

WISCONSIN WORKING LANDS INITIATIVE

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Farmland Preservation Plans

FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLANNING.

Planning is essential for farmland preservation. Population growth and development needs are straining scarce land resources. Planning can preserve farmland and minimize land use conflicts.

BENEFITS OF WORKING LANDS INITIATIVE (WLI)

- Modernize farmland preservation plans to meet current challenges
- Provide planning grants to counties
- Provides flexibility for designating planning areas for farmland preservation
- Improve consistency between local plans
- Simplify the certification process and streamline state oversight

Why would my county participate in the farmland preservation program?

Counties are not required to participate, but participation will ensure that local farmers qualify for income tax credits. Planning is also essential to preserve valuable farmland, strengthen local economies, promote orderly development, protect the environment, minimize costly land use conflicts, facilitate investment decisions, and maintain a high quality of life.

How soon must our county update its farmland preservation plan?

Updates must be certified between 2011 and 2015. Counties with the most development pressure, as determined by the change in county population growth per square mile between 2000 and 2007, are required to complete updates first. The map on the back side provides expiration dates for county plan certifications, unless otherwise indicated in an existing plan certification.

What does our updated plan need to include?

- County goals for agricultural development and farmland preservation
- Overall development needs and trends with respect to farmland and agriculture
- Key agricultural resources, existing agricultural land uses, and agricultural infrastructure
- Identification and map of "*farmland preservation areas*" that the county plans to preserve for agriculture and related enterprises
- Actions that the county will take to preserve farmland and promote agricultural development
- Consistency with the county's comprehensive plan, if any

What grants are available to assist in updating our county's plan?

Planning grants will be available to reimburse up to 50% of a county's cost to update its farmland preservation plans. Actual grant amounts will vary.

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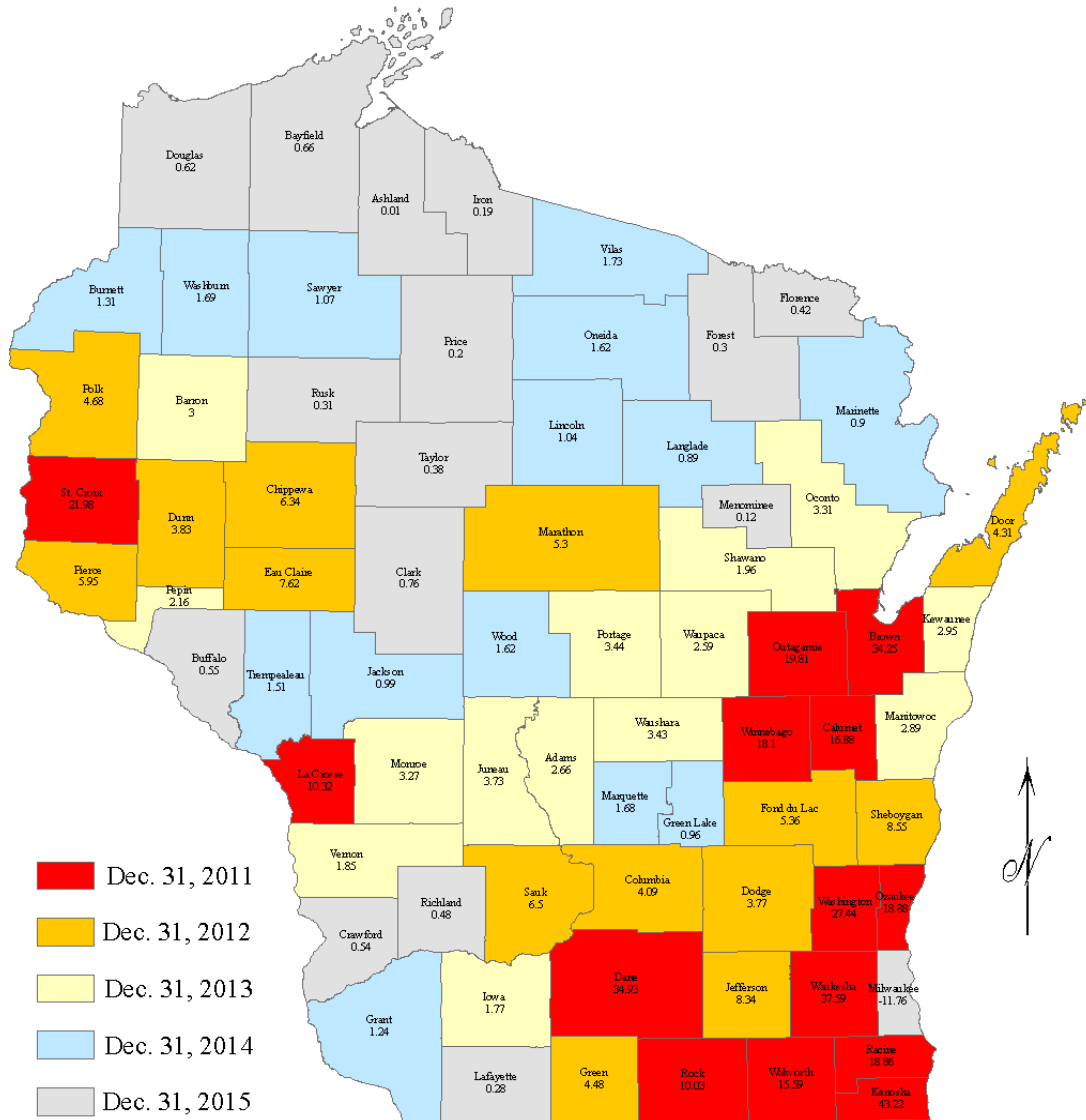
What does our county need to know about plan certification?

Plans that meet all requirements are certified for up to 10 years. Plans must be certified by the state, but certification can be based upon county self-certification. The state may review and independently verify the county's certification. Applications for certification must include:

- Proposed plan or plan amendment
- Summary of the plan, including key changes from a previously certified plan
- Summary of the process for plan development
- Relationship to comprehensive plan, if any
- Statement signed by the county corporation counsel and planning director or chief elected official indicating compliance with state law

Schedule for Expiration of Plan Certification

Based upon population density change 2000—2007 (per sq. mile)



For more information contact: (608) 224-4500 or DATCPWorkingLands@wisconsin.gov

