

# Envision 2050

*Farmland Preservation*

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LC

Sustainable • Collaborative • Equitable • Forward Thinking • Respect



# Overview

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- 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?

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- 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.







# Envision 2050

*Farmland Preservation Plan*

*Chapter Overview*

To participate in the county's Comprehensive Plan process, please visit [lacrossecounty.org/comprehensiveplan](https://lacrossecounty.org/comprehensiveplan) or follow La Crosse County on Facebook for regular updates.