

How Landowners can Participate in an Agricultural Enterprise Area

Wisconsin's Farmland Preservation Program

Preserve farmland. Protect the environment. Grow the economy.



What is an agricultural enterprise area (AEA)?

AEAs are community-led efforts establishing designated areas important to Wisconsin's agricultural future. They provide a way for landowners to participate in the Farmland Preservation Program through Farmland Preservation Agreements. As part of the state's Farmland Preservation Program, AEA's strive to support local farmland protection goals, the agricultural economy, and environmental efforts.

What is a farmland preservation agreement?

These are 10-year voluntary agreements between eligible landowners and the state to preserve agricultural lands and protect soil and water resources. Agreement holders that meet all eligibility requirements may claim the farmland preservation tax credit. The tax credit can be either \$10/acre for lands within an AEA, or \$12.50/acre for lands within a farmland preservation zoning district and an AEA.

What are the requirements for a farmland preservation agreement?

- You must be the landowner. If land is owned jointly, all landowners must consent to the agreement.
- The lands must be in an AEA.
- The farm must have produced \$6,000 in gross farm revenue within the last year, or \$18,000 in gross farm revenue within the last three years.
- The farm must comply with state soil and water conservation standards. The county's land conservation department certifies local farms for compliance.

What type of land can I enroll in a farmland preservation agreement?

You can enroll the following types of lands in an agreement:

- Agricultural uses including crop production, keeping livestock, beekeeping, nursery, sod, Christmas tree production, floriculture, aquaculture, fur farming, forest management, and lands in a federal agricultural commodity payment program or a federal or state agricultural land conservation payment program.
- Accessory uses including:
 - A farm residence

- Buildings, structures, or improvements essential to an agricultural use
- A business, activity, or enterprise that employs no more than four full-time employees that requires no buildings, structures, or improvements not already on the farm
- Undeveloped natural resources and open spaces

Do I have to enroll my whole farm?

No. You may choose to enroll all or a portion of your land into an agreement. There are no minimum or maximum number of acres required for an agreement or to claim the tax credit.

How can I tell if I own land in an AEA?

Use any of the following resources:

- View a copy of the state designated AEAs at https://datcp.wi.gov/pages/programs_services/designatedaeas.aspx.
- Search the farmland preservation interactive map at <https://datcpgis.wi.gov/maps/?viewer=fpp>.
- Contact your county's land and water conservation department for assistance with interpreting an AEA map.

How do I apply for a farmland preservation agreement?

1. Fill out the application at https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/ApplyFPAgreement.aspx and click on "How do I apply?"
2. Submit the completed application to your county land and water conservation department.

Where can I find more information?

For additional resources or information about Wisconsin's Farmland Preservation Program visit <http://farmlandpreservation.wi.gov>. If you have questions, please call (608) 224-4611 or email datcpworkinglands@wisconsin.gov.



Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Division of Agricultural Resource Management | Bureau of Land and Water Resources

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