

ORDINANCE NO. ____-2013

APPROVING THE SAUK COUNTY FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLAN

WHEREAS, The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) is an agency responsible for administering Wisconsin's farmland preservation law pursuant to Wis. Stat. ch. 91; and

WHEREAS, in order for a county and its residents to participate in the farmland preservation program, a county must have a state-certified farmland preservation plan pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 91.10 which clearly identifies farmland preservation goals, objectives and policies and areas that the county intends to preserve for agricultural use; and

WHEREAS, the development of the *Sauk County Farmland Preservation Plan* has had considerable input from persons representing various aspects of the agriculture community; and

WHEREAS, each town farmland preservation plan map represented in the plan has been formally approved by the respective town board as identifying areas the town wishes to preserve for agricultural uses and areas which may be considered for development within the next 15-years and;

WHEREAS, agriculture is a significant economic driver in Sauk County with over 1,900 working farms and 358,900 acres under production or reserved for future production and results in the sale of farm products and valued-added products of over \$450 million annually; and

WHEREAS, adoption of the *Sauk County Farmland Preservation Plan* by the Sauk County Board of Supervisors and subsequent certification by DATCP will allow participating Sauk County farms and agricultural property owners in towns zoned Exclusive Agriculture or as part of the Fairfield Agriculture Enterprise Area, to continue to qualify for farmland preservation tax credits; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 91.10(2) the *Sauk County Farmland Preservation Plan* must be included, and be made part of the *Sauk County Comprehensive Plan*.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Sauk County Board of Supervisors met in regular session, that the *Sauk County Farmland Preservation Plan*, hereby attached as Appendix A, and made part of the *Sauk County Comprehensive Plan*, is hereby formally and officially adopted as required by Wis. Stat. §§ 91.10 and 66.1001.

For consideration by the Sauk County Board of Supervisors on November 12, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

CONSERVATION, PLANNING, AND ZONING COMMITTEE

GERALD LEHMAN, CHAIR

FREDERICK HALFEN

JUDY ASHFORD

DON NOBS

JOHN DIETZ

DENNIS POLIVKA

Fiscal Note: Adopting the *FPP Plan* constitutes one part of the Sauk County Farmland Preservation Program that will enable participating farmers to claim the farmland preservation tax credit. The FPP tax credit paid in 2013 for the 2012 tax year was \$550,300 and is approximately \$500,000-\$600,000 annually. Additionally, a certified *FPP Plan* may be required to maintain state funding for CPZ staff to implement the *Land and Water Resources Management Plan* in the amount of approximately \$128,000 annually, and cost-share funding in the amount of approximately \$87,000 annually. Finally, the FPP Plan has been prepared utilizing \$30,000 of grant funding provided by the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP).

MIS Note: No Impact