

# FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM

IN SAUK COUNTY

## LET'S CONNECT



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## ABOUT US

The Sauk County Land Resources and Environment Department offers technical assistance to design and implement conservation practices to all county landowners free of charge. Financial assistance may be available through various federal, state and other county programs.



# HOW DOES THE FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM BENEFIT YOU?

In exchange for farming your land and meeting conservation standards, you can receive an annual tax credit. The amount of the tax credit depends on whether your land is located in a farmland preservation zoning district (\$10/acre) or covered by a farmland preservation agreement (\$10/acre) or both (\$12.50/acre).

The community receives a collective benefit through the implementation of soil and water conservation standards. State agricultural standards for soil and water conservation ensure that the local community is receiving a benefit in exchange for expenditures on the program beyond the preservation of agricultural land. These standards aim to conserve soil and prevent agricultural runoff.



## REQUIRED CONSERVATION STANDARDS

**Who can claim a tax credit?** In addition to having an agreement within an Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA) or being in a farmland preservation zoning district:

- You must be the landowner. You do not need to be the farm operator and can rent out your land to a producer.
- You must be a Wisconsin resident.
- Your land must have produced \$6,000 in gross farm revenue in the past year, or \$18,000 in the past 3 years. Rent is not included.
- Your farm must meet state soil and water conservation standards and certified compliant by the Sauk County Land Resources and Environment Department.

**Is your farm in compliance?** Contact Sauk County land conservation staff to schedule a status review to determine if your land is meeting all required state soil and water conservation standards. If your land is not meeting these standards, technical and financial assistance may be available to help you achieve full compliance. Participants in the program are visited every four years to verify compliance and receive additional assistance when necessary.

This is a voluntary program for landowners within the eligible areas.

There are nine towns within Sauk County that are zoned Exclusive Agriculture. These towns are shown in pink. Landowners within these areas may be eligible to receive a \$10/acre tax credit.

Areas shown in yellow, although not zoned Exclusive Agriculture, have been designated as Agricultural Enterprise Areas (AEA), allowing landowners the opportunity to sign ten year Farmland Preservation agreements and receive a \$10/acre tax credit as well.

**Learn more here:**  
<https://bit.ly/SaukFPProgram>

