundary agreements and extra-territorial zoning plans, developed in coordination with cities/villages and adjacent towns. It is well advised that boundary agreements and extra-territorial zoning plans consider both the need to accommodate development as well as the need to mitigate sprawl to preserve farmlands.

ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION

Outagamie County's natural resources are facing increased pressures from a growing population. Further, at the cost of natural areas and agricultural lands, natural landscapes are being diminished in the county for "country style living." As development pressure grows, the preservation of natural lands, the protection of groundwater resources, and the mitigation against pollution and contaminants will become more challenging. If left unrestrained, these pressures will result in unplanned, poor development patterns and an inefficient use of land, water, and raw materials.

To better preserve environmental areas such as wetlands and water bodies, the State and County establish plans, policies, and regulations that aim to direct development away from protected environmentally sensitive areas and environmental corridors. County specific plans that provide this guidance include:

- **Volume 1 of Outagamie County's Comprehensive Plan.** The Natural Resources Element of the County's Comprehensive Plan (beginning on page 64) provides background on the County's geographic and geologic profile. It includes information and maps related to the County's existing and current conditions; metallic and nonmetallic mineral resources; topography; soil characteristics; and water, woodland, and wetland resources. This plan provides guidance on the specific environmental areas and facets that should continue to be preserved and protected into the future.
- **Volume 2 of Outagamie County's Comprehensive Plan.** Volume 2 of the County's Comprehensive Plan provides valuable policy direction and recommendations related to environmental preservation. Particularly important and relevant is documentation of *Goal 6: Wise Land Development and Conservation Practices*. Recommendations highlighted under this Goal include:
 - Ensure the protection of environmentally sensitive areas.
 - Maintain and enforce the County's storm water and erosion control ordinances.
 - Provide education and technical assistance to land owners for best conservation and nutrient management
 - Limit pollution of our waterways.

- Encourage development of blighted parcels and brownfields.
- **Outagamie County's Land and Water Resource Management Plan.** This plan focuses on the current and existing conditions of the county and its land use and agricultural trends. This plan also includes assessments of the natural resources, the estimated rural nonpoint source pollutant loading and priority watershed reduction goals. Importantly, this plan highlights implementation tactics, education strategies, and the County's five-year work plan.
- **Outagamie County's Watershed Plans.** The County has six 9 Key Element Plans, pertaining to each of the specific watersheds in the County. Each plan discussed the applicable watershed, soil characteristics, and land use/land cover characteristics. The plan also documents water quality and nearby facilities, agricultural lands, and wetlands. The plan highlights goals, objectives, and management techniques that the County will implement to protect the watershed and to measure plan progress and success.

CONNECTIONS TO OUR FOOD SYSTEM

The *Outagamie County Comprehensive Plan 2040: The Shared Path Forward* (2018) recommended the development of a food systems element in the next update of the County's Farmland Preservation Plan. This section satisfies this recommendation, although further exploration may be desired as part of a future, distinct project.

What is a food system?

A food system is a web of activities involving the production, processing, distribution/warehousing, and consumption of food. These four components are further explained below.

- **Production:** Production involves the use of land and farming practices (e.g., soil and crop management, livestock breeding, harvesting, etc.) to grow agricultural products and/or to raise livestock. Production is the first stage of the food system – it creates the raw materials which are ultimately transported to an end consumer or to a processing facility to be further transformed into a finished product. Production can function differently depending on the scale of the farm and the farming practices employed.
- **Processing:** Processing refers to the stage of the system that transforms a raw product into a value-add product. For example, it is the transformation of peanuts to peanut butter or fruit to fruit juice. Most food products in the United States require some level of processing, storage, and/or packaging.
- **Distribution and Warehousing:** When raw products are ready to be sent to a processing facility, or when raw/value-add products are ready for market, they must be distributed. Products can be distributed regionally, nationally, or internationally. These products ultimately work their way to a retail outlet which can include grocery stores, restaurants, and farmer's markets. As an interim step, warehouses are often relied upon to store products prior to or between deliveries.
- **Consumption:** Consumption is the final component of the food system. It involves consumers (all of us) purchasing food products at a retail outlet to consume.

A successful food system relies on many actors, infrastructure, and sub-systems (e.g., policy systems, financing systems, etc.). Concerns associated with the food system typically involve the governance and economics of food production, sustainability of the system itself, food waste, equity and food access/food security, and the impacts of food system activities on the natural environment and on human health.

Exhibit 31, on the following page, shows the interconnectedness of many of the factors that affect a typical food system. In the outer ring, the exhibit highlights the key components of the system previously discussed. The inner ring highlights key factors that affect or are affected by our food system as a whole (e.g., employment, trade, health and nutrition, animal welfare, etc.).

Exhibit 31. Food System Elements
 Source: food.systems.



Increasingly, communities are shining light on the need to maintain “resilient” food systems – which are systems that can withstand and recover from natural or human-made disruptions, while continuing to ensure a sufficient supply of food for all. According to a guide supported by the USDA,

Food systems have always been vulnerable to hazards like pests and bad weather, [but] with climate-related shocks and stressors adding to existing hazards facing food systems, this is a critical time to examine food system vulnerabilities and work to ameliorate them... by turning to the concept of resilience to predict, assess, and improve how systems and the actors within them cope with disruption.¹⁶

¹⁶ Jenileigh Harris, et al., (2019). *Food Systems Resilience: Concepts & Policy Approaches*, Center for Agriculture and Food Systems, Vermont Law School.

Why consider the food system in our Farmland Preservation Plan?

Our food system starts at the farm and begins with the farmer. To meet society’s food production targets and consumer demands, communities must safeguard their agricultural land supply and ensure existing agricultural enterprises can continue to operate successfully. Monitoring these activities through a reoccurring planning process (such as this one), provides the framework to do just that.

Furthermore, the food production component of our food system (and the agricultural industry more generally), can only truly thrive if the system as a whole functions well. This is because each component shares an interdependent relationship with the other. In essence, the success of one stage relies on the success of another. As such, in addition to monitoring agricultural land and enterprises, keeping a gauge on processing, distribution/warehousing, and consumption activities is another way to ensure the viability of farming operations in Outagamie County. It will also ensure the county has a resilient food system.

While a robust food system assessment is outside the scope of this plan, this plan could serve as a launch pad for further exploration. Exhibit 32 presents key questions that a future study could help to answer.

Exhibit 32 Food System Assessment: Examples Research Questions

Source: Outagamie County.

Production	Processing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do farm operations of various sizes have equal access to food processing facilities and distribution services in the region? How can community / school gardens and urban agriculture play a larger role in food production? How can community-supported agriculture partnerships be bolstered in the county? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are relationships between producers and processing facilities in the region strong? Are there barriers preventing meat, produce, and artisan processing facilities from locating in the region?
Distribution and Warehousing	Consumption
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What infrastructure gaps exist that make activities involving food aggregation, cold storage, and transportation more challenging? How far do food products, sold at local food retailers, travel following production? In the face of a disaster or disruption, what processes (or emergency management practices) are in place to ensure food distribution? What processes are in place to limit food waste and spoilage? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the relationship between the number, type, and location of food retailers and consumer markets? Are residents educated on the ways to support local producers? Can institutional food buyers use their collective buying power to influence the food supply chain, and promote healthier foods being grown/raised and processed locally? What food waste management policies do local food retailers have in place? How successful are they at reducing waste?

ANTICIPATED CHANGES

In summation of the data and analysis presented in Part 2, this plan anticipates continued changes in the nature, scope, location, and focus of agricultural production within Outagamie County and over the planning period. Some key findings that support this conclusion include:

- **Loss of farmland acres.** Between 2002 and 2017, the county lost a total of 26,522 acres (an average loss of 1,768 acres per year). If this trend were to continue at this same rate (e.g., it was extrapolated linearly into the future), the County would lose its entire agricultural land supply (236,963 farm acres as of 2017) by year 2151.

To ensure we safeguard our farmland for future generations, it is prudent that the County continue to monitor its agricultural land supply, improve its land preservation measures, and continue to make smart land use decisions.

A primary reason for the county’s loss of farmland acres is due to increased urbanization pressures and population growth over the last couple decades. If the Fox Cities (southern Outagamie County) continues to be a desirable place to live, work, and play, we can anticipate urban and residential development to continue expanding north and west into our more rural landscape. This will impact the county’s prime farmlands, and available land supply for agriculture more generally.

- **Change in the size of production.** Over the last several years, the County has experienced growth in the number of small agricultural operations and a decline in the number of more moderate sized operations. In this same time, CAFO growth across the state and county has made mega-farming practices much more customary. These trends highlight a notable shift in the nature and scope of operations that are representative of Outagamie County’s agricultural industry.
- **Declines in the industry’s employment base.** Consistent with state trends, farm labor in Outagamie County is down – declining by 20 percent from 2012 to 2017. The demographics of our farm owners/agricultural producers are also changing. Many are reaching or have surpassed retirement age and a majority share of surveyed farm operators do not have succession plans.
- **Narrowing of agricultural inventory.** As a result a CAFO growth and monocropping trends, the county’s agricultural production, in terms of inventory, has become more focused. Between 2012 and 2017, inventory of key livestock was down with the exception of chicken and beef cattle/cows. Inventory of key crops was down, with the exception of soybeans and corn silage.

This plan anticipates processing, supply, and distribution facilities and business development will remain stable over the planning period. However, as the region continues to grow and develop, there may be opportunities for growth and expansion of these industries. Some key findings that support this conclusion include:

- **Strong processing, storage, and supplies industry.** The County contains 22 processing facilities, four food storage facilities, and 15 food and farm equipment supply facilities. Many of these facilities have a long history of being located in the region. Some facilities have located or

COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVE:

According to Outagamie County’s farmland preservation community survey (taken by primarily residents / non-farmers), 85% of respondents want farming and agriculture to be a major part of the county’s identity in the future.

expanded in the County in the last few years suggesting that, at least recently, there was market potential to absorb.

- **Proximity to an increasingly efficient transportation network.** Outagamie County's location near the I-41 corridor positions us in a strong location to accommodate the distribution of agricultural goods and services. Improvements to the I-41 corridor through 2030 will further advance efficiency (further incentivizing business location decisions).
- **Job growth.** Consistent with national trends, food processing jobs have been increasing for decades across Wisconsin. This upward trend is anticipated to endure due to growth in specialty food processing industries.

PART 3



FARMLAND PRESERVATION AREAS

A critical component of Outagamie County’s Farmland Preservation Plan is its farmland preservation maps. The maps discussed in this section and presented in large-format in Appendix A, delineate agricultural and natural resource areas intended for long-term preservation. The maps were developed using a streamlined process, as described below.

Framework for Identifying Preservation Areas

To establish the farmland preservation area maps, Outagamie County relied on three streamlined frameworks (i.e., a series of steps that factor in specific, *objective* criteria and available GIS datasets). A single framework was used for each of the following community types:

Unincorporated Community <u>with</u> Farmland Preservation (FP) Zoning	Unincorporated Community <u>without</u> Farmland Preservation (FP) Zoning	Incorporated Community
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town of Black Creek Town of Cicero Town of Deer Creek Town of Hortonia Town of Kaukauna Town of Maple Creek Town of Seymour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town of Bovina Town of Buchanan Town of Center Town of Dale Town of Ellington Town of Freedom Town of Grand Chute Town of Liberty Town of Maine Town of Oneida Town of Osborn Town of Vandebroek 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Village of Greenville

Each framework (summarized in the sub-sections below) was established to ensure consistency with State statutes and to enable improved administrative accuracy and efficiency in the County/State verification process.

FRAMEWORK FOR UNINCORPORATED COMMUNITIES WITH FP ZONING

Unincorporated communities with farmland preservation zoning (e.g., a certified farmland preservation zoning district) are the Towns of Black Creek, Cicero, Deer Creek, Hortonia, Kaukauna, Maple Creek, and Seymour.

To create their farmland preservation maps, the County applied the following steps and criteria:

- **Step 1 – Establish Base.** Designate all parcels for farmland preservation if the parcel or a portion of the parcel is designated as either “Agriculture & Open Lands” or “Rural Character” in Outagamie County’s Comprehensive Plan, Future Land Use maps AND the parcel, or a portion of the parcel, is zoned Exclusive Agriculture and/or located within an Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA).

- **Step 2 – Modify Base.** Then, remove parcels from the farmland preservation base if:
 - a. They (i.e., the center point of the parcel) are located within a sewer service area planning boundary of a city, village, or town sanitary district.
 - b. They are part of a platted residential subdivision.
 - c. They are planned for new school sites.
 - d. They (i.e., the center point of the parcel) are located within a Tax Increment District.
 - e. They are lands with Oneida Indians of Wisconsin status or USA inTrust for Oneida Tribe status.

- **Step 3 – Adapt Base Over Time.** Parcels may be requested INTO farmland preservation through public input.¹⁷ Public input should be gathered at a properly noticed public meeting, in which affected property owners are notified of the meeting via direct mail. The public meeting may include a public hearing for a proposed rezoning into a certified farmland preservation zoning district.

The farmland preservation maps included in this plan are particularly important for these seven communities because State law requires that the lands within a certified farmland preservation zoning district be at least **80% consistent** with the lands planned for farmland preservation in the county’s certified farmland preservation plan. The framework outlined above ensures that this consistency metric is met.

¹⁷ Lands requested into the farmland preservation plan area are not part of the certified plan until the County requests an amendment of its plan to DATCP, and DATCP certifies the amendment.

FRAMEWORK FOR UNINCORPORATED COMMUNITIES WITHOUT FP ZONING

Unincorporated communities without farmland preservation zoning (e.g., a certified farmland preservation zoning district) are the Towns of Bovina, Buchanan, Center, Dale, Ellington, Freedom, Grand Chute, Liberty, Maine, Oneida, Osborn, and Vandebroek.

To create their farmland preservation maps, the County applied the following steps and criteria:

- **Step 1 – Establish Base.** Designate all parcels for farmland preservation if the parcel, or a portion of the parcel, is:
 - a. Designated as “Agriculture & Open Lands” in Outagamie County’s Comprehensive Plan, Future Land Use maps.
 - b. Located within an Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA).

- **Step 2 – Modify Base.** Then, remove parcels from the farmland preservation base if:
 - a. They (i.e., the center point of the parcel) is located within a sewer service area planning boundary of a city, village, or town sanitary district.
 - b. They are part of a platted residential subdivision.
 - c. They are planned for new school sites.
 - d. They (i.e., the center point of the parcel) are located within a Tax Increment District.
 - e. They are lands with Oneida Indians of Wisconsin status or USA inTrust for Oneida Tribe status.

- **Step 3 – Option to Opt Out.** Towns without certified farmland preservation zoning and Agricultural Enterprise Areas may opt out of being planned for farmland preservation.

- **Step 3 – Adapt Base Over Time.** Parcels may be requested INTO farmland preservation through public input.¹⁸ Public input should be gathered at a properly noticed public meeting, in which affected property owners are notified of the meeting via direct mail.

¹⁸ Lands requested into the farmland preservation plan area are not part of the certified plan until the County requests an amendment of its plan to DATCP, and DATCP certifies the amendment.

FRAMEWORK FOR INCORPORATED COMMUNITIES

The Village of Greenville is the only incorporated community included in this plan because they are the only City or Village in Outagamie County to have farmland preservation zoning and/or an agricultural enterprise area (they have both).

To create their farmland preservation map, the County worked with the Village of Greenville planning staff to establish and apply the following steps and criteria:

- **Step 1** – Designate all parcels for farmland preservation if they are located in the Village’s Exclusive Agriculture District (listed as “AGD – FP General Agricultural District Farmland Preservation” on their zoning map).
- **Step 2** – Designate all parcels for farmland preservation if they are located in an Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA), unless it is zoned to accommodate development.
- **Step 3** – Parcels may be requested INTO farmland preservation through public input.¹⁹ Public input should be gathered at a properly noticed public meeting, in which affected property owners are notified of the meeting via direct mail. The public meeting may include a public hearing for a proposed rezoning into a certified farmland preservation zoning district.

The farmland preservation map included in this plan for Greenville is particularly important because State law requires that the lands within its certified farmland preservation zoning district be at least **80% consistent** with the lands planned for farmland preservation in the county’s certified farmland preservation plan. The framework outlined above ensures that this consistency metric is met.

¹⁹ Lands requested into the farmland preservation plan area are not part of the certified plan until the County requests an amendment of its plan to DATCP, and DATCP certifies the amendment.

Inventory of Farmland Preservation Maps

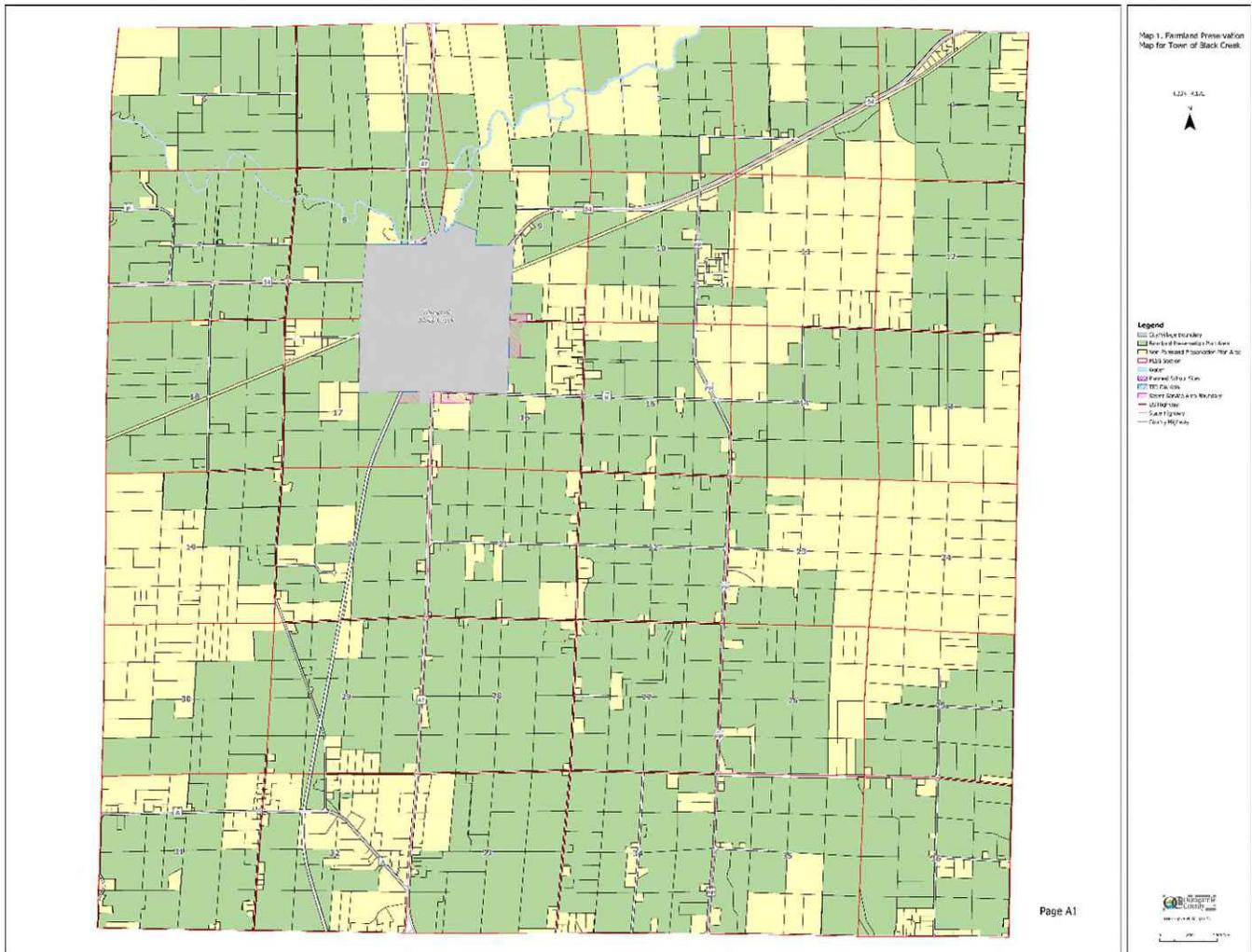
Given the file size and document size of this Plan’s Farmland Preservation Maps, they will be publicly posted online on the County’s Farmland Preservation webpage, rather than included in this report. To view the maps, please visit the webpage here: www.Outagamie.org/Farmland.

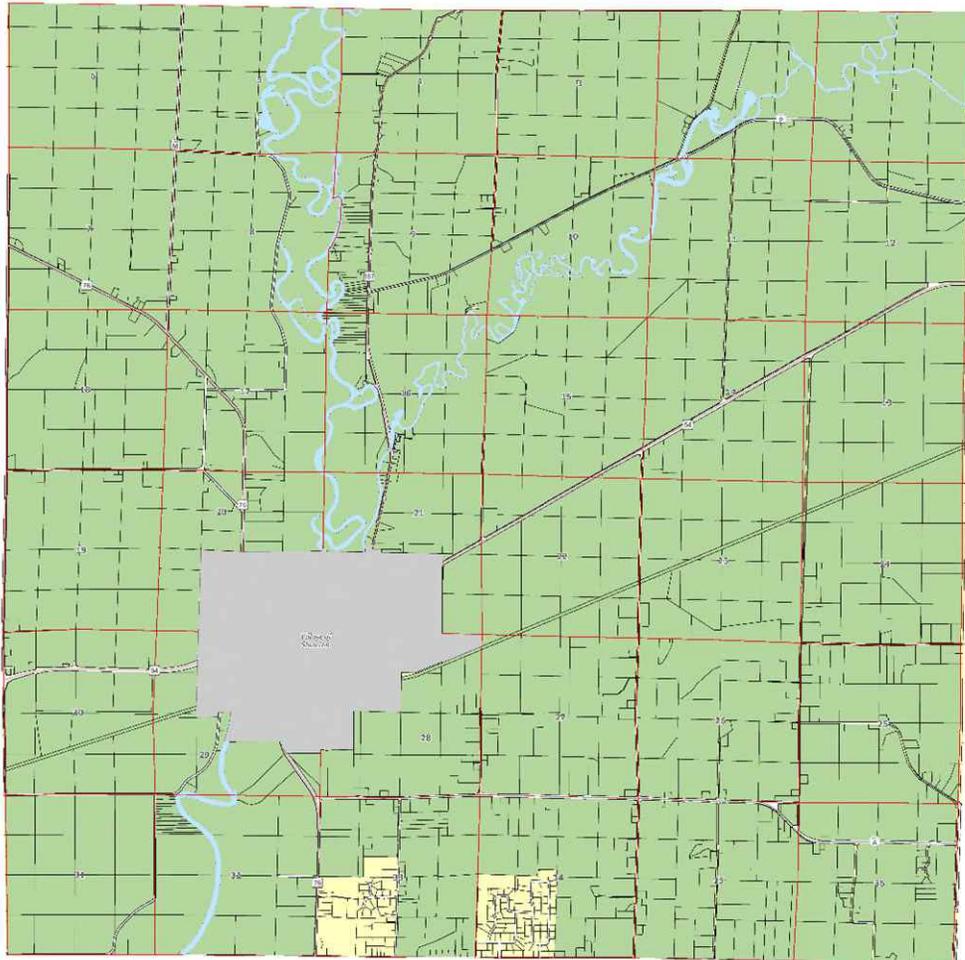
The map inventory will be organized as follows:

- Map 1. Farmland Preservation Map for Town of Black Creek
- Map 2. Farmland Preservation Map for Town of Bovina
- Map 3. Farmland Preservation Map for Town of Buchanan
- Map 4. Farmland Preservation Map for Town of Center
- Map 5. Farmland Preservation Map for Town of Cicero
- Map 6. Farmland Preservation Map for Town of Dale
- Map 7. Farmland Preservation Map for Town of Deer Creek
- Map 8. Farmland Preservation Map for Town of Ellington
- Map 9. Farmland Preservation Map for Town of Freedom
- Map 10. Farmland Preservation Map for Town of Grand Chute
- Map 11. Farmland Preservation Map for Town of Hortonia
- Map 12. Farmland Preservation Map for Town of Kaukauna
- Map 13. Farmland Preservation Map for Town of Liberty
- Map 14. Farmland Preservation Map for Town of Maine
- Map 15. Farmland Preservation Map for Town of Maple Creek
- Map 16. Farmland Preservation Map for Town of Oneida
- Map 17. Farmland Preservation Map for Town of Osborn
- Map 18. Farmland Preservation Map for Town of Seymour
- Map 19. Farmland Preservation Map for Town of Vandenbroek
- Map 20. Farmland Preservation Map for Village of Greenville

Concluding Remarks

Thank you for reviewing Outagamie County’s Farmland Preservation Plan for the 2023 to 2033 planning horizon. Questions about the plan, including requests to modify this Farmland Preservation Plan and the associated Farmland Preservation Maps, may be directed to Outagamie County’s Development and Land Services Department. Please note that this Plan as well as Appendix A of this Plan serves as Addendum 2 of the County’s Comprehensive Plan. As such, modifying this Plan’s text and/or maps can only be accomplished via a Comprehensive Plan amendment. In addition, plan text and/or map amendments must be certified by Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Production.



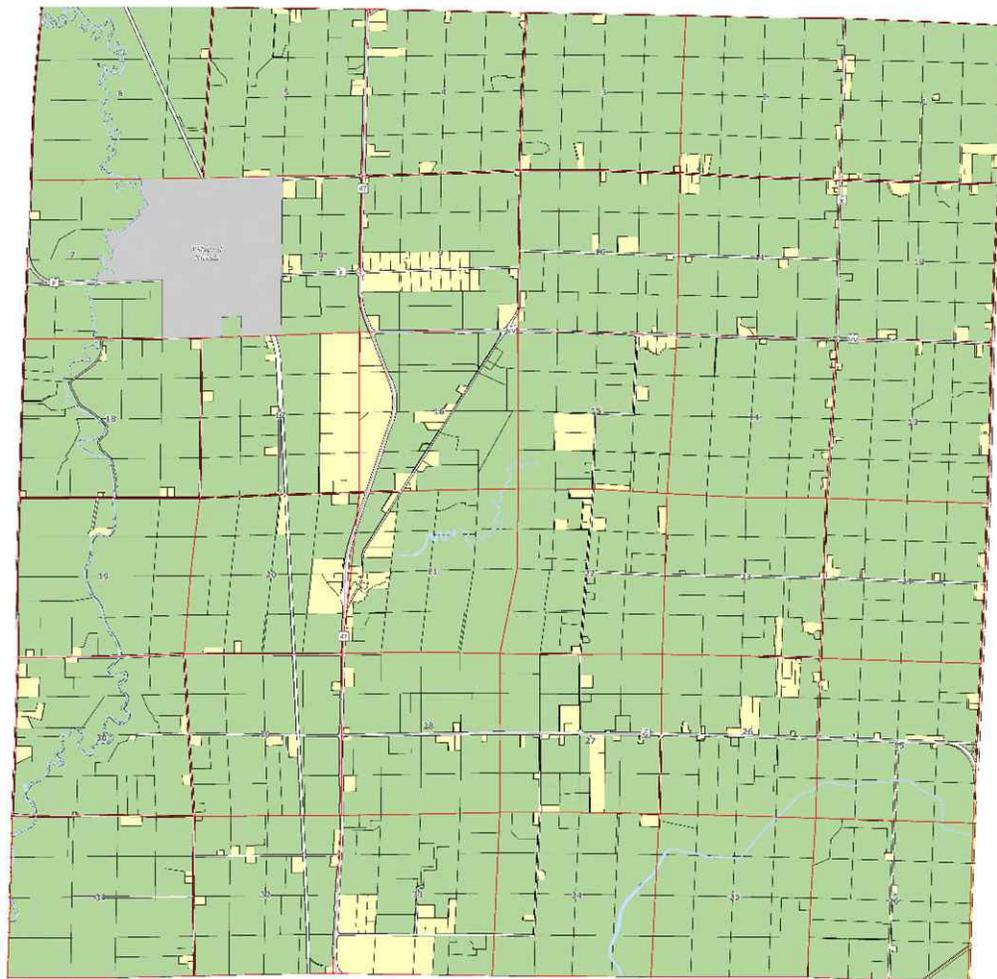


Map 2: Farmland
Preservation Map for
Town of Bovina



- Legend**
- Water
 - Public Road
 - Private Road
 - Power Line
 - 20' Buffer
 - 50' Buffer
 - 100' Buffer
 - 20' Buffer
 - 50' Buffer
 - 100' Buffer
 - 20' Buffer
 - 50' Buffer
 - 100' Buffer



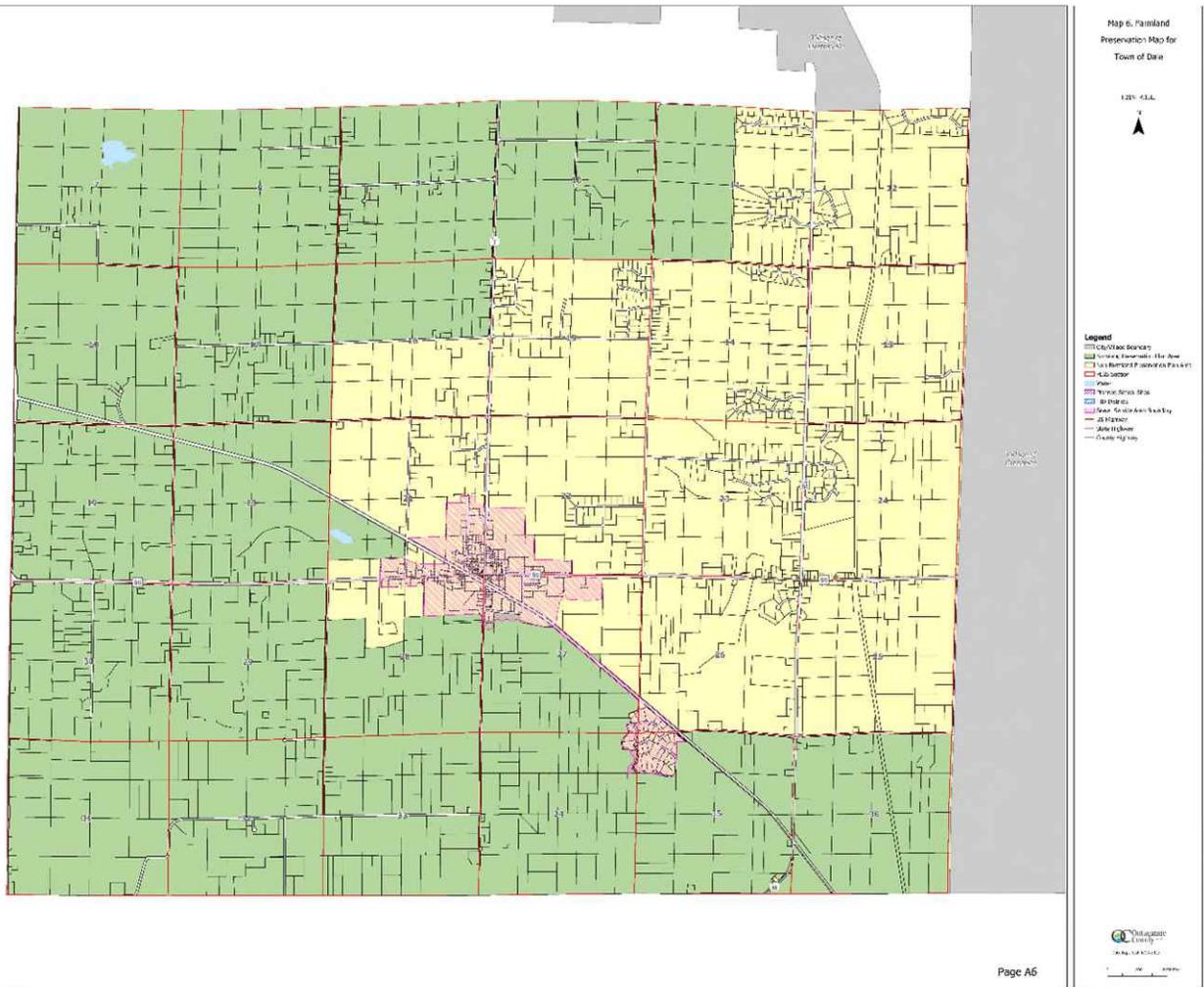


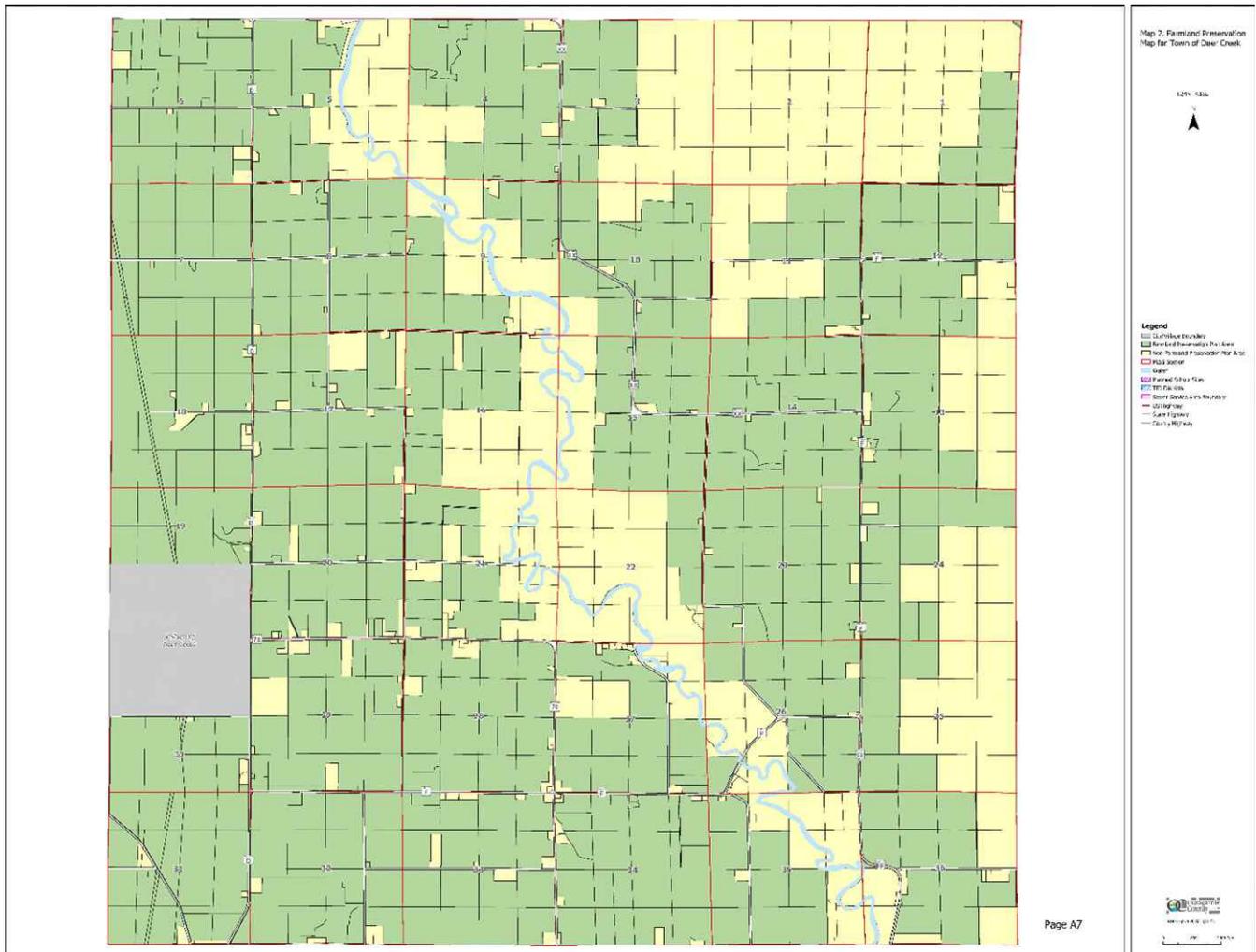
Map 5, Farmland
Preservation Map for
Town of Cicero

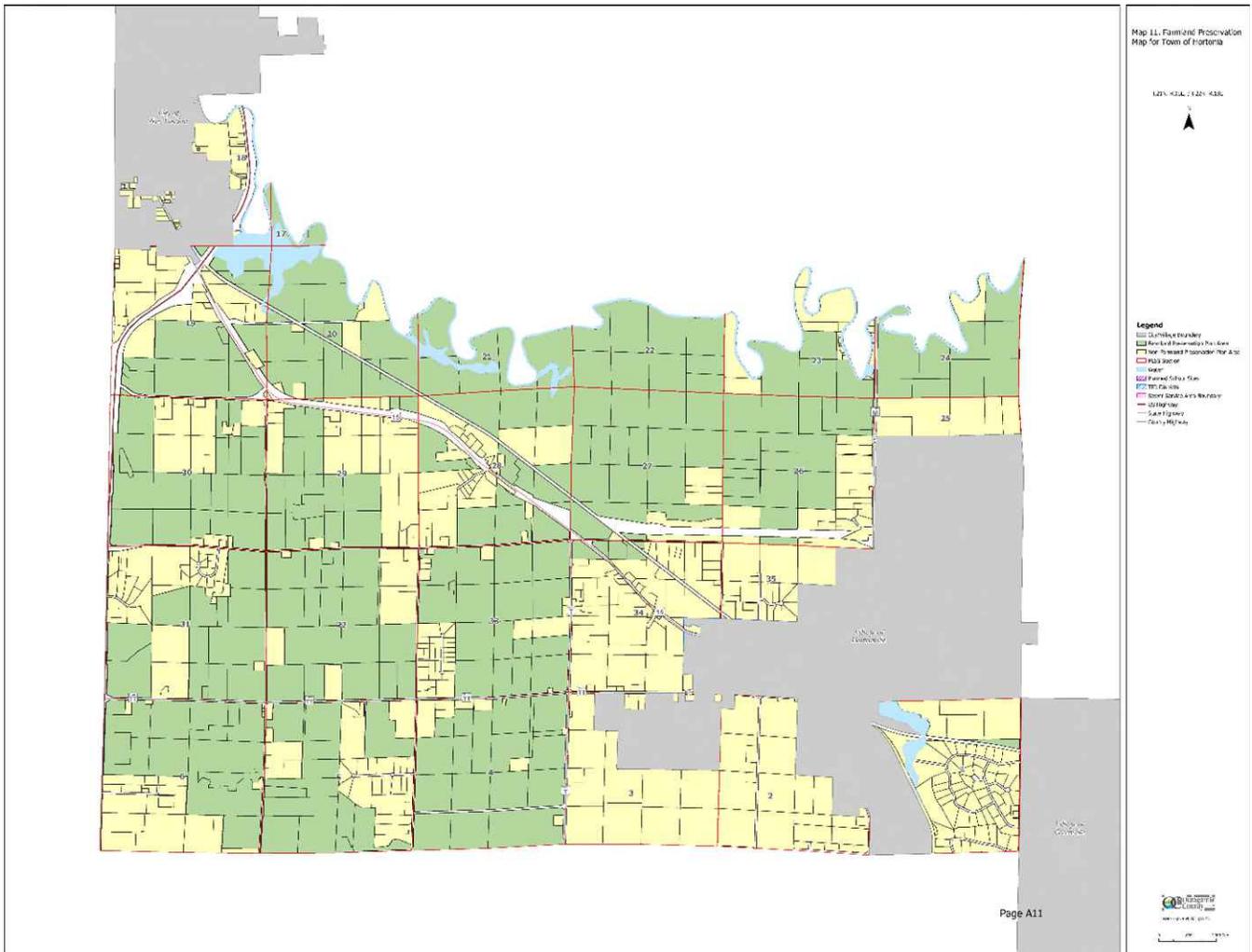
1" = 434'
▲

- Legend**
- Water
 - Public Road
 - Private Road
 - Other Road
 - Other
 - Other
 - Other
 - Other
 - Other
 - Other

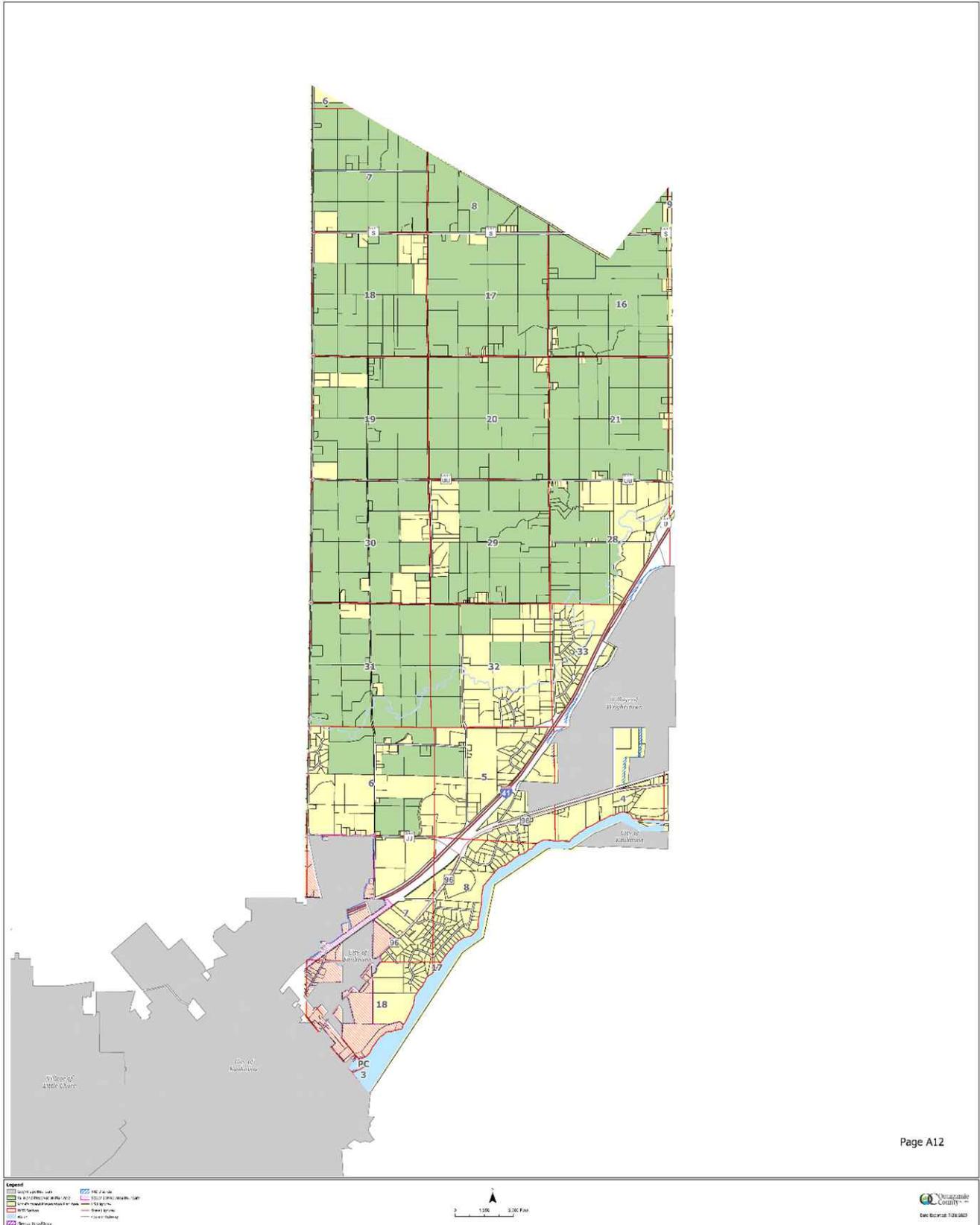


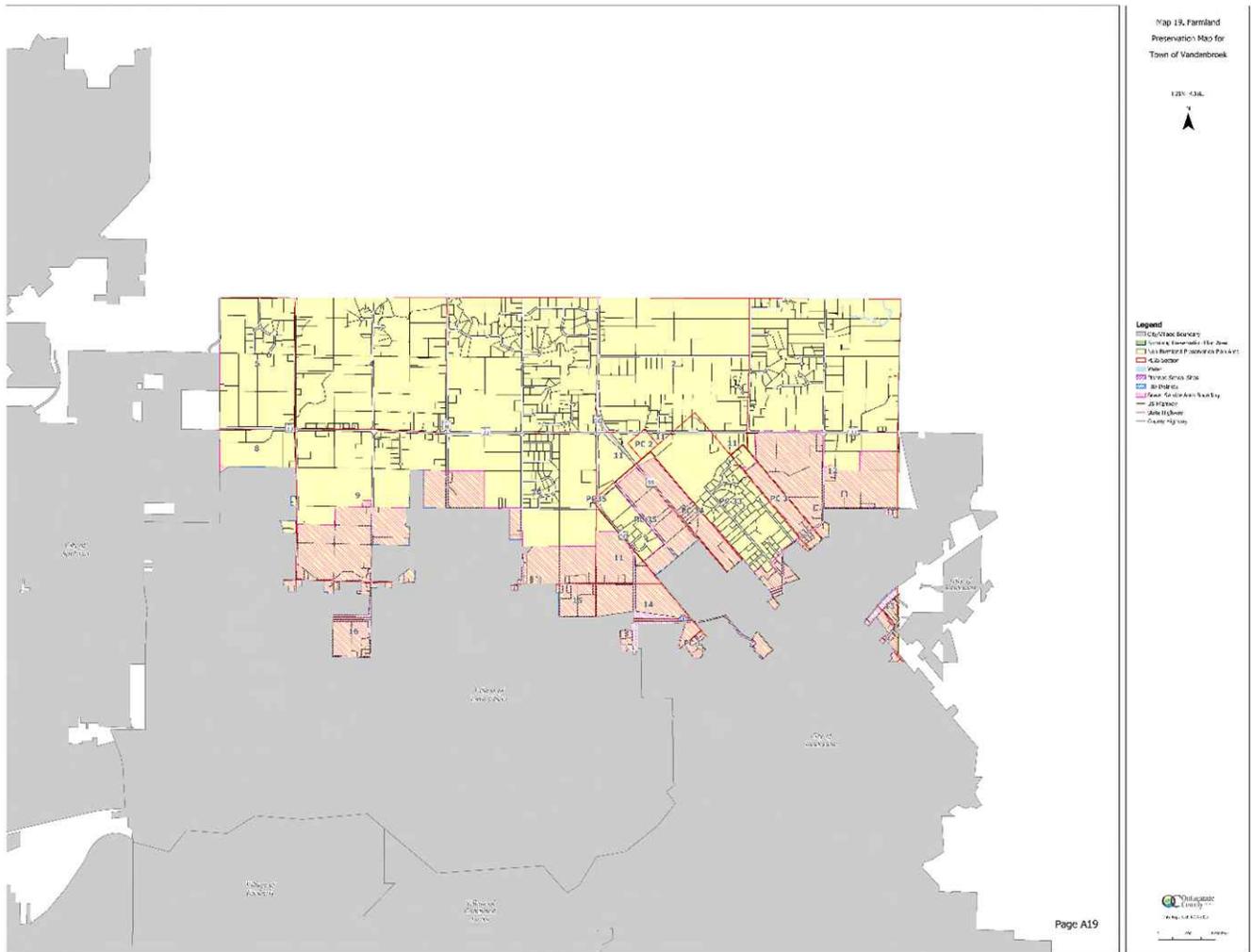






Map 12. Farmland Preservation Map
for Town of Kaukauna
1.22N R.35E / 1.22N R.31E





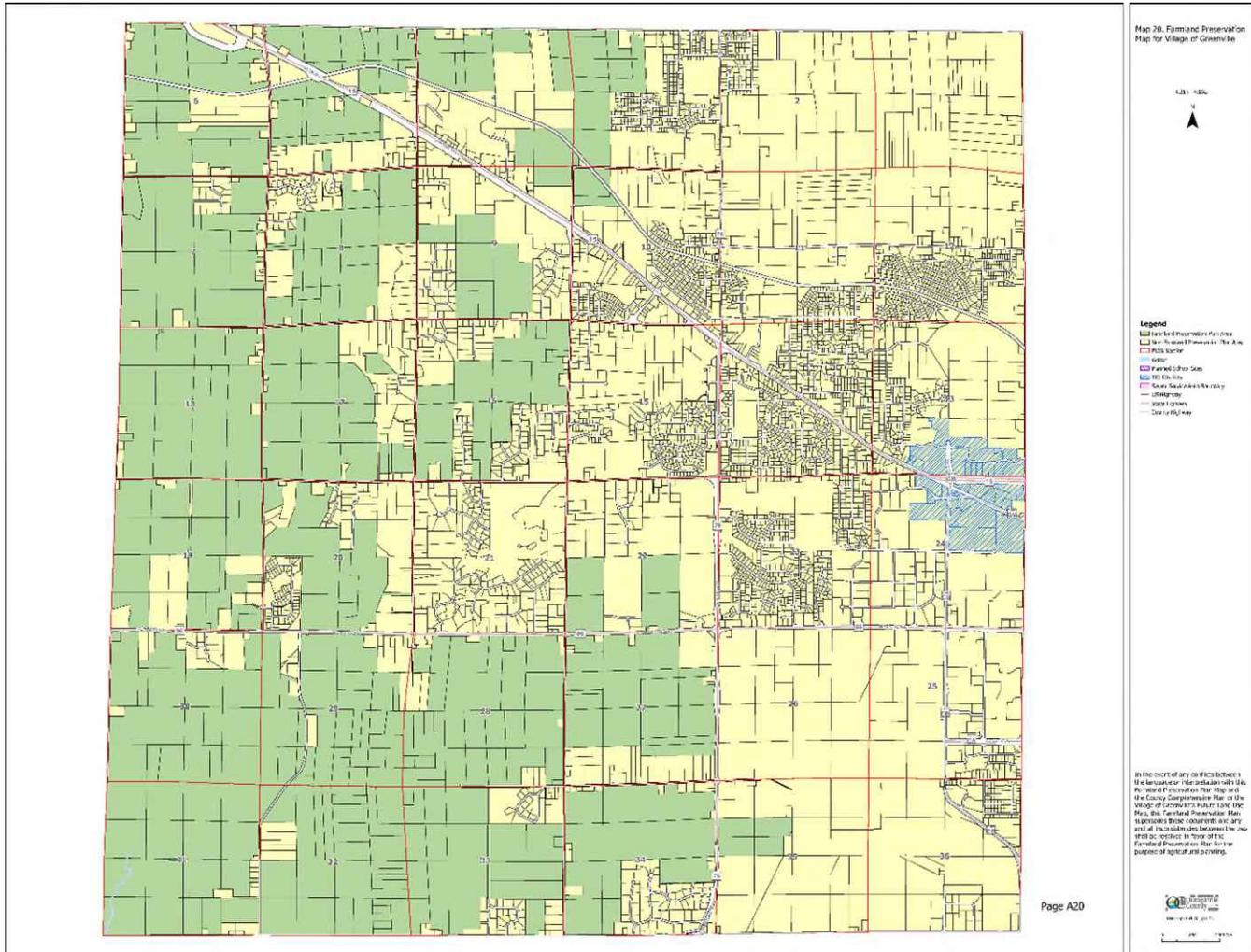


EXHIBIT 2



Farmland Preservation Plan Update: Summary of Outreach and Engagement Activities

Outagamie County's Development and Land Services (DLS) Department updated the County's 2011 Farmland Preservation Plan in 2022 and 2023 for the 2023–2033 planning horizon. As part of the planning process, DLS provided opportunities for public and stakeholder engagement to seek feedback on the plan. This document serves as a summary of various outreach and engagement activities.

OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Project Webpage

DLS created a project webpage on Outagamie County's website to explain the project, post information, and communicate current project status. The webpage is located [HERE](#).

Updates to Stakeholders and Decision Makers

To ensure key stakeholders and decision makers were aware of this project, DLS provided periodic updates at planned meetings. Updates occurred at the following meetings:

- **Outagamie County Zoning Committee Meeting.** On June 14, 2022, DLS explained to the Zoning Committee that they had kicked off an update to the County's farmland preservation plan. DLS explained what the purpose of the plan was, what information the plan is required to include, and the kinds of community engagement that would be conducted as part of the planning process.
- **Outagamie County's Quarterly Town's Association Meeting (1).** On July 18, 2022, DLS explained to the Town's Association that they had kicked off an update to the County's farmland preservation plan. DLS explained what the purpose of the plan was, what information the plan is required to include, and how to provide feedback on the plan. DLS explained that the first engagement activity would be online surveys. DLS passed out handouts with information about how to participate in a survey (see Appendix A for reference).
- **Outagamie County's Quarterly Town's Association Meeting (2).** On January 16, 2023, DLS provided a brief project status update. DLS explained the work to date (e.g., data analysis, mapping and framework development, and technical reviews with DATCP) and when to anticipate the publication of the first draft of the plan for review/comment. DLS asked how Town representatives would prefer to provide feedback on the plan and maps (email was noted as the best option).

Online Surveys

DLS developed two online surveys to gather input early on in the planning process. The surveys were intended to highlight issues and opportunities as well as to inform goals, policies, and strategies to preserve farmland for future generations.

The first survey was developed for agricultural producers and farmers. The second survey was developed for the general public (e.g., Outagamie County residents) and interested stakeholders. Both surveys were live for about two months in July through October 4, 2022. The surveys were advertised at the July Town's Association meeting, through an email blast to each Town, on the County Executive's Facebook page, and on the County's website (as a County-wide news article, as a DLS news article, and on the project webpage). In addition, DLS mailed a postcard advertising the survey to nearly 2,884 agriculturally-zoned properties across the county (see Appendix A for reference).

The survey intended for agricultural producers received 81 responses. The survey intended for the general public and interested stakeholders received 139 responses. Appendix B and C present the results of the surveys.

Direct Requests for Comments

DLS sought targeted feedback on the plan and key elements of the plan at specific stages of the project. The following summarizes:

- **Direct Request to Towns – Review Draft Farmland Preservation Maps.** The County's farmland preservation maps are integral elements of the plan. DLS developed maps using draft objective criteria to vet with Town staff and elected officials (e.g., Plan Commissions and/or Town Boards). Feedback on the proposed, draft maps and criteria was initially solicited in July of 2022 by email. DLS left a voicemail to Towns that had not responded in August of 2022. Comments from individual communities were primarily received from July through September of 2022. Some Towns commented they were okay with the draft maps, some recommended changes, and some chose not to respond. DLS attended two Town Plan Commission meetings at the request of the respective Town to discuss the draft maps.
- **Direct Requests to DATCP – Review Draft Plan.** DLS requested technical reviews of the County's draft farmland preservation from the State of Wisconsin's Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP). DLS requested they review the document relative to best practices and for compliance with Wis. Stats 91. DATCP provided three preliminary reviews of the plan. They sent DLS comments on November 17, 2022 and on January 23, 2023. DATCP did not have any additional comments on their third review.
- **Direct Request to Towns, Public, and Stakeholders – Review Draft Plan.** DLS solicited feedback on the County's draft farmland preservation plan in March and April of 2023. DLS posted the full draft plan and large-scale maps to the project website, emailed a request for feedback to individual communities (clerks or key staff), the County Zoning Committee, key County Department staff. A request for public input on the Plan was also documented on the first page of the County's website.

DLS refined the plan and mapping criteria after each request for feedback based on input received and to ensure the plan was compliant with state statutes.

Public Hearing

Outagamie County is required to include the Farmland Preservation Plan in its Comprehensive Plan under s. 91.10(2), Wis. Stats. To accomplish this, the Farmland Preservation Plan must be adopted as part of a County Comprehensive Plan amendment. As such, a public hearing will be held at an Outagamie County Zoning Committee meeting (October 10, 2023 at 10:30 AM). The public hearing will

be preceded by a Class 1 notice published at least 30-days before the hearing. The County will adhere to other noticing requirements established in Wis. Stats. 66.1001 (4).

Appendices

APPENDIX A: SURVEY ADVERTISEMENTS



The graphic features the Outagamie County logo at the top left. A green banner with white text reads "Farmland Preservation Plan" and a blue banner with white text reads "PROJECT SURVEY". Below this, the text states: "Outagamie County is updating its Farmland Preservation Plan. Updating the plan will allow the County to maintain compliance with Wisconsin's farmland preservation planning requirements (Wis. Stat. 91.10). The update will also allow the County to improve its policies to ensure it continues to **support farmers, preserve farmland** for future generations, and **mitigate environmental and land use conflicts** that have arose in the last decade (or may arise in the future). We want your input! We've prepared two surveys to get your feedback. Select the survey(s) you'd like to take by scanning the QR code or visiting the survey website:

<p>Agricultural Producer Survey If you're an agricultural producer in Outagamie County, please take this survey!</p> <p>https://arcg.is/8aLK9</p> 	<p>Community Survey If you're a County resident or stakeholder, and interested in agriculture, please take this survey!</p> <p>https://arcg.is/bKPPO</p> 
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For questions or more information, please contact Sadie DiNatale Burda, Principal Planner, at Sadie.DiNataleBurda@Outagamie.org.



APPENDIX B: RESULTS OF THE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCER SURVEY

Appendix B presents the results of the agricultural producer survey. A total of 81 participants responded; however, not every respondent answered every question. For each exhibit, the annotation “n = #” represents the number of participants that provided a response to the respective question. Note that, question 2 through 4 were removed for data quality issues.

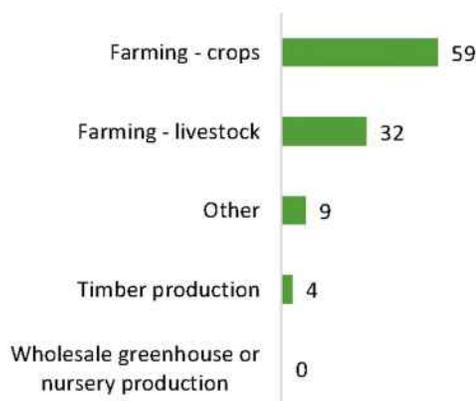
Tell us about your operation.

Question 1: Select the statements that best describes your operation. Check all that apply.

Most respondents describe their operation as crop farming, followed by livestock farming (Exhibit 1). Some respondents selected “other,” and commented:

- CRP CP-21 and CP-22 programs
- Entire property is in NRCS programming for conservation
- Hobby farm
- Mostly fish if fish are not considered livestock
- Rent farmland/farm acres (x2)

Exhibit 1. Type of Agricultural Operation (n = 81)



Question 5: How long has your farm(s) in Outagamie County been in operation?

A majority of respondents (76%) have been in operation in Outagamie County for more than 20 years (Exhibit 2).

Exhibit 2. Length of Time in Operation (n = 80)



Question 6: In the past five years, have you expanded your operation?

Most survey respondents (91%) indicated they did not expand their operations in the past five years (Exhibit 3).

Exhibit 3. Share of Respondents That Recently Expanded Their Operations (n = 80)



Question 7: If you did not expand, what were the primary reasons? Check all that apply.

Exhibit 4 shows that the top two reasons respondents chose not to expand their operations was due to satisfaction with the current size of their operation and the age of owner or operator / nearing retirement.

In addition, five respondents provided other responses. They were:

- I rent out about 17 acres for crops and the rest of the 22 acres is my home and woodlands.
- Ongoing land dispute with adjacent property owners
- Our farm is a [redacted] that has been in the family for more than 130 years. Residential developments have been built on two sides of the farm. These developments largely prevent purchase of contiguous farmland.
- Price of land
- Transmission lines destroying our property

Exhibit 4. Reasons for Not Expanding Operation (n = 70)



Question 8: If you are a landowner, do you currently lease any of your property for?

Exhibit 12 shows that of the respondents who lease agricultural land, most do so for farming purposes.

Respondents were also asked if they leased land for forestry, mining/quarry, or solar/wind farms, but no one indicated they lease land for these purposes.

Tell us about your future plans.

Question 9: How much longer do you plan to operate your operation?

About a third of respondents (32%) plan to discontinue their operation in less than 10 years (Exhibit 6).

Question 10: When you retire, what do you expect to do with your operation?

Upon retirement, almost half of respondents (46%) plan to transfer their farm to family to continue farming (Exhibit 7). Of the respondents who indicated “other,” comments included:

- Continue to lease.
- It is in Trust, it transfers upon death
- Not sure, Give it to a family member after I die? or sell it to the highest bidder if I need the money for the retirement home??
- Possibly place into conservation easement
- Transfer to my family for farming and add an Ag-Tourism venue that would be valued by area residents to visit and enjoy a working farmland setting with its associated wildlife.

Exhibit 5. Leasing Agricultural Property by Type (n = 29)

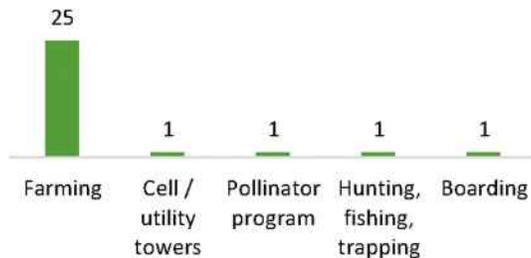


Exhibit 6. Years Respondents Will Continue Farming (n = 77)

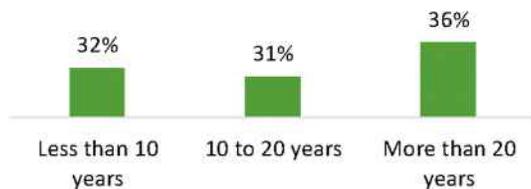
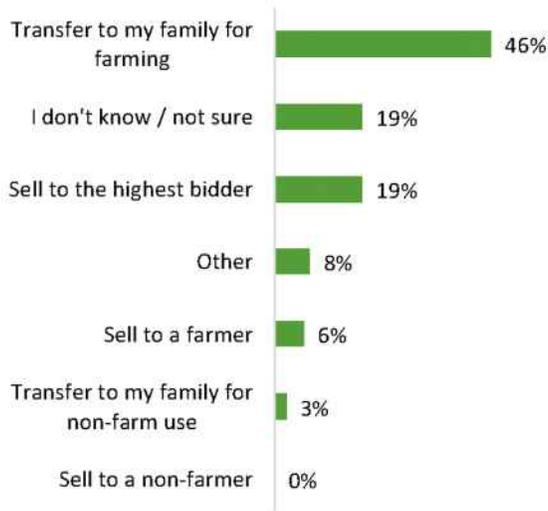


Exhibit 7. Plans for Operation After Respondents Retire (n = 80)



Question 11: Do you currently have a farm transition plan/estate plan?

A majority of respondents (63%) do not currently have a farm transition plan or estate plan (Exhibit 8).

Exhibit 8. Respondents with a Transition Plan (n = 79)



What are the issues and opportunities?

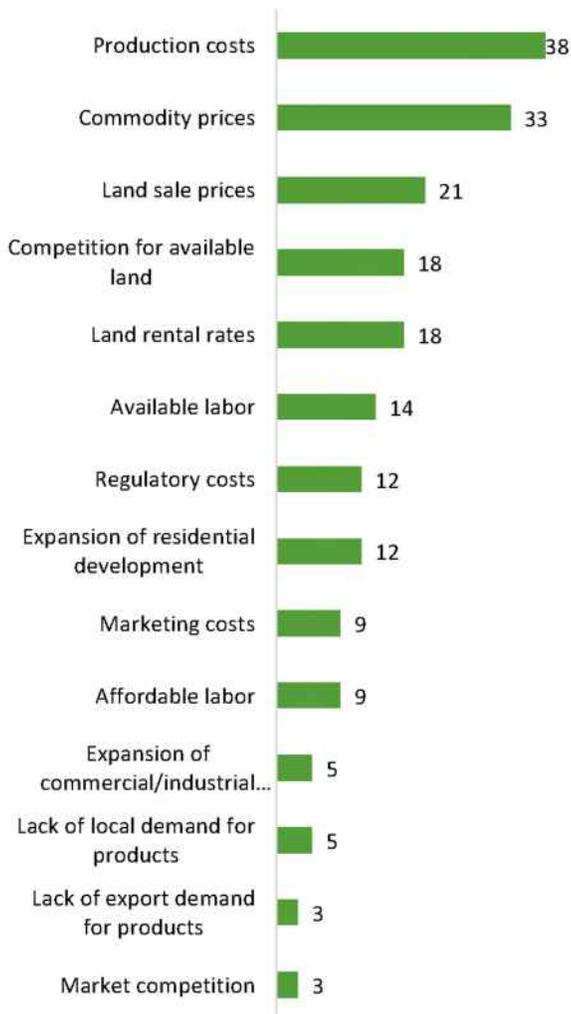
Question 12: Of the issues listed below, which do you think will most influence your operation in the next five years? Check all that apply.

Of the issues listed in Exhibit 9, respondents noted that (1) production costs, (2) commodity prices, and (3) land sale prices will most influence operations in the next five years.

Some respondents commented on other issues that will influence operations. They were:

- age now i am78
- available market places in this area for livestock
- Family support to make next business steps- not immediate family but extended.
- Herd health and mine
- Lack of active farmers within the area that wish to rent farmland.
- My physical ability yo continue.
- Transmission taking more property.

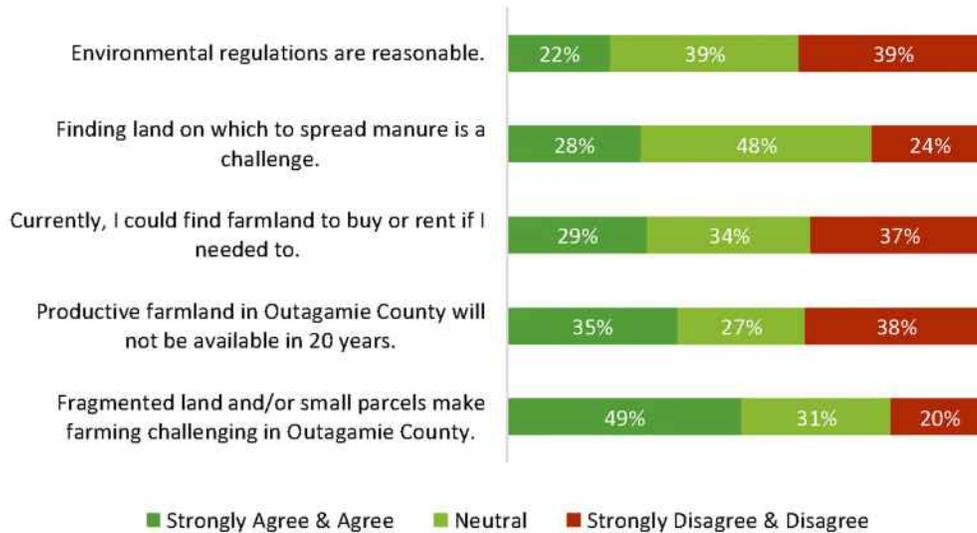
Exhibit 9. Issues Influencing Operations (n = 77)



Question 13: Please check the answer which best represents your opinion of the following statements.

Exhibit 10 provides perspectives on a range of comments the County has heard over the years. For example, DLS has heard that fragmented land or small parcels can make farming challenging; about half of survey respondents agree with that statement, while 20% disagree.

Exhibit 10. Respondent Perspectives (n = 79)



Question 14: What environmental or weather related changes (for good or for bad) are you seeing in the county? How have these conditions affected your operations?

Related to Question 14, respondents provided the following comments:

- More rainfall of over 2 inches in storm and high winds causing damage to crops and building
- Rain and wind, to much rain or not enough causing water problems. Strong winds
- None
- Increase in severe storms.
- None, sometimes there are storms that contain wind and sometimes heavy rain but wether is patterns and we learn make the best of what we recieve
- Invasive species are rapidly spreading- especially along county’s bad state roads which are then spreading into property owners lands.
- no changes
- Wet conditions.
- more rain at one time high winds
- More drought conditions in the summer, wet springs limit getting on the land

- weather is more volatile, the patterns aren't what they use to be.
- Over 70 years I have experienced shorter and less severe winters, more high wind events and seemingly warmer summers. The spring and summers appear to be wetter. The main change observed in our lowland and local swamp wetlands is more water volume having to be handled in/by these areas due to larger and larger water runoff experienced from the expansion over these years of residential and commercial developments with impermeable surfaces such as roads, parking lots, altered drainage patterns and large building structures. This is worrisome from an overall water quality perspective as the same farmland and wetlands as 100 years ago are being asked to process more and more water from residential and commercial areas. This challenges Ag operations, the ecosystems, indigenous wildlife and for clean/purified water to enter our rivers and lake systems.
- less rain and shorter frost would be good for my land
- more rain from storms in shorter time frames and runs off instead of soaking in ground. we have a creek on our land and it overflows and floods our crops. Ditches and creeks need to be maintained to keep the water in the creeks and not flood fields because your neighbor won't clean out his creek. Township have to work together and not just drain the water to a different township and say not our problem.
- more intense rain and wind events
- The swings in weather is devastating. We have to spend more time and energy combatting the effects of wide swings in weather whether if be rain, wind or temperature extremes.
- more high wind events, more invasive plants and insects.
- Seems like we are getting more and more dangerous weather conditions. We saw a tornado last year miles away and this year one hit just down the road. High winds have always been a concern as we are out in the open. Heavy rain falls and for extended periods of time. These conditions cause white mold, increase in number of insects and difficulty getting in the fields and well as drying time for crops.
- Run off from subdivision flooding after heavy rains.
- I have seen patterns of more or less rain- inconsistencies as well as snow. Hail storms have increase.
- More high winds/ excessive rain events
- Lack of snow cover in the winter
- extreme weather events
- Warmer and wetter later in fall...Colder in spring
- Drainage changes due to people doing things they shouldn't be.
- None
- Higher rain and bad drainage, others running water onto my land.
- "Water run off from existing/new developments depositing their run off on to my land. The
- lack of Erosion control from the Town of Ellington and Outagamie County is a problem and it has created area's of wetland on my property. "

- Wetter springs, wetter falls
- Weather extremes
- It has been warmer and wetter. The wetter Spring weather makes it stressful to get things planted but generally the weather makes for better crops if it can get planted in decent conditions.
- Everything has a pretty good balance as of the last couple years.
- Excessive rainfall makes for harder planting and harvest. While also making maintaining pastures for livestock very hard.
- The issue of non native plant species and insects. Not enough CRP.
- More or less rain
- high winds, rain causing soil erosion, difficulty getting in fields once ground warms
- Planting season is longer
- EAB
- Seems weather is becoming more sever in all regards.
- I have 5 acres of farmland (other than wooded) that I entered into a buffer agreement to help reduce pollution in the Plum Creek Watershed.
- Longer warmer summers.
- Drainage boards and zoning is so screwed up and has no real understanding of water problems. Sitting in office and reading from text books has long passed.
- unknown
- I am not finding any of these items to be an issue.
- None
- Weather
- Rain in the spring, and early frost

Question 15: In the past five years, what conditions have you experienced, if any? (Check all that apply)

In the past five years, over half of respondents experienced high energy costs for operations and increased home or farm insurance costs.

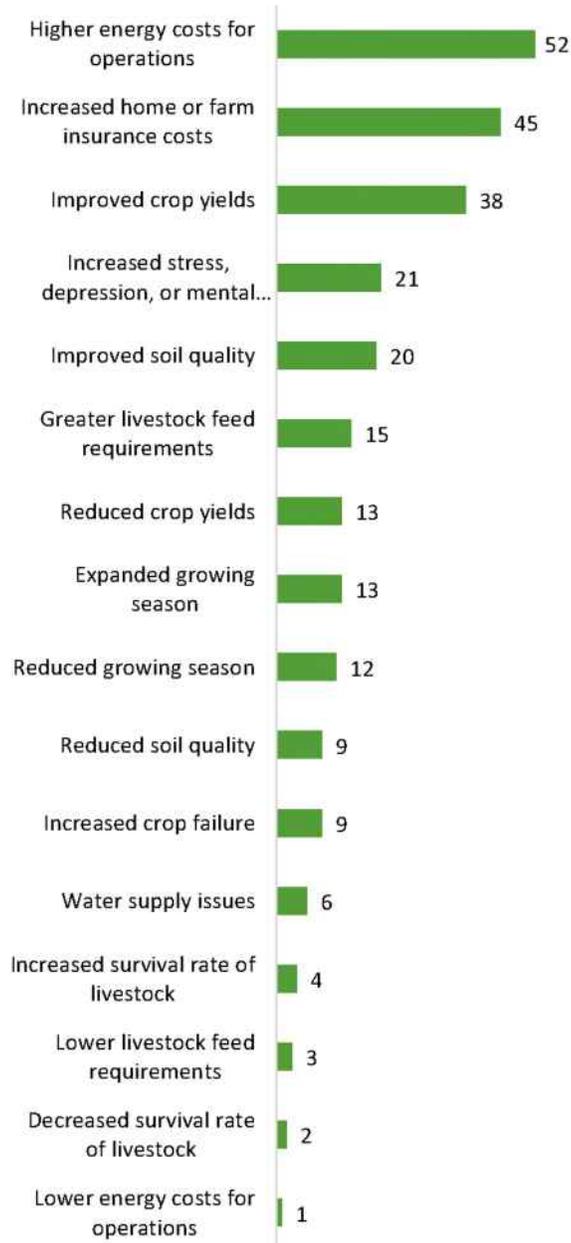
More respondents indicated they experienced improved crop yields in the past five years, compared to reduced crop yields.

Slightly more than a quarter of respondents experienced increased personal stress, depression, or mental health struggles in the past five years.

Some respondents commented on other conditions they experienced in the past five years. Those conditions were:

- Increased expenses which are making all farming operations a challenge.
- It is becoming more difficult to handle surface water runoff on our farm that enters it from neighboring lands and two residential developments that boarder our farm.
- While we see a longer growing season due to weather extremes we actually see a shorter growing season - more stop and start or do over.

Exhibit 11. Conditions Experienced in Past 5 Years (n = 77)



Question 16: What are one or two threats to agriculture, forestry, and/or agribusiness that you see in Outagamie County?

Related to Question 16, respondents provided the following comments:

- Cities expanding in rural areas
- Agriculture being forced out. Like to see more farms in Outagamie county. Average is being used for sub divisions on land that was used to grow crops.
- Labor shortage and unreasonable land prices
- Farmland being used for homes.
- A monopoly with the larger farms that are making it more difficult for the small or hobby farmers to succeed. Outagamie County Drainage board is applying more taxes to property owners.
- Cover crops
- Houses in the county . Don't think manure should be applied to fields
- Low commodity prices compared to the cost of energy, seed, fertilizer & chemical sprays
- Development Carbon sequestration
- Encroaching suburbia
- governmental overregulation
- Lack of farmers willing to lease, especially small parcels.
- increasing land development for homes,
- The cost of land becoming cost prohibitive for farming
- Urban sprawl Corporate Dairy/crop operations
- Without active farmland preservation policies in place, such as Purchase of Developmental Rights (PDR) programs and permanent protection of farmland through agricultural easements, we will see more and more productive farmland sold for residential and commercial development until little to no agriculture nor its support agribusinesses will be present in the county. Sound/aggressive Ag policies should be adopted by the county, its villages and townships that encourage and enable young folks interested in farming to be able afford to enter into productive farming and earn a good living without fear of development pushing them out of business.
- people not working together to benefit everyone. Everybody is out for themselves and heck with the other guy. we need some laws or regulations so people can't just drain their water on your land and flood you out so they get better crops. we have a guy that rents land next to ours and plows furrows in his field and drains the water on our land and there is nothing I can do, unless I spend a lot of money and build a burm to stop the water, This isn't right.
- Nonfarm pressure for developement . Nonfarm residents don't understand modern farming.
- residential sprawl

- My personal threat is the fact that aquaculture is not recognized as agriculture nor do we get any recognition in the farmland preservation scheme. Totally ignored. Yet we can raise more per acre and have a huge impact on reduction of imports.
- Transmission lines fragmenting forests and transporting insects and and invasive plants throughout the county. Horrendous trimming that leaves trees dead and dying at right-of-way (ROW) edges. Inability to use the ROW because it is mowed and the soil is compacted every 3-4 years. This all has taken a terrible toll on the wildlife and pollinators. Climate change is beginning to weaken vegetations resistance to disease and its ability to regenerate.
- Small farms being pushed out or forced into retirement. Safety issues to farmers because of rules that are put into place for one species but not another.
- Increase traffic on county roads over the past decade.
- Solar and wind farms
- developments and cost of algaculture supplies. Increasing of demands, less available farms and laborers.
- Farmland preservation rules have not been enforced in the past. This caused lots of farmland to be built on in a disorganized fashion wasting tillable acres. Solar farms are going to take some of the best producing land out of production.
- Farmland is being lost to city slickers at a high rate which is causing land prices to skyrocket and making it unaffordable for guys like me
- Solar farms on prime farmland. We have a concern about that in Maple Creek. While renewables are good in the right situation, not on good farmland, runs counter to goal of Farmland Preservation.
- Subdivisions
- Residential expansion
- Drainage issues
- To many regulations. Allowing to much development.
- Residential areas are buying up too much farm land.
- Loss of farmland to urban sprawl, power line, and road building. More diseases and insects in forests.
- Lower margins dictate a need for higher volumes which decreases quality. This in turn leads to an increase in land and capital costs. This makes it difficult for a younger generation to get into farming without some type of mentorship / business transfer.
- property taxes to high
- City people moving to the country and complaining! About smells, dirt on the road. Expansion of sub-divisions taking crop land away
- Urban Expansion
- Loss of farmland due to housing developments. Challenging to transport equipment on roads due to younger generations not understanding or knowing anything about agriculture.

- Increased acreage going to the creation of subdivisions. However, I can't blame a farmer for subdividing his land when the crop prices have not been keeping up with inflation for MANY years. The costs of seed/fuel/fertilizer are far outpacing the returns on said crops.
- Costs, crop diseases
- The family farms selling off large chunks of land to commercial growers who can produce more, cheaper, and they have capitol to keep up when the family farm has less resources Commercial farmers growing GMO food using chemicals like glyphosate, poisoning our ground and the surrounding water sources
- Urban area expanding
- Urban sprawl
- Disappearing farm land.
- Urban sprawl.
- Government regulations and Drainage board stealing land
- Input costs and labor
- Too many houses being built on productive farmland.
- Low prices and housing.
- When a 20 acre lot can be bought cheaper than a city lot this allows agriculture land to be bought for housing. These same people have a reduced property tax than in the city.
- Loss of farm land.
- Larger dairy businesses pushing the smaller dairies out of business and killing the dairy market.
- Reduced labor force. Weather conditions.
- Too many people moving to the " country ", but wanting city benefit s
- Housing developments

Question 17: What are one or two opportunities that exist for agriculture, forestry, and/or agribusiness that you see in Outagamie County?

Related to Question 17, respondents provided the following comments:

- Use Value for farmland to keep taxes down and Farmland Preservation
- Like that people buying small acres of land are growing produce. It might help them to understand the challenges farmers face. Education helps.
- Farming bees.
- Tourism and recreation
- market crops directly to large dairies
- plenty of labor needed on the big farms The need for affordable repair of equipment is big, but it's easier and more lucrative to work a mill job"

- I believe that Ag-tourism has great possibilities for the region and when coupled with an active farming operation can be a great resource for all residents. Farm to Table, educational opportunities for young folks, saving rich soil resources for the future, etc.
- small scale local sales of produce or livestock
- I see a tremendous amount of support (and subsidies) for crops and products that generally are produced in surplus and are normally operating in the red. The County and State have an opportunity to support (not even with money, just support) for commodities such as fish which are in high demand and in the black.
- I don't see forestry as being very viable since its value is dependent on the timber world market, while it's other attributes as a carbon sink, earth cooling and biodiversity properties are largely ignored.
- Grants and programs if needed.
- None that I can think of.
- Farmland Preservation
- Increasing demand for product need. More stability and education growth to operate on smaller resources.
- I don't see any
- Regenerative homesteads with smaller operations but wider varieties of livestock and crops.
- Consumer demand for local products
- More opportunity to fail bc of local government. City people are now getting on town boards and do not have the experience to work with the local farmers and their needs.
- Ag tourism
- A lot of farmers are going to be retiring / passing away in the next 5 to 15 years. Now is the time to encourage young people to learn about agricultural careers. Now is the time to start to transfer knowledge from experienced farmers to beginning farmers.
- Not much opportunity
- Growing more organic crops.
- Organic with locally grown food stores.
- Maintain farm land
- Family farms being able to sell directly to the consumer and people are beginning to see how much better food grown sustainably can change and hopefully reduce the effects of mass farming on our environment and it just tastes better!!!
- Being small you don't qualify for any thing
- Building large greenhouses.
- I am excited for the Manure Digester going in in Southern Brown County, 3 miles east of our house. I expect this to have a positive effect on the smell in the area and the mud and manure on the roads, besides hopefully being positive from a business and environmental perspective.

- farmland available in our area
- I don't see any.

Question 18: Do you feel that Outagamie County supports the protection of farmland and agricultural operations?

Exhibit 12. Perspective on the County's Support (n = 77)

About half (51%) of survey respondents felt that the County supports the protection of farmland and agricultural operations and about half (49%) did not.



Question 19: How could Outagamie County better support the protection of farmland and agricultural operations?

Related to Question 19, respondents provided the following comments:

- By slowing cities from expanding their boundaries into rural area by buying one farm and then forcing the farm they could not buy forcing it to sell to the city they should not be able to do that
- By supporting dairy farmers with better milk prices. Keeping prices up for dairy and crops. How can farmers plan with prices fluctuating for the planting season.
- Restrict urban sprawl, reduce taxes on farmland. No cows attend school, so school taxes should not be on farmland.
- Keep the DNR and Water board away from us.
- Stop urban sprawl
- Less regulation on farmers
- Don't, it's up to the land owner. If the farmer works his whole life to pay off his or her far it's their choice what to do with it weather it's development or selling to another farm
- Give more assistance to beginning farmers- to navigate the various rules and regulations to create a business.
- wider roads for equipment and bikepaths
- limit farm size limit 35 acres and a house.... end up with two 15 acre fields with a house and driveway in the middle.... and probably a pond for mosquitoes.
- Develop effective marketing strategies that inform the general public of the importance of agriculture in their daily lives and thereby gain financial support for permanent farmland protection and promote Ag operations, no matter where such an entity would lie within a communities' boundaries.
- work with people so everybody has the same opportunities to grow crops, Fix the drainage issues, make people maintain there drainage creeks, don't allow others to drain water on others property. Outagamie county talks alot but I don't see much action.
- Don't allow rural subdivisions

- restrict new developments
- As noted above
- Wooded property could be taxed at a lesser rate. Powerline property should not be taxed at all until we are allowed to grow woody crops (fruiting shrubs, small trees, and raspberries, for cripes sake, that nowhere near approach the lines but in fact protect both lines and forests on either side of them. This is considered a good maintenance practice.
- If a farmer has a good record with the state and federal inspections, then the farmer should be able to operate as he or she wishes and not have rules placed upon them because of another farmer "breaking the rules" as well as continually having to fill out paperwork to verify we are still in good standing. Ex. tail docking and animal safety.
- More awareness to growing need for farming. Grants and scholarships to improve farming and upcoming youth. Financial backing to future generation farmers that would need support in creating a farm. Community resources to do support arming on a smaller scale, bees, vegetable crops, general crop farming.
- Target the farms that over apply nutrients. We all know that cafo farms soil tests continue to go up yet they are given a free pass to over apply manure year after year. Why are cafo dairy's always given priority in all programs when they are the worst polluters. If you expect to be taken seriously in your conservation efforts stop rewarding bad actors with a constant flow of program payments.
- I got pulled over by a outagamie county cop while in a tractor when I was on hwy 47 because cars were unable to pass for a 5 mile stretch, the general public seems to have a strong dislike for farmers
- Take a position against large scale solar farms on prime farmland.
- Stop allowing farmers to spread their manure so rediculously....Stop the mega farmer....Reward local small farms
- Stop letting Appleton annex further and further north.
- Stop residential building
- Have more people in charge that have experience in farming and land preservation.
- Promote as many ways as possible of getting youth involved with agriculture. Provide incentives and opportunities for experienced farmers to work with youth.
- lower property taxes
- Stop building on farmland
- Designate properties as ag only in the future.
- Try to get more people to get in the program and understand why
- I believe low interest loans, education and help planning how to transition to more permaculture farming
- Help small farmers
- Restrict the building of non farm homes

- Better urban planning to avoid track homes that eat up farm land much more than necessary to provide housing. More compact housing developments with integrated businesses would improve land use, decrease car use, and increase social interactions.
- Organizing open houses with environmentally conscious farmers like [redacted] in Southern Brown County.
- Listen to more than the big farmers. Not one plan fits all.
- regulate the transition of farmland to subdivisions and housing.
- Stop letting people build homes on farmland
- There is NO hope for farmland in Outagamie. Only way to stop this land steal is to Tax parcels larger than 1 acre that was previously farmland within last 10 years at a very high rate.
- Stop handing out building permits to large dairies, even when the townships vote against it.
- Farm price have to keep pace
- Stop letting people build out in the country

Tell us about yourself.

Question 20: Is farming/forestry your primary occupation?

About 60% of respondents indicated that farming/forestry was their primary occupation (Exhibit 13).

Question 21: What percent of your household income comes from farm/forest operations?

About half (52%) of respondents earn 25% or less of their income from farming/forestry (Exhibit 14).

Question 22: What is your age?

About 61% of respondents were aged 60 years and older (Exhibit 15). Eighty percent were aged 50 and older.

Question 23: Are you aware of the Farmland Preservation Tax Credit program?

About 37% of respondents were not aware of the Farmland Preservation Tax Credit Program (Exhibit 13).

Question 24: Do you receive farmland preservation tax credits?

Although 63% of respondents were aware of the Farmland Preservation Tax Credit Program, only 43% were enrolled in the program (Exhibit 13).

Question 25: Do you have acreage enrolled in an Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA)?

Of the respondents, 15% had acreage enrolled in an Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA), (Exhibit 13).

Exhibit 13. Respondent Info (n = 79)

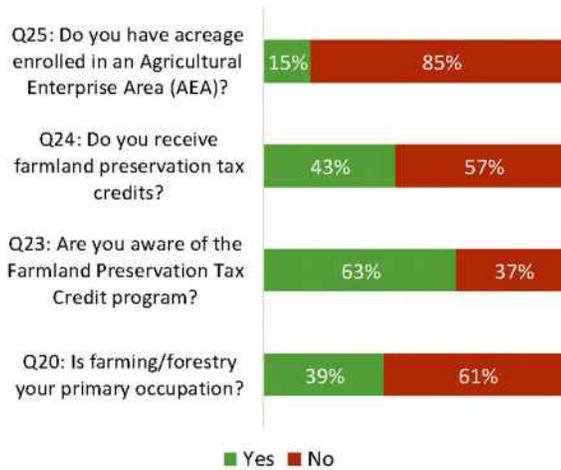


Exhibit 14. Percent of Respondent Income from AG Operations (n = 79)

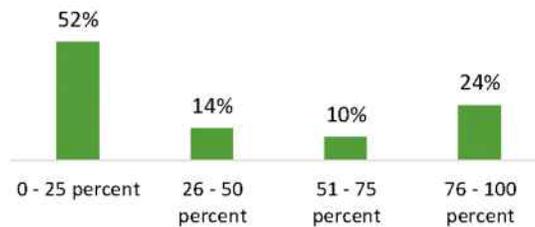
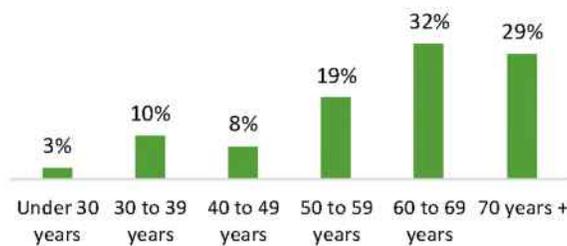


Exhibit 15. Respondent Age Distribution (n = 79)



Final thoughts?

Question 26: Do you have any final thoughts or comments to share with us?

Related to Question 26, respondents provided the following comments:

- Rent acres. Not eligible for preservation plans.
- Why are we in farmland preservation, exclusive ag? The land has been in the family for 50+ years and my parents who owned the land prior to passing it on to me, had opted out of exclusive ag. But we have it, how is that possible? This has caused issues for my daughter from being able to build on an acre of land here.
- Thanks
- Forcing us to have our land in the farm preservation de-values the land! The only people who would be interested in purchasing the land, (in the preservation area) are other farmers, who want the land at average, (or below the average) farm prices. The farmers around here are getting such low commodity prices that they can't pay the going price for land that is just one mile away from the city limits or two to five miles away from the developed areas. So the average farmer retiring in the farmland preserved areas are limited to selling to the local farmer, (who (again) are only willing to pay low farmland prices). There is no help from the local or national governments!! THEY THINK THE SMALL FARMERS ARE DOING WELL or MAKING PLENTY OF MONEY! But that's just not the case. With the cost of energy, seed, spray and fertilizers it's hard to come out ahead in the farming business. That's why you'll see, (& have been seeing) a lot of the small time farms going away lately, it's just the facts!
- We need to learn to work together for drainage, there's obviously going to be more residential areas and that's fine but we all need to cooperate and have a common goal to make sure no one floods.
- Keep supporting the local farmers.
- farmland may be preserved, but it will be operated by a two or three farms in each town. Not progress in my opinion
- I am 79 years old, retired and own [redacted] within the county. I believe it absolutely essential that we as a total community, commit time, resources and serious money to permanently preserve as much farmland in our area as is possible (agricultural conservation easements can accomplish this). We are extremely fortunate in Outagamie County that our soil is rich with little to no irrigation required to grow crops to feed an ever increasing population. As many areas in the rest of the US are experiencing extended drought we are not. We cannot let commercial and residential develop continue unregulated to permanently take rich soil out of production just because entities representing non-farmland development can muster the most cash to buy prime farmland from elderly farmers or just simply wait to do so from those who happen to inherit the farmland and have little attachment to it other than its monetary value.
- Hope this survey results in some action.
- We need orderly development restricted to areas served by municipal water and sewer. I think we should limit lot sizes to preserve farmland and make lots more affordable. How are we going to have any big parcels for schools or industrial parks if we piecemeal all the land close to urban

centers. There is a lot of pressure on farmland from nonfarm uses and I think we need more rules to make nonfarm conversion of ag land more difficult.

- I understand farmland preservation but don't. We know we have to protect farmland but the megafarm era is putting more and more money into fewer hands with more environmental issues. I do not see the need to overproduce which is the result of overfertilization, higher debt to pay off, more subsidies etc. I only responded to this part of the survey because I believe that fish farming (which is what I do) has to be recognized as a viable option. I have been training people for years in aquaculture but until we have the State and County allocate money for trained ag agents no one believes they can pull it off. We have no agents assisting in this process.
- We were in the DNR forestry program but found it to be more harmful than good.
- Stop mega farms....REWARD the small guy...stop allowing manure spread....We only have 1 water source...once contaminated its done
- No. There is not enough space or time to get into that.
- Protect the farmers or this world will go to hell in a hand basket real fast!
- Glad to have a program like this to save the land for crops every thing can't be at the grocery store with out it
- More programs for small farmers
- farmers are getting to much money for programs and manure storage assistance
- Glad you are listening.
- I am on the Town of [redacted] Plan Commission, and we will be reviewing the Farmland Preservation map proposal at our meeting tonight. I don't consider myself a farmer but the forester said I may have the largest wooded area under one owner in the town. I have a total of 25 acres and 15 are in the MFL program.
- There is to much money in Outagamie and poor leadership. There is no hope to preserve farmland.

APPENDIX C: RESULTS OF THE COMMUNITY SURVEY

Appendix C presents the results of the community survey. A total of 139 participants responded; however, not every respondent answered every question. For each exhibit, the annotation “n = #” represents the number of participants that provided a response to the respective question.

What are your thoughts on agriculture?

Question 1 and 3: Please tell us if you agree or disagree with the following statements:

Exhibit 17 (on the following page) shows that a majority of respondents view farming, farmers, and farmland positively. Notably, 84% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that they wanted farming and agriculture to be a majority part of the County’s identity in the future.

About three quarters of respondents indicated the County should do everything in its power to protect and preserve farmland (76%) and to protect existing and support new farming operations and enterprises (75%).

Question 2: How do you support the agricultural economy in Outagamie County? (Check all that applied)

A large share of respondents support Outagamie County’s agricultural economy by buying produce at farmer’s markets, pick-your-own farms, and roadside stands (79%) and by buying plants/trees from local nurseries and greenhouses (75%), (Exhibit 16).

Respondents that selected “other” (see Exhibit 16) provided the following comments:

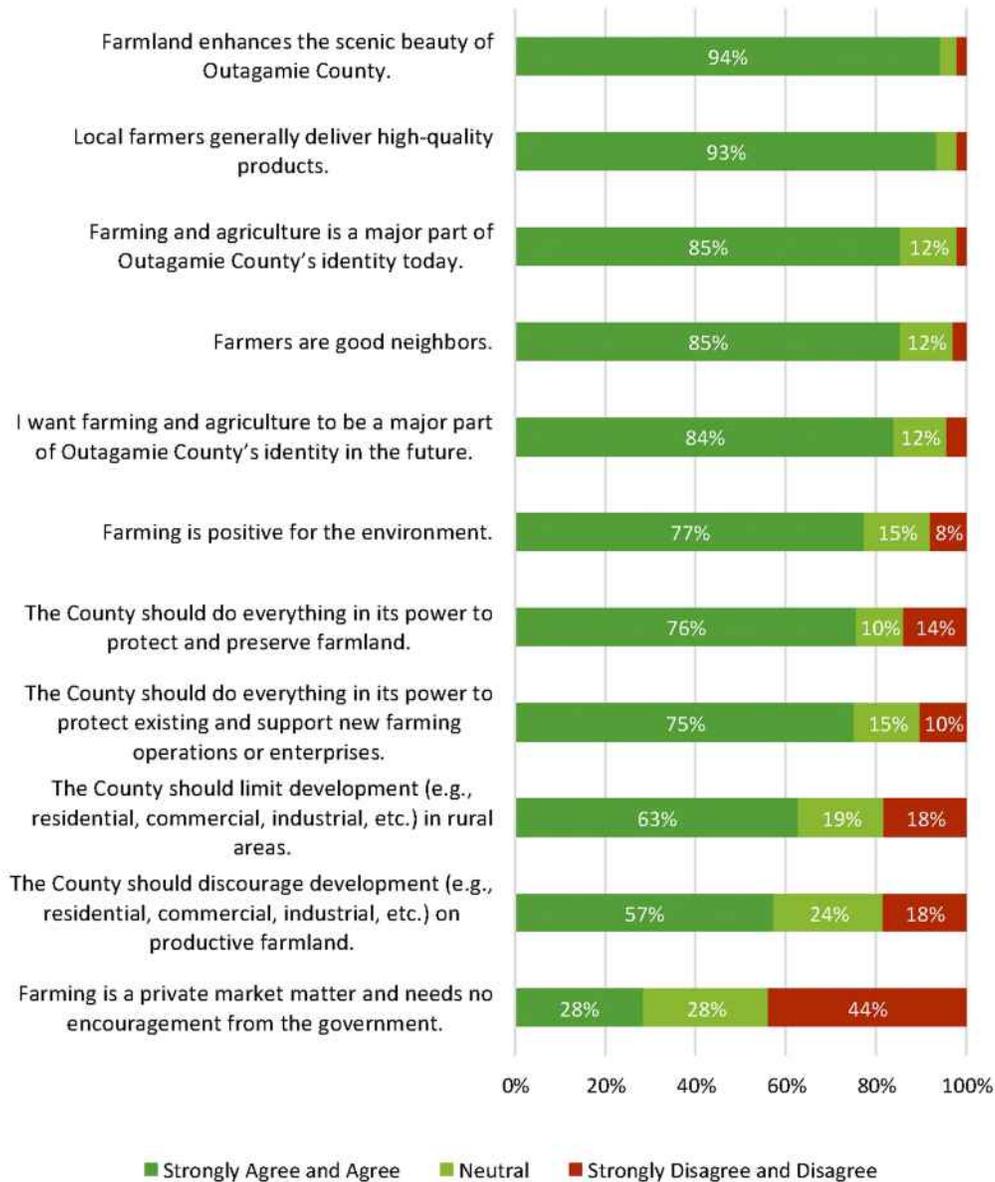
Exhibit 16. Support for Agricultural via Various Activities (n = 136)

Activities	Responses
I buy local produce at Farmers Markets, Pick-Your-Own farms, roadside stands, etc.	108
I buy plants or trees from local nurseries and greenhouses.	102
I buy meat from local producers.	89
I participate in agritourism activities (e.g., corn mazes, pumpkin patches, apple picking, petting farms, etc.)	78
I lease land to farmers.	65
Other	8

- Future of our country depends on open land. Growth is good, but Too much of our green space is being eliminated by going too big eliminating wildlife and insects we need.
- Grow our own hay and our neighbor farmer cuts/bales for us
- Help out a local farmer
- Hobby farm of our own
- I have my own large garden.
- I support farmers who incorporate conservation practices in their operation
- Participate in FSA pollinator programs.

Exhibit 17. Perspectives on Farming and Farmland (n = 137)

Note: Labels representing response ratings of less than five percent are not displayed.

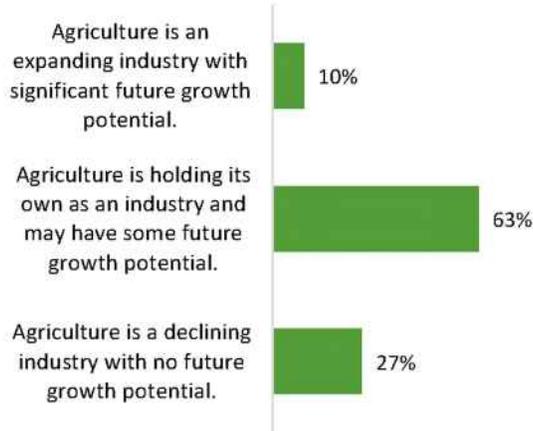


What are the issues and opportunities?

Question 4: Which statement best describes your view of the agricultural industry in Outagamie County?

While a majority of respondents (63%) believe agriculture in Outagamie County has some growth potential, over a quarter of respondents (27%) believe it is a declining industry with no future growth potential.

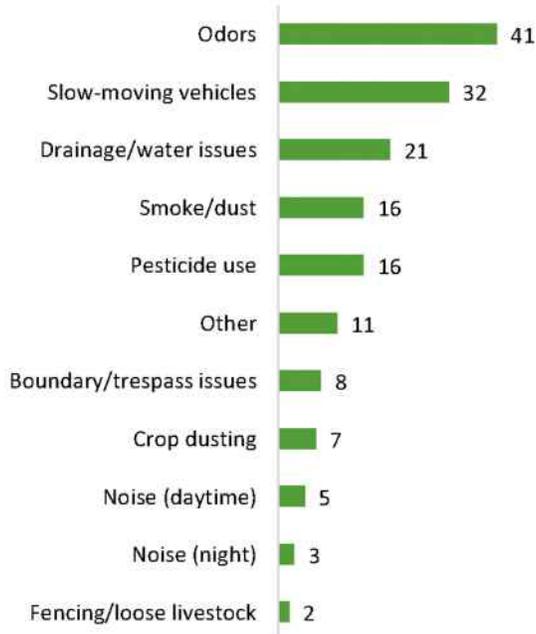
Exhibit 18. View of the Agricultural Industry (n = 135)



Question 5: Have you ever experienced problems with a farm neighbor regarding any of the following? If applicable, check all that apply.

Of the respondents who noted a problem with a farm neighbor (Exhibit 19), odors and slow-moving vehicles were cited as a concern most often.

Exhibit 19. Support for Agricultural via Various Activities (n = 70)



Respondents that selected "other" provided the following comments:

- Crop residue blowing on to adjacent properties.
- Dandelion issues
- Dirt and clumps on the road
- Dirt or mud on roads
- I have experienced some of these - but never a problem
- Leaving large amounts of mud on residential roadways
- Manure trucks, Mud on roads
- Often when they leave the fields they leave a large amount of dirt on the roads which is a nuisance.

- Roadways full of manure and mud during harvest and emptying of manure pit. Only one farmer in the are that actually doesn't take care of it. Most are really good.
- Throwing garbage (tires from their equipment) onto our property- called sheriff- he had county crew clean up the 30+ tires but even though they stated who did it (similar previous issues) did not prosecute

Question 6: What are one or two threats to agriculture, forestry, or agribusiness that you see in Outagamie County?

Related to Question 6, respondents provided the following comments:

- encroaching development
- Loss of Farmland to development.
- 1) Excessive government cost-sharing/funding being given to large agricultural producers (i.e., CAFOs), giving these major agricultural producers an even greater advantage over smaller agricultural producers. This is one contributing factor to the decline in small, family farms. Large industrial operations do not need cost-sharing/funding for things such as expanding their operations or manure storage structures. Although, cost-sharing/funding for real best management practices to reduce environmental affects of farming (e.g., nonpoint pollution) is warranted in my opinion.
2) Lack of initiative by the agricultural producers and lack of regulation by County/DNR to protect natural resources (e.g., surface water, ground water, wetlands, forests, etc.). This will eventually cause major issues and animosity between the agricultural community and non-agricultural community, and may result in abrupt regulatory changes that severely affect the agricultural community.
- Too many mega farms with too much waste being put into fields that are heavily sprayed with pesticides and herbicides.
- Farmers selling their land to developers Poor education about agriculture
- Developers buying land to grow housing instead of crops/trees.
- Land development, Farmers not making enough profit, trees being removed for farming or Land development
- city and residential houses have not relationship to agriculture. They once went to grandpa's for the summer. This relationship no longer exists.
- Residential subdivision being built
- People moving to rural areas and thinking that they are still living in the city. Moving to a rural area does not eliminate lifes little inconveniences. It just changes them.
- Random growth
- Subdivisions
- Continuing expansion of new neighborhoods. Enough already! I constantly see cornfield after cornfield being turned into houses.
- New subdivisions popping up everywhere.

- Cookie cutter neighborhoods being built anywhere there is even the slightest amount of room and too many zoning rules keeping people from being able to live the rural life.
- Large-scale vs small-scale farmers. Small-scale farmers need more support.
- Government overreach
- Inflation
- Residential Neighborhoods i.e. new builds
- Higher expenses for farmers compared to prices they get for their crops, milk, etc.. Smaller farms closing down, versus the next generation taking over.
- Developers who want to convert farmland into subdivisions. They can offer so much more money per acre than another farmer can.
- Development of all kinds
- Urbanization, infiltration of folk that lived in cities, then moving country sides complaining about the agriculture around them.
- Surface water pollution (leading to more regulation of the industry) and climate change
- The expansion of residential and commercial buildings and the cost to benefit for farmers especially with inflation
- Increased amount of urban dwellers relocating to rural setting with no understanding or appreciation for the farmer. Water and manure handling.
- Declining farmland Expense to operate (fuel, land rent etc)
- So many subdivisions, etc. Farm land is decreasing at an alarming rate and disturbing so many animals.
- Lack of local and federal support Future generations declining interest in farming
- Too much government involvement
- Continued pollution of waterways by manure and runoff - claimed as accidental yet harmful for years to come and sometimes permanently for wells. Lack of interest from younger generation is taking over family farms"
- Farmers losing options/ choice regarding their property
- Land lost to residential growth.
- The Urban sprawl is horrible. You need to stop allowing subdivisions in the country taking up our great farmlands. We will never get them back.
- selling land to a developer for a housing subdivision lack of financial support during hard economic times
- unpredictable milk prices lack of employee/workers
- Industrial, Residential, Commercial expanding development into rural areas. Commodity prices/input prices for farmers.

- Encroachment onto good farmland. Not properly draining the Mack Wildlife Area/surroundings - destroys crops/crop land due to flooding
- Lack of financial potential driving farmers out of the business, or worse yet they sell there acres for development.
- Residential and commercial development is growing too fast.
- Media's attack on farming as bad for the environment, which is not based on facts.
- Poor prices for product
- Possible urban sprawl. More people = more issues
- Subdivisions ponds are flooding neighbors out and turning woods into lakes. Farmland turned into subdivisions and then the home owners complain about everything from noise, smell etc.
- Federal Government Idiots like [redacted] Local Government Knuckleheads like [redacted]
- The constant expansion of residential neighborhoods. The high cost of farm equipment and low income for products produced is crowding small family farms out of the business.
- urban sprawl , global warming
- Crop destroying insects/pests Uncontrolled expansion of residential and commercial development on farm/forest land Pollution of underground water/wells in proximity of large dairy operations
- Development of the farm land
- the general public's lack of understanding of how, why, where food is produced.
- Changing attitudes towards the agribusiness and news media not helping
- labor shortage
- To much government involvement /bureaucracy restricting change and growth
- Runoff issues for watertable.
- housing takes more land every day. Farmers should have the option to sell their property for housing if they wish to. it is their property.
- Development -Runoff fromSubdivisions
- Disappearance of small family farms.
- How to dispose of animal waste from mega farms & still be a good neighbor"
- Housing
- Housing
- Solar farms and sub divisions
- Growing population/housing
- Over regulation.

- If a land-owner doesn't want residential/commercial business in rural areas, then don't sell to such an enterprise. Imposing restrictive zoning regulations actually don't allow a farmer to pass land, build thier homes on thier own property, etc. Is this a reason for declining agriculture?
- Subdivision expansion
- Residential Growth How farming is percieved by non farm community Unreasonable regulations
- Continued development, as municipalities spread outward
- There are too many subdivisions and apartment buildings being built on agricultural lands.
- Greedy developers only concerned about the short-term
- Residential growth
- Unnecessary housing on increasingly large tracts of land - especially when habitat for native plants or habitat / food sources for native birds / animals is destroyed.
- We are losing farmland forests due to major developments.
- weather
- Size of big farms could become an issue.
- Non-Agricultural development on productive farmland. Farmland being purchased by outside investors with no ties to the county.
- too much Government interference
- when only profit drives use, exploitation results and we ALL loose. Sustainable agriculture is worth protecting, large agribusiness is not. Lack of environmental protections have allowed the "Farming" to ruin what the public once attributed to the profession: clean water, lakes, streams, groundwater... unregulated high-capacity wells rob the natural resources from the rest of the community - one small example
- Rural subdivision developments. Small family farms being replaced by mega farms.
- Land development.
- Hard question. Worry about global warming, but yet land continues to be covered. It's hard to watch progress that seems to be more material than feel for earth.
- Urban sprawl Cost of supplies
- I'm not sure
- Developers targeting farmland/woodlands for development profits with no regard to the monetary impacts they cause on rural township services or the degradation of quality of life enjoyed by those of us who currently live in the country. This also generates complaints from those who choose to move to those developments and think that the farmers need to change their ways as to not impact the new residents.
- Waste and fertilizers
- Large corporate farms that have more rights than people who live in the country. Large farm next to me knocked down trees went through my land and put drainage from field into creek that runs through my property. No silk, just dug out creek to widen at place they put in

drainage. DNR said that while not right they don't do anything to stop farmers from this type of work as it was funded by government.

- land development
- Over-reach by multiple layers of government into private enterprise. Excessive and unchecked regulatory authority
- Rural housing, pond digging,
- Mega farms and well water quality
- City residence moving to farm country and then want to change it to fit there city style life
- Lack of interest because of the long hours and commitment and also the startup expense. Also way too much regulation from county.
- I have not had any problems from farmers on any of the above but have had problems with neighbors in a plot who trespass, cut my trees, and send drainage water onto our property. Outagamie is a fast growing county with a lot of city growth. I think they could push the farmers out to other counties. But a lot of generational farmers are selling out to developments. "
- Cow manure, pesticides and fertilizer contaminating water supplies.
- Urban development.
- Development. There is only so much land available and we all want to use it for different purposes.
- to much land used for housing.
- Urbanization. Government officials too far removed from what farming really is. Families selling farmland because they do not see a viable future in agriculture.
- urban/suburban residential growth onto productive agricultural land increased zoning/local regulation that inhibits agricultural growth/development"
- Land is being bought, sold and developed
- Urban development encroachment. Animal processing shortage for small producers.
- use of chemicals and pesticides and herbicides, there needs to be more promotion and enforcement to use more organic options to protect the environmentmore
- Mostly the sprawl of urbanization. Business, industrial parks, residences, parking lots
- New housing Land being bought by developers
- Allowing mega farms to flood others property including farm lands. We lost several acres of productive farmland and our neighbor lost several acres as well. When The mega farm north of us drained his fields into a neighbors pond which in turn flooded onto ours and neighbors property. They even put in a much larger culvert so more water would flow onto our property. Same mega farmer uses that land, which is a southern sloping field, to spread liquid manure by the truckloads. This is then washed down onto our property. 2. The loss of small, family farms.
- the push for mega wind and solar farms

Question 7: What are one or two opportunities that exist for agriculture, forestry, or agribusiness that you see in Outagamie County?

Related to Question 7, respondents provided the following comments:

- agritourism
- Solar Farms
- Local vegetable, fruit, & meat farming. There are many studies showing that today's consumer wants local produce and meats, but it is difficult to find this in the grocery store. Most of the cropland in Outagamie County is planted with corn, soy, and alfalfa for energy production and cattle feed, not to feed the local population. One thing the pandemic and recent energy prices have taught us is that we, as a country, need to localize our food systems so these major global crises do not (or minimally) affect how we obtain our food.
- I believe that as much as farmland preservation is important so is allowing for the expansion of small towns to add housing. Preventing larger municipalities from annexing land would allow them not to feel the pressures of building more homes in their small municipalities to offset the rising costs on taxes on the residents that remain in the town.
- None that the County provide that I am aware of
- unsure
- there are jobs available that would allow building a relationship with agriculture
- Utilities the land to the full need
- Continue to transition to cash crop for local consumption.
- Grow hemp. A plethora of opportunities
- Preserving some land for farmers today and in the future. Progress is nice but it has gone too far in this area.
- We should encourage and support organic and sustainable farming more as their practices are better for the environment and future.
- Resources & grants to help them modernize and expand.
- Veterinarian Services--I've had trouble trying to find a veterinarian to check out our cat. They are all booked out for weeks!
- Conservation agriculture.
- Education to the public and buy local/support local movement
- Better management of land. Reduced wear and tear on town roadways.
- The equipment is amazing. Lots of subsidies and programs to help are available.
- Not sure
- A good life when working with the land
- A move to electric and hybrid fam vehicles thereby decreasing emissions from idling engines
Investment in UWOC as a research hub for agriculture in NE Wisconsin and the county

- Greater awareness/importance given to food sources.
- Stop the semi loads of manure of the land .and the amount they put on it not three or four loads .They should have to stay at least 100' from streams.
- not sure
- hemp fruit/orchards
- None
- Control flooding by draining [redacted]
- Don't know.
- Locally grown produce and locally raised beef, pork, chicken. More people are paying attention to what they are eating and how those foods are produced. Local farmers have an opportunity to provide this.
- Local food! Possibility in enhancing local economies From an environmental (climate change) approach; climate-resilient infrastructure, water and land management, new technology = better sustainable farming practices
- Tax break on land and farming in general
- Not sure.
- new meat plants
- Knowledge supporting land stewardship and efficient use Marketing - local, national, and international
- wetlands
- By being located near two metro areas I believe agriculture in Outagamie County is poised too locally increase farm to table. Helping reeducate a public that has been very distant from how food get to the grocery store.
- Not Sure
- organic farming Hydroponics Urban farming
- We all need to support the local farmers and be good neighbors. They need to be responsible as well as far as being good stewards of the land.
- Hunting opportunities.
- Designate more rural areas for "pocket parks", within or adjacent to developments in order to encourage places to grow your own food (for those within the developments) and community gardens. Train people on how to raise their own food and give them "ownership".
- Aqua farming, hops, grapes,
- There is still quite a bit of land that has not been built on
- Lumber harvesting, sawmilling
- Maintaining profitability for the farmer
- Cash cropping what is left of our county's farmland

- Local farm-to-table is a huge opportunity in this area
- All are needed
- Increased market for organic / locally grown products- livestock as well as fruits / vegetables. Nurseries and landscaping plants.
- Better land quality
- weather
- The cheese industry
- Expansion into more specialty crops.
- Providing locally grown products
- support small sustainable operations, organic, family run.
- Producing more produce to sell at local grocery stores rather than having it imported.
- Tourism Environmental practices
- I'm not sure about this either
- I believe there has become a greater appreciation for locally sourced produce for personal consumption and restaurant use that could be capitalized on. Not too long-ago local farmers used to grow vegetables for local canning factories, why can't we grow those same crops and send them to the fresh or frozen food markets instead of relying on California and Mexico?
- Large farms with assistance from the government. Farming is important but it is a supplemented business.
- planting trees and going back to natural prairies
- Tie agribusiness goals to responsible development practices
- Jobs in the farming industry trucking, tractor drivers, milking jobs, general labor., logging, if the forestry or land owners replant trees after logging. Manufacturing jobs for new farming equipment.
- Keeping plot sizes large enough to attract Farmers to produce crops
- I feel we have a great farmland preservation program and people willing to help the local farmers with their concerns.
- More demand for products.
- Locally grown products.
- Local food production. Education for non-farm residents. Incentives for non-farming land owners to rent to other farmers. "
- locally sourced direct market agriculture increased conservation practices/programs to sustain and preserve farmland
- Animal processing facilities.
- more farm to local consumer type farmers, buy more local

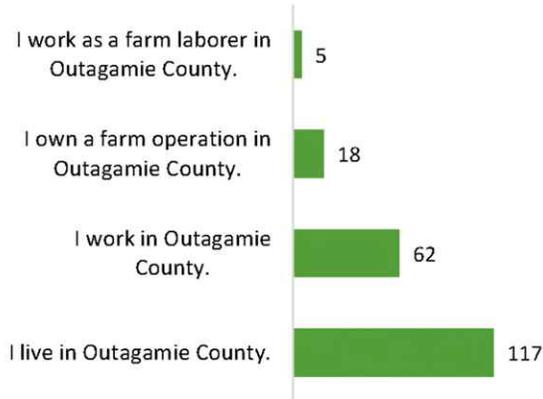
- Try to preserve as much farmland as possible. Make getting into farming a little easier.
- Pick your own apples, etc. are great for the economy. Grants are often needed to make this a reality as trees take several years to mature.
- Small organic farms, more emphasis on farm to table products

Tell us about yourself.

Question 8: What describes you? (Check all that apply)

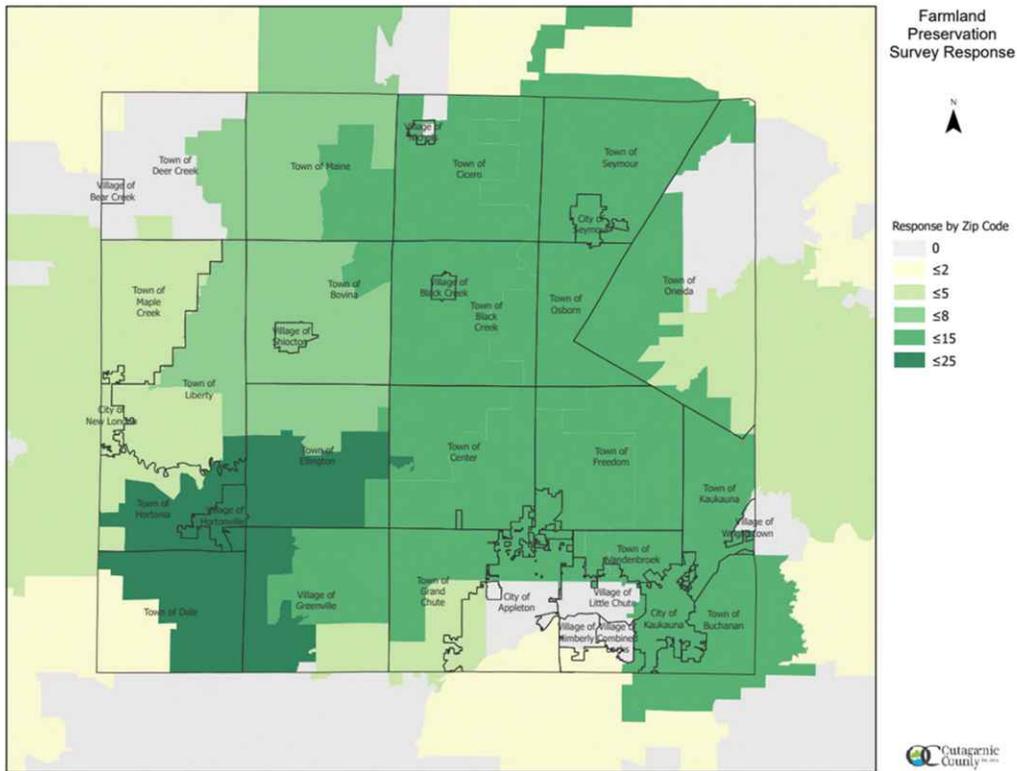
Of the 126 survey participants that responded to this question, 93% were residents of Outagamie County (Exhibit 20).

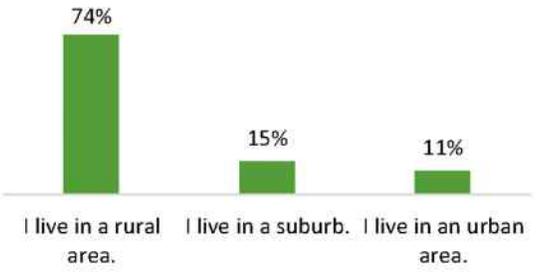
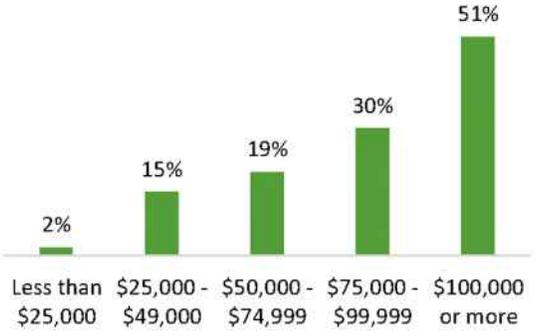
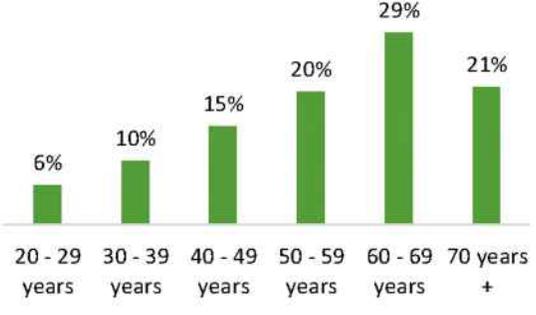
Exhibit 20. Description of Respondents (n = 126)



Question 9: What is your zip code?

Exhibit 21. Distribution of Where Survey Respondents Live by Zip Code (n = 134)



<p>Question 10: How would you characterize where you live?</p> <p>A majority (74 percent) of survey respondents indicated that they characterize where they live as a rural area (Exhibit 22). For a visual representation of where where respondents actually reside, see Exhibit 21.</p>	<p>Exhibit 22. Distribution of Respondents by Community Type (n = 137)</p>  <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Community Type</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>I live in a rural area.</td> <td>74%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>I live in a suburb.</td> <td>15%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>I live in an urban area.</td> <td>11%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Community Type	Percentage	I live in a rural area.	74%	I live in a suburb.	15%	I live in an urban area.	11%						
Community Type	Percentage														
I live in a rural area.	74%														
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I live in an urban area.	11%														
<p>Question 11: What is your household income?</p> <p>About half (51 percent) of the survey respondents had a household income of \$100,000 or more (Exhibit 23).</p>	<p>Exhibit 23. Distribution of Respondents by Household Income (n = 126)</p>  <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Household Income</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Less than \$25,000</td> <td>2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$25,000 - \$49,000</td> <td>15%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$50,000 - \$74,999</td> <td>19%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$75,000 - \$99,999</td> <td>30%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$100,000 or more</td> <td>51%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Household Income	Percentage	Less than \$25,000	2%	\$25,000 - \$49,000	15%	\$50,000 - \$74,999	19%	\$75,000 - \$99,999	30%	\$100,000 or more	51%		
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<p>Question 12: What is your age?</p> <p>Survey respondents were relatively distributed by age, but tended to skew older. For example, Exhibit 24 shows that 70 percent of survey respondents were 50 years of age or older.</p>	<p>Exhibit 24. Distribution of Respondents by Age (n = 135)</p>  <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Age Group</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>20 - 29 years</td> <td>6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>30 - 39 years</td> <td>10%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>40 - 49 years</td> <td>15%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>50 - 59 years</td> <td>20%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>60 - 69 years</td> <td>29%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>70 years +</td> <td>21%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Age Group	Percentage	20 - 29 years	6%	30 - 39 years	10%	40 - 49 years	15%	50 - 59 years	20%	60 - 69 years	29%	70 years +	21%
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70 years +	21%														

Final thoughts?

Question 13: Do you have any final thoughts or comments to share with us?

Related to Question 13, respondents provided the following comments:

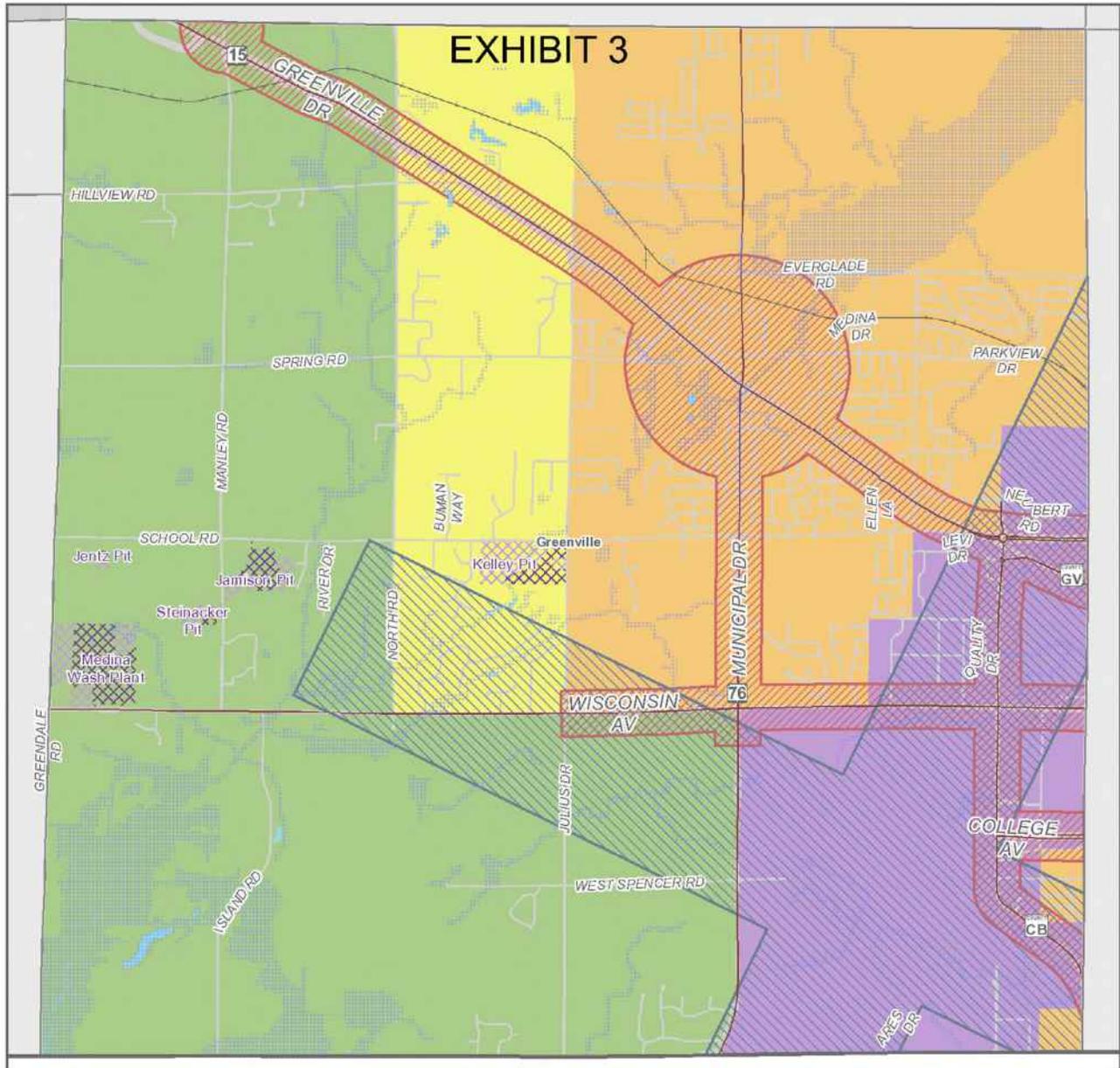
- It is hard to tell a land owner what they can do with their land and should be open to acceptance within reason if they want to build on their land. Example: building a home/shed on farmland.
- I would like to hope that we can see an evolution in our thought of what farming is in Outagamie County. I would like to see an increase in crop diversity, locally grown produce, and protection of our natural resources.
- While I marked that I've experienced odor & slow moving farm vehicles, I consider that to be a normal, seasonal experience for where I live. Farm equipment needs to get where it needs to be and I think my neighbors do their best to allow us to pass if it's safe for all involved.
- Farmland should be kept farmland and owned locally. If you don't live here you shouldn't own it. It should not sold to foreign corporations and entities or [redacted] for that matter. I see the country disappearing and housing taking over, not good!
- Preserve as much land as we can. STOP taking away the beauty of the farmland. NO MORE HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS!
- Though Outagamie county is rooted in farming, the population here is no longer rural sized. We need to support the growth that is our reality.
- Thank you for looking out for our farmers. In addition to their products - their landscapes are also beautiful and an integral part of what makes Wisconsin special.
- Farms are still the future.
- I'd like to see something for tractor traffic. Cars are dangerous to them, tailgating, passing when not safe, we need to help them.
- A Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) program is needed in order for Outagamie County to maintain the remaining rural areas that exist. Possibly encourage more ag-tourism.
- My agricultural neighbors are great stewards of the land.
- Please incorporate conservation agriculture in farmland preservation program
- Farming is a critical part of Wisconsin, Outagamie county and the Town of Bovina. We must continue to find ways to support farming and its evolution.
- Over the years farming has definitely changed and is much harder to get into farming.
- I rent my property and have a no manure to be dumped on it. They can fertilize it and weed control with safe weed pesticides.
- The time to act on urban sprawl is now or we will lose more and more agricultural land every year. We need to stop subdivisions and have a requirement that states you need so many acres of land to build a house on like some of the great townships in the county.

- Farmers need help. Every aspect of their business is expense: equipment, labor, feed, seeds etc. We need to offer more support and keep the farm land. NOT HAVE IT DEVELOPED INTO HOUSING
- Land owners need freedom to utilize their properties as they see appropriate. Less government give aways like farmland preservation!
- Repair drainage ditches/remove beaver/beaver dams from Mack Wildlife Area to Wolf River - stop flooding, improve crop land production
- Farming is integral to Wisconsin and Outagamie County. Prefer to see the residential and commercial development spread limited.
- Better prices, so they can pay me rent for my land.
- We need to save the farm land and I am experiencing farm land going under to subdivisions in the Town Of Grand Chute. There is not a lot of farms in Grand Chute anymore as houses have taken over and we now have major drainage issues because of it
- I grew up on farmland in Outagamie County, which I currently own and rent to a local farmer, but reside in Brown County (Village of Howard). It's sad to drive through the area and see more and more farmland being turned into residential usage. Rows of houses aren't as pleasing to my eye as rows and rows of corn! There's definitely something to be cherished about the good ol' days.
- would like to see more sustainable land use.
- I feel if you own land and have paid taxes on it for many years. It shouldn't be other organizations telling you what you can and can not do with it. I understand they want to preserve farm land, however, many do things for their own good. It has all become too political. Farmers are needed and welcomed, however, many worked their whole lives to now want to make some money by selling their land and getting some good money for it. They deserve it!! People that have no idea how hard it is to farm and all the labor intense days of work are, try to change that. I feel that it totally wrong. Land owners should have rights!!
- Our 40 acre homestead property is surrounded by agricultural operations. We like our neighboring farm operations and are impressed by the positive developments in land use and stewardship.
- I wish my land would sell. Overall I think the county is doing a good job at helping the farm community and it looks like it remains a strong area.
- Glad you put out a survey
- Need to keep development close to sewer and water. The county needs to monitor the runoff ponds better some do nothing to catch runoff and are poorly maintained
- When I was growing up, 4-H was a huge part of my childhood (I grew up on a farm), but I don't hear much about it anymore. If it's still viable, perhaps more publicity in order to encourage youth to join (and not just those on a farm). Anyone can raise vegetables on a food plot and take it to the county fair -- it doesn't have to be just livestock. These are life skills that youth can learn.

- I believe townships should have a large say in major infrastructure projects, such as solar panels and powerlines. We chose to live in rural areas of the county because we enjoy the open space. Just because areas are less populated doesn't mean ever major project needs to go there.
- I don't think it's right for the government to limit what anyone can do on/with their own property, as long as it doesn't hurt/harm others or the environment and it isn't illegal. That being said, I love living in a rural community where there are farms so it is kept less populated than in the cities. I would favor helping farmers succeed in farming rather than taking away the rights of land owners to do as they wish (within reason) on/with their own property.
- Protect Family Farm operations
- Keeping farming viable so to encourage future farming partners (youth)
- Greenville has a land stewardship committee that is spearheading this effort through a PDR (Purchase of Development Rights) program that everyone should know about, support, and replicate!
- I grew up working on neighboring, family farms. In short, I value agriculture. Furthermore our current lot is large - 11 acres. We purchased it from a local farmer and have since large allowed approximately 9 acres of it to grow naturally, We mow off invasives, but avoid chemical pesticides/ herbicides and provide housing options for a variety of birds, including barn swallows (which was motivated by the disappearance of local barns.) As a result we see an abundance of native plants, birds and wildlife on our land, which, I believe, in conjunction with agricultural fields and livestock, is an integral and beautifying aspect of Outagamie county's identity."
- Yes our county government needs to work with agriculture to keep it viable but also use common sense not to over regulate the industry. Also there are many rural roads that aren't being kept up.
- good luck - money is power and profit is king. protecting those resources for the rest of us will be a challenge
- Please continue to preserve farmland and rural areas in outagamie county.
- Hard question
- Farmland Preservation was adopted by my township, and I believe by several others. I feel those rules and other zoning ordinances are not always enforced properly or ignored and exceptions are made through the good old boy system. I believe more county oversight is needed for compliance.
- Soil lost and runoff are extreme during summer rains, spring thaw, and winter winds. It negatively affects water quality and overall nature health. Land stuard tilling practices, cover crops and runoff buffers need to be implemented.
- We as a town ship have had land preservation since 1986. It has worked well, we dont have little subdivisions, which are eating up valueable land and making water run off problem, or the big sewage problems without a sewage system. We also dont have the headaches to much of home owners complaining, people living to close or building on top of them. Keeping roads in good shape and clear in the winter are always going to be the big problem, but not as great as having more housing.

- Requite these mega farms to install digesters for manure handling. Limit number of catte per operation.
- We definitely need more family farms to continue and flourish in Outagamie County, but the mega farms are killing the small farmers. They have the capital to keep expanding. They can pay the outrageous prices for land and they know how to get all the grants/etc. It's forcing the small farmers out or preventing new ones from starting.
- I appreciate being included in this survey. We own property that we lease for farming and the City of Appleton is knocking on our door.
- I think that farmland is important to maintaining the identity of Outagamie County. It grows the food that we eat or feeds the cattle from which so much of our food comes from.
- I live in the country by choice because I like the beauty and privacy. New developments are great but should be limited and be forced to include parks and walking areas. I realize you give up tax dollars by keeping green space but it creates a much nicer, friendlier community.
- when the farmer is GONE this country is done for.
- Please do all that you can to help farmers thrive and preserve existing farmland in our county. Once it's gone, there is no getting it back. Agriculture is an important part of our history and needs to be given proper attention to ensure its success in the future.
- Hope that maximum efforts are made to preserve and protect productive agricultural land and programs/funding are supported that contribute to sustainability and development of local agriculture.
- The only problem I see with the farm operations is manure and mud on the roadways that is not cleaned off...especially when it is raining and slippery. The motorist is typically not expecting it until on top of it
- Our county has poor internet service outside of Appleton. It is expensive and very slow speed. Satellite is often the only option. For farmers and everyone I Living in rural areas, internet service needs to be made available at a reasonable cost. Ex. Viasat costs me \$174/month. Hughes runs out of high speed internet quickly.(speed is below average even at high speed) Neither is adequate for most family needs. Online classes and networking are crucial to our future. Starling is a possibility as they expand service, but at \$600 cost for the modem, start up is expensive, plus you have to install it yourself...no tech service
- I enjoy the space and farmland around us however, I do not believe it is the government's place to put a restriction, such as farm preservation, on an individual's property. I have seen first hand the results of this in the Black Creek area. When a landowner wants to sell their farm preservation property the value is considerably less than what the market value would be. This is a huge monetary loss to the landowner.

Map 35 : Future Land Use - Town of Greenville

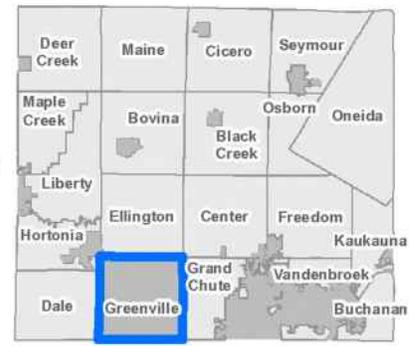


Future Land Use

- Agriculture & Open Land
- Rural Character
- Suburban Transition
- Suburban Residential
- Community Mixed Use
- Commercial / Industrial
- Urban/Incorporated City & Village

Land Use Overlays

- Town Center / Highway Mixed Use
 - Natural Areas
 - Airport Protection Area
 - Oneida Nation - US Trust & Fee Simple Land
- NR135 Non-Metallic Mining Operations**
- Existing / Active
 - Future Expansion / Reserve



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

OUTAGAMIE COUNTY

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Notice is hereby given that the Outagamie County Zoning Committee will hold a public hearing on October 10, 2023 at 10:30 AM in the Outagamie County Board Room located at 320 S. Walnut Street, Appleton, WI 54911 to consider a Comprehensive Plan Amendment, in accordance with 66.1001(4) Wis Stats. This amendment will accomplish the following:

- Repeal and Replace Addendum 2: Farmland Preservation Plan.
- Repeal the Town of Greenville Future Land Use Map (Map 35) and update map exhibit reference numbers.
- Add language to Volume 2 of the Comprehensive Plan to manage consistency between the Comprehensive Plan and the Farmland Preservation Plan.

For particulars, reference is made to documents located at <https://cityview.outagamie.org/> by referencing the below File Number under Planning Application search or visiting the county website at: <https://www.outagamie.org/government/departments-a-e/development-and-land-services/comprehensive-plan>.

Any interested person may address the Zoning Committee by mailing a letter to Outagamie County DLS, 320 S. Walnut Street, Appleton, WI 54911, emailing zoningemail@outagamie.org, or attending the meeting at the date and time listed above.

Dated this 30th day of August, 2023

OUTAGAMIE COUNTY ZONING COMMITTEE
DEBBIE VANDER HEIDEN, CHAIR

File No: PL202300376

Published: September 5, 2023

Accommodation Notice

Any person requiring special accommodation who wishes to attend this meeting should call (920) 832-5255 at least 48 hours in advance.



Order Confirmation
Not an Invoice

Account Number:	1013041
Customer Name:	Outagamie County Development & Land Services
Customer Address:	Outagamie County Development & Land Services 320 S Walnut ST Zoning Dept. Appleton WI 54911-5918
Contact Name:	DEPT OUTAGAMIE CO ZONING
Contact Phone:	
Contact Email:	
PO Number:	

Date:	08/30/2023
Order Number:	9226711
Prepayment Amount:	\$ 0.00

Column Count:	1.0000
Line Count:	51.0000
Height in Inches:	0.0000

Print			
Product	#insertions	Start - End	Category
APC Appleton Post Crescent	1	09/05/2023 - 09/05/2023	Govt Public Notices
APC postcrescent.com	1	09/05/2023 - 09/05/2023	Govt Public Notices

Order Confirmation Amount	\$52.51
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Ad Preview

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
 OUTAGAMIE COUNTY
 TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Notice is hereby given that the Outagamie County Zoning Committee will hold a public hearing on October 10, 2023 at 10:30 AM in the Outagamie County Board Room located at 320 S. Walnut Street, Appleton, WI 54911 to consider a Comprehensive Plan Amendment, in accordance with 66.1001(4) Wis Stats. This amendment will accomplish the following:

- Repeal and Replace Addendum 2: Farmland Preservation Plan.
- Repeal the Town of Greenville Future Land Use Map (Map 35) and update map exhibit reference numbers.
- Add language to Volume 2 of the Comprehensive Plan to manage consistency between the Comprehensive Plan and the Farmland Preservation Plan.

For particulars, reference is made to documents located at <https://cityview.outagamie.org/> by referencing the below File Number under Planning Application search or visiting the county website at: <https://www.outagamie.org/government/departments-a-e/development-and-land-services/comprehensive-plan>.

Any interested person may address the Zoning Committee by mailing a letter to Outagamie County DLS, 320 S. Walnut Street, Appleton, WI 54911, emailing zoningemail@outagamie.org, or attending the meeting at the date and time listed above.

Dated this 30th day of August, 2023
 OUTAGAMIE COUNTY ZONING COMMITTEE
 DEBBIE VANDER HEIDEN, CHAIR
 File No: PL202300376
 Published: September 5, 2023

Accommodation Notice
 Any person requiring special accommodation who wishes to attend this meeting should call (920) 832-5255 at least 48 hours in advance.
 9/5/2023 WNAXLP