Overview

• Sets forth rational undergirding farmland activities.
• Provides current assessment of agricultural activities.
• Summarizes past Farmland Preservation activities and milestone achievements.
• Discusses the market-basket of available implementation tools.
• Incorporates the future land use map, which will guide zone boundary amendments for the duration of the plan.
• Presents policy objectives
Why is Farmland Preservation Necessary?

• Slow/Reverse recent trends in agriculture’s economic impact
  • 2012-2017 = 14% decline in value of production
• Address declines in worked farmland nationally & at state level
  • Locally, declines have been minimal
• Continuity – Similar plans have been in place since 1980.
• Allows landowners to qualify for income tax credits.
• Maintains familiar landscapes and communities (i.e. rural heritage).
Farmland Preservation Goal

• Provide appropriate conditions for commercial agricultural by identifying and preserving a sufficient land, infrastructure, and economic base to support agriculture.
Objective & Policy Recommendations

- Preserve the rural character of large areas of La Crosse County
  - Utilize farmland preservation tools encouraging landowners to preserve their farms.
  - Encourage landowners to cooperate to preserve contiguous tracts.
  - Utilize zoning and sub-division ordinances to protect areas planned for agriculture.

- Preserve a strong agricultural economy
  - Promote educational tools to encourage “Buy Local” programs.
  - Provide incentives to promote value added agriculture.
  - Maintain Use Value Assessment.
  - Promote home based businesses in agricultural areas.
Objective & Policy

Recommendations

- Preserve a healthy natural environment.
  - Provide additional funding and technical assistance for conservation practices.
  - Promote the preservation of open space, and agricultural land adjacent to important resources.
  - Promote sustainable agriculture, organic practices and local food supply planning.

- Promote a strong balance of landowner rights and community benefit.
  - Ensure that public participation is encouraged and utilized in drafting plans.
  - Promote open and transparent government.
  - Policy must be made while respecting landowner comments.
  - Recognize that the interconnectedness of natural systems requires collective action to achieve outcomes.
Objective & Policy Recommendations

- Foster effective, cooperative government units.
  - Include all levels of local government in decisions.
  - Respect the activities of local governments.
  - Build open, honest and supportive relationships between government units.
  - Collaborate, cooperate and compromise.

- Support agriculturally related businesses.
  - Promote Agricultural Enterprise Areas
  - Educate the public on the benefits of local agri-business
  - Support agri-business with technical assistance and revolving loan funds.
  - Include agriculture in Economic development discussions.

- Promote Aesthetic Beauty and Bluffland Preservation
  - Support public/private partnerships which promote bluffland preservation.
  - Promote an active recreational use of preserved blufflands.
Objective & Policy Recommendations

- Respect local comprehensive plans and encourage development that is consistent with those plans.
  - Ensure that the Farmland Preservation Plan and comprehensive plans are consistent.
  - Promote development with density bonuses and streamlined approval processes in areas planned for development.
To participate in the county’s Comprehensive Plan process, please visit lacrossecounty.org/comprehensiveplan or follow La Crosse County on Facebook for regular updates.